



**Poli 349: Istanbul Lab**  
**Comparative Politics & Policy**  
**Spring 2014**

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Office Hrs: Tues 1-3 or by appt

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**Lab Background and Setting**

Like many other countries, in the 20<sup>th</sup> century Turkey was transformed by rapid urbanization. Today, roughly 70 percent of Turkey's 73 million inhabitants live in cities, with the greatest populations concentrated in the western Marmara, Aegean and Mediterranean regions. Straddling Europe and Asia, Istanbul bridges East and West, putting it at a critical crossroads for commerce, trade and cultural exchange for centuries. The significance of its geographic location cannot be underemphasized. Spreading seemingly uncontrollably along both sides of the Bosphorus Straits Istanbul boasts a population of 12.8 million, making the largest city in Turkey and fifth largest city proper in the world.

**Course Content and Description**

The Istanbul Lab course accompanies the research seminar on Comparative Urban Politics and Policy (Poli 464). The purpose of the Lab is multifold. First, it provides students with an in-depth examination of one city in particular—Istanbul—so that they can gain micro-level knowledge and understand about how politics and policy work in a specific case and also apply theories and concepts from the more macro-level focus of the seminar course. Second, the Lab is the setting for both the research project and the field research trip to Istanbul.

In the Lab course, we will begin with a very broad overview of Turkish political economy since the founding of the Republic in 1923. From here we will examine local and transnational forces that have driven (and continue to drive) contemporary urbanization in Istanbul. The primary content of the Lab course will be on the key issues and problems that have emerged in Istanbul as a result of its rapid urbanization over the past several decades—for example, the politics of land-use, political representation (for migrants, women, the poor), the relationship between local and national politics, and the evolution of democracy and the secular Turkish Republic. In addition, this year we will focus on two other themes: (1) local elections, which take place in March, and (2) the Gezi Park protests and aftermath.

Woven into our substantive focus on politics and policy in Istanbul, will be regular attention to the building blocks of conducting social scientific inquiry in general and

comparative analysis in particular. The Lab will be the setting for learning how to design and conduct the research project and planning for the field research that students will engage in while in Istanbul.

### **Course Requirements<sup>1</sup>**

Grading for the course will be based on two main projects, class discussion and participation, and the poster presentation of the final project. The field research trip to Istanbul is the focus of the first assignment, and for many students, will also be the basis for the final project. Like any field investigation, our trip to Istanbul will be more productive if based (at least partly) on preparation. To this end, the Lab is organized to help students focus on a research question of their choice, but also one that we believe is promising in terms of viability (not all questions, no matter how substantively important, lend themselves to viable research projects). Hence, before we depart, our Lab efforts will ground students in both the general (regional and historical) forces influencing Istanbul, and more specific aspects of politics and policy to narrow the research question. Using this background, students will present their research question and their proposed strategies for the field investigation, and for leveraging data and methods to augment their field study.

While in Istanbul, students will blog, keep detailed field notes, and compile observations and other data that they will use to investigate their research question. In the week after our return, students will write up their analysis and include relevant supporting evidence (images, interview notes, secondary data).

In the second part of the semester, efforts will be devoted to helping students identify germane literature and data for the final project, and explore methodologies that will allow students to leverage the information they have assembled to maximum effect. As students refine the focus of their research, they will be instructed in how to prepare a research report that illustrates their research question, its importance, and the strategies they used in the field in Istanbul, and upon return, to integrate field observations with germane literature and data for the research project. In the Lab, we will explore known data sources and seek additional sources that fit students' particular research topics. Finally, students will submit the final project at the end of the semester and present the results of their inquiry in a poster session that brings together students from all three labs.

### **Important Policies**

*Late work* will not be accepted without certified justification (e.g., doctors note, death in the family, etc.). Students involved in sports or other school-related endeavors need to make every effort to prepare in advance for these activities.

*Electronics*: Computers, tablets, etc. may be used for note taking or searches germane to seminar discussions. General web surfing and texting during class are not permitted.

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<sup>1</sup> If you have any conditions or challenges that may make it difficult for you to meet the requirements of this course, or that may cause you to require extra time on assignments, please let me know within the first two weeks of class so that we can make appropriate and equitable alternative arrangements.

Academic Honesty: Students will be expected to adhere to standards of academic honesty and integrity, as outlined in the Rice Honor Code.

**Grades will be determined as follows:**

Field research assignment:	35%
Class participation & attendance:	20%
Final project:	40%
Poster presentation:	5%

**Grading Scale**

A+	A	A-	B+	B	B-	C+	C	C-	D+	D	D-
100-98%	97-94%	93-90%	89-88%	87-82%	81-80%	79-78%	77-72%	71-70%	69-68%	67-62%	61-60%

**Course Topics and Schedule of Readings**

**Jan 16 Settlement and Urbanization of Istanbul**

- Sumner-Boyd, Hilary and John Freely. 2010. "The View from the Bridge" (1-16). In *Strolling Through Istanbul*. NY: Tauris Parke Paperbacks
- Kubat, Ayse Sema. 1999. "The Morphological History of Istanbul." *Urban Morphology* 31(1): \*33-36 (only these pages)
- Enlil, Zeynep Meray & Huseyin Kaptan. 2009. "Istanbul: Global Aspirations and Socio-Spatial Restructuring in an Era of New Internationalism" (pp23-35). In *A Turkish Triangle: Ankara, Istanbul, and Izmir at the Gates of Europe*, eds. H. Sarkis and N. Turan. Harvard: Aga Khan Program.

