

**BILKENT UNIVERSITY**  
**DEPARTMENT OF INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS**

**IR 349 International Relations in Movies**  
**Fall 2012**

Lectures: Wednesday 15:40-18:40

Classroom: H-232

Instructor

Dr. Özgür Özdamar

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Office Hours: Tuesday 14:40-15:40 and Wednesday 14:40-15:40

Teaching Assistant

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**Course Description and Objectives**

This course will use movies to understand and explain international issues. Using readings, classroom discussions and films that deal with international politics, the course will analyze how these movies shed light on international affairs, show different perspectives on these issues and deepen our understanding. There will be 12-14 movie presentations during the semester and the classroom discussions will focus on how the content of the movie relates to what you have learned in the readings and your studies in IR. The course covers issues such as foreign policy decision-making, war, Cold War, terrorism, ethnic conflict, identity, the Middle East conflict, environment and population, revolutions, civil wars, foreign intervention, international institutions and espionage.

**Readings and Required Textbooks**

The assigned readings for each week are listed in the course schedule below. They are compiled from 7 different books. PDF file of the compilations of readings will be on Moodle.

There is a reasonable amount of readings for each week. Therefore, please do keep up with the readings each week. This class will be far more rewarding for you if you do so. Reading the material every week will enable you to be more engaged while watching the movies, listening to lectures and contributing to discussions. Both your essay and participation grades will be positively affected by reading the material on a regular basis and prior to class.

Joseph Nye. 2005. *Understanding International Conflicts: An Introduction to Theory and History* (Longman Classics Series), Fifth Edition [Paperback]

Joshua Goldstein and Pevehouse. 2009. *International Relations*. 9<sup>th</sup> ed. Pearson and Longman.

Patrick Morgan. 2006. *International Security: Problems and Solutions*. CQ Press.

Charles W. Kegley and Eugene Wittkopf. 2005. *World Politics: Trend and Transformation*. 10<sup>th</sup> ed. Wadsworth Publishing

Laura Neack. 2008. *The New Foreign Policy: Power Seeking in a Globalized Era*. Rowman & Littlefield Publishers.

Ray Taras and Rajat Ganguly. 2001. *Understanding Ethnic Conflict: The International Dimension* (2nd Edition)

Mark Tessler. 2011. "The Israeli-Palestinian Conflict." In Ellen Lust Ed. *The Middle East*. 12<sup>th</sup> Ed. Washington DC: CQ Press.

Mustafa Aydın. 1999. "Determinants of Turkish Foreign Policy: Historical Framework and Traditional Inputs," *Middle Eastern Studies* 35 (4): 152-186.

Selim Deringil. 1982. "The Preservation of Turkey's Neutrality during the Second World War," *Middle Eastern Studies* 18 (1): 30-52.

Sabri Sayarı. "Turkish Foreign Policy in the post-Cold War Era: The Challenges of Multi-Regionalism," *Journal of International Affairs* 54 (1): 169-182.

## Course Requirements

- |                                  |   |      |
|----------------------------------|---|------|
| 1. 6 Bi-Weekly Essays            | = | 60%  |
| 2. Attendance                    | = | 10 % |
| 3. In-class Participation (15 %) | = | 30%  |
| 4. Weekly Moodle debates (15 %)  |   |      |

## Bi-Weekly Essays

The essays constitute 60 percent of your grade. They are the most important part of your grade. There are no midterms or final for this class. Therefore I expect very high quality, clearly written, well-thought essays. The bi-weekly essays must be submitted and uploaded via Turnitin website at the end of every two class sessions.

In these essays I expect you to combine readings, classroom discussions and what you watched in the movies. For example in the first week, I expect you to analyze what you watched in the *Fog of War* with insights from Nye's Chapter 1.

Please do not turn in essays that only make a summary of the films. I expect you to write an analytical essay that uses the movies to explain an IR issue.

**ALSO: DO NOT USE ANY INTERNET RESEARCH ABOUT THE MOVIE. I WILL CONSIDER IT PLAGIARISM. TURN-IT-IN WILL BE USED TO DETECT PLAGIARISM. PLAGIARISM WILL BE REFERRED TO THE DEAN'S OFFICE.**

Style guide: 500 words (1-2 pages). Double spaced. Times New Roman, 12 font, no cover page (just your name and student number as a SINGLE LINE at the beginning), pages numbered, give citations as necessary.

## **Attendance and Participation**

Your progress in this class is highly dependent on your perfect attendance and participation. Participation means reading the material before class, asking questions in class, answering questions and participating in debates in class and Moodle.

This class uses movies as an **in-class** tool to analyze international politics. Therefore it is important you watch these films **IN THE CLASS, WITH THE GROUP**. It does NOT matter whether you watched the movie before; you still need to watch it in class again and participate in discussions.

ALSO: I will not provide or loan any movie shown in class to anyone. If you miss the class and still want to write your essay, you need to find the movie yourself.

### **AN IMPORTANT WARNING!**

**Some of the movies contain extreme violence, language and sexual content. You can leave the classroom until that scene is past if it bothers you. If you cannot watch such content at all, please consider not taking this class.**

### **Make-up Policy**

No make-up examinations will be granted without a university-approved excuse to miss a scheduled exam, PAPER DEADLINE or quiz. In cases of severe illness or deaths in the family, I require proof (e.g. a signed doctor's note and an explanation on the doctor's letterhead describing why you cannot take the exam; obituaries; e-mails from your academic adviser explaining the specific situation). Make-up exams will be possible only if you contact me *in advance* by e-mail and provide me with the appropriate document. There will be no make-up assignments or tests for unexcused absences. Also, I usually require a research paper as a replacement of a make-up exam.