**Jan. 23 Turkish Politics and Governance**

- Kapucu, Naim and Hamit Palabiyik. 2008. "Part I: Turkey and Turkish Public Administration in a Global Context" (pp 21-46) In *Turkish Public Administration*. Ankara: International Strategic Research Organization.
- Dodd, Clement H. 2012. "The Turkish Republic" (pp 53-64). Chpt. 6 in *Handbook of Modern Turkey*, eds. M. Heper & S. Sarayi. NY: Routledge.
- Öniş, Ziya. 2013. "Sharing Power: Turkey's Democratization Challenge in the Age of the AKP Hegemony." *Insight Turkey* 15 (2): 103-122

**Jan. 30 Local Government Organization, Function, Power in Turkey**

- Kapucu, Naim and Hamit Palabiyik. 2008. "Part III: Political System and Public Administration in Turkey" (pp. 91-124) & "Part IV: Local Government Administration" (pp. 125-178). In *Turkish Public Administration*. Ankara: International Strategic Research Organization

- Ozcan, Gul Berna 2000. "Local economic development, decentralisation and consensus building in Turkey." *Progress in Planning* 54: 199-278.

**Feb 6                    Guest Speaker, Yurter Ozcan, CHP Representative in the U.S.**

- Insel, Ahmet. 2013. "Local Elections in Istanbul and Erdogan's Political Future." Aljazeera Center for Studies (Dec. 5<sup>th</sup>)
- Atay, Tayfun. 2013. "The Clash of Nations in Turkey: Reflections on the Gezi Park Incident." *Insight Turkey* 15 (3): 39-44.
- Gole, Nilufer. 2013. "Gezi-Anatomy of a Public Square Movement." *Insight Turkey* 15 (3): 7-25.

**Feb 13                    Parties & Local Elections Social Movements/Gezi Park**

- Kuymulu, Mehmet Barış. "Reclaiming the right to the city: Reflections on the urban uprisings in Turkey." *City* 17, no. 3 (2013): 274-278.
- Tastan, Coskun. 2013. "The Gezi Park Protests in Turkey: A Qualitative Field Research." *Insight Turkey* 15 (3): 27-38.
- Ozler, Ilgu. 2000. "Politics of the Gecekondu in Turkey: The Political Choices of Squatters in National Elections." *Turkish Studies* 1 (2): 39-58.
- Arango, Tim. 2014. "A Race for More than the Mayor of Istanbul." *NYTimes* (Jan. 9<sup>th</sup> 2014).

**Feb 20                    Political Economy of Urbanization/Housing in Istanbul**

- Neuwirth, Robert. 2006. *Shadow Cities*. NY: Routledge. Chpt 4, "Istanbul: The Promise of Squatter Self-Government."
- Keyder, Caglar. "The Housing Market from Informal to Global." Chpt 8 in *Istanbul: Between the Global and the Local*, ed by C. Keyder. NY: Rowan & Littlefield Publishers.
- Bartu, A. and Kolluoğlu, B. 2008. "Emerging Spaces of Neoliberalism: A Gated Town and a Public Housing Project in Istanbul" *New Perspectives on Turkey*, 39: 5-46.
- Erman, Tahire. 2001. "The Politics of Squatter Studies in Turkey: the Changing Representations of Rural Migrants in Academic Discourse." *Urban Studies* 38 (7): 983-1002.
- INCEOGLU, Arda and Ipek YÜREKLI. 2011. "Urban transformation in Istanbul: potentials for a better city." *Enhr Conference 2011 – 5-8 July*, Toulouse.

**Feb. 27                    Transportation and Infrastructural Projects**

- Maramy Tunel Presentation
- Third Bosphorus Bridge
- Letsch, C. (2010, June 8). Plan for new Bosphorus bridge sparks row over future of Istanbul. *The Guardian*. Retrieved from

<http://www.guardian.co.uk/world/2012/jun/08/bosphorus-bridge-row-istanbul-turkey>

- Linking Two Continents: The Marmaray Project. (n.d.). PB Network. 22(65), 6-56, Retrieved April 23, 2013, from [http://www.pbworld.com/pdfs/publications/pb\\_network/pbnetwork65.pdf](http://www.pbworld.com/pdfs/publications/pb_network/pbnetwork65.pdf)

**Feb 28-** 5:15 pm meet @ SallyPort for airport shuttle  
Depart 8:00 p.m. Turkish Airlines TK 0034 - IAH

**March 9** Return 7:15 pm Turkish Airlines TK 0033-IAH

**March 13** **Work on field research assignment**

 **Field Research Assignment Due March 18<sup>th</sup>**

**March 20** **Housing & Urban Transformation**

- Kuyucu, Tuna and Özlem Ünsal. 2010. "Urban Transformation' as State-led Property Transfer: An Analysis of Two Cases of Urban Renewal in Istanbul." *Urban Studies* 47 (Feb): 1479-1499.
- Turk, Sevkiye Sence and Willem K. Korthals Altes. 2011. "The Planning System and Land Provision for Social Housing in Turkey."
- Gorvett, Jon. 2012. "Turkey's Opening Comes with Catch." *New York Times* Sept. 27, 2012.
- Coskun, Yener. 2011. "Does Re-Design of the Policies on Housing Finance and Supply Help to Solve the Housing Question of Turkey?" Working Paper. Electronic copy available at: <http://ssrn.com/abstract=1868758>

**March 27** **Project Specific Literature Review\***

*\*We will add topics and readings below depending on project topics*

**April 3:** **No Class: Spring Recess**

**April 10:** **Data Sources**

**April 17:**

 **Draft of Final Project Due**

**April 24:** **Methods of Analysis/Project Workshop**

**May 2:** **Poster Session (TIME TBA)**