### **Classroom Etiquette**

I expect you to observe all rules of proper classroom conduct to provide an appropriate environment conducive to learning by all:

1. Please turn off your cell phones and pagers. No calls, incoming or outgoing, or text messaging are allowed.
2. Please refrain from talking, eating or other disruptive activity during class;
3. Please come to class on time and do not leave early; if you must do so, let me know beforehand and please sit near the door so your exit will be less disruptive. Unpunctuality will result in a lower participation grade.
4. Please do not read newspapers or any other publications in the classroom. Also, please do not play games or surf on the web when you use a laptop computer.

## **Policy on Academic Honesty**

The academic work of all students must comply with all policies that appear in the Bilkent Website: <http://www.provost.bilkent.edu.tr/procedures/AcademicHonesty.htm>

Academic honesty is fundamental to the activities and principles of a university. All members of the academic community must be confident that each person's work has been responsibly and honorably acquired, developed and presented. Any effort to gain an advantage not given to all students is dishonest whether or not the effort is successful. Academic dishonesty includes, but is not necessarily limited to the following: cheating, plagiarism, unauthorized possession of examinations, unauthorized changing of grades. The academic community regards academic dishonesty as an extremely serious matter, with serious consequences that range from probation to expulsion. When in doubt about plagiarism, paraphrasing, quoting or collaboration, consult the course instructor.

## **Course Schedule and Readings**

### **Weeks 1-2 War and Interstate Conflict**

#### **Readings**

- Nye Ch.1. Is There an Enduring Logic of Conflict in World Politics?
- Goldstein and Pevehouse Ch.5. International Conflict

#### **Movies**

- The Fog of War: Eleven Lessons from the Life of Robert S. McNamara (2003)
- Full Metal Jacket (1987)

*Suggestions:* Platoon (1986), Apocalypse Now (1979), Saving Private Ryan (1998)

### **Weeks 3-4 Cold War**

#### **Readings**

- Nye Ch.5. The Cold War
- Morgan Ch.5. Deterrence and Arms Control

## Movies

- Dr. Strangelove or: How I Learned to Stop Worrying and Love the Bomb (1964)
- Charlie Wilson's War (2007)

*Suggestions:* Fail-Safe (1964), Seven Days in May (1964), The Hunt for Red October (1990), Thirteen Days (2000), Crimson Tide (1995), Canadian Bacon (1995), The Manchurian Candidate (1962), The Mouse That Roared (1959), Spy Game (2001).

## **Week 5-6: Turkey's International Relations**

### Readings

- Mustafa Aydın. "Determinants of Turkish Foreign Policy: Historical Framework and Traditional Inputs"
- Selim Deringil. "The Preservation of Turkey's Neutrality During the Second World War"

### Movies

- Gallipoli (2005)
- İsmet Paşa Episode 1 and 2 (1999)

*Suggestions:* Gallipoli (1981), Girdap (2008), Ararat (2002), Güz Sancısı (2008), Salkım Hanım'ın Taneleri (1999), Kıbrıs'ın 50 Yılı (1999)

## **Weeks 7-8 Foreign Policy Decision-Making**

### Readings

- Kegley and Witkopf Ch.3. Foreign Policy Decision Making
- Neack Ch.7. Public Opinion and the Media

## Movies

- 13 Days (2000)
- Wag the Dog (1997)

*Suggestions:* Dr. Strangelove (1964), Fail Safe (1964)

## **Weeks 9-10 Terrorism**

### Readings

- Goldstein and Pevehouse Ch.6. Military Force and Terrorism

### Movies

- La battaglia di Algeri (Battle of Algiers) (1966)
- Munich (2005)

*Suggestions:* Body of Lies (2008), Der Baader Meinhof Komplex (2008), Traitor (2008), Paradise Now (2005), Fahrenheit 9-11 (2004)

## **Weeks 11-12 Identity-Ethnic Conflict**

### Readings

- Taras and Ganguly Ch.1. Ethnic Conflict and International Politics: A Conceptual Framework.
- Nye Ch.6. Intervention, Institutions, and Regional and Ethnic Conflicts

### Movies

- Once Brothers (2010)
- In the Name of the Father (1993)

*Suggestions:* Shooting Dogs (2005), Schindler's List (1993), Welcome to Sarajevo (1997), East is East (1999), Hotel Rwanda (2004), Kingdom of Heaven (2005), The Wind That Shakes the Barley (2006), No Man's Land (2001), Underground (1995).

## Week 13-14 Arab-Israeli Conflict

### Readings

- Mark Tessler. "The Israeli Palestinian Conflict"

### Movies

- The 50 Years War: Israel and the Arabs (1999) Part 1
- The 50 Years War: Israel and the Arabs (1999) Part 2

*Suggestions:* Waltz with Bashir (2008), Sous les Bombs (2006), Paradise Now (2005)

**\*\*All issues in this syllabus are subject to change during the semester by the instructor although none expected at this time.\*\***