This course is a survey of the Ottoman Empire from its roots in medieval Anatolia into the nineteenth century, focusing on the pre and early modern periods. We will explore the Ottomans and their world following a chronological narrative of key political and military developments with detours and stops along the way to consider different aspects of the societal framework such as inter-communal relations, the role of women, changing modes of sociability and urban culture.

**Required Text:**


**Recommended Texts:**

Caroline Finkel, *Osman’s Dream: The Story of the Ottoman Empire, 1300-1923*, London: John Murray, 2005 (available at bookstore and library reserve)

Soraiya Faroqhi, ed. *Cambridge History of Turkey*, v. 3 (library reserve)

**Grading:**

Weekly assignments and class participation 20 %, Midterm exam 25 %, Essay 25 %, Final Exam 30 %.

Your participation and attendance are extremely important for your final grade, not only because they will directly contribute 20 % thereof but also because exam questions and essay topics will be based entirely on the material covered in class. Do not be discouraged by the amount of material; I will provide you with questions and tips on the topics that will be covered weekly, which will make the reading assignments much easier to tackle. The readings marked with an asterisk are primary sources or their critical editions, and they should be read each week in preparation for Friday’s session. Double asterisks denote contemporary fiction, and those selections, although highly recommended, are optional reading assignments. The recommended works of fiction can also serve as the basis of your essay assignment.

The course packet will be available at the Printex copy shop on State Street. The source book (primary sources) will be available online. You are not required to print out the primary sources if you prefer not to, but do take detailed notes before you come to class.
Week 1. Sep. 5,7

Introductory session, Medieval Anatolia to Manzikert and Turkic tribes’ migrations

Stanford Shaw History of the Ottoman Empire and Modern Turkey (Chapter 1)

Daniel Goffman, The Ottoman Empire and Early Modern Europe, pp. 1-20

Week 2. Sep 10,12,14

The Proto-Ottomans

Steven Runciman, The Fall of Constantinople, pp. 1-21.

Daniel Goffman, The Ottoman Empire and Early Modern Europe, pp.27-51.


Week 3. Sep. 17,19,21

The Emergence of the Ottoman Empire, Interregnum, ghaza thesis


Cemal Kafadar, Between Two Worlds, pp. 29-59.

*G. Arnakis, “Gregory Palamas among the Turks and Documents of His Captivity as Historical Sources,” Speculum, 26 (1951), 104-118.

Week 4. Sep. 24, 26, 28

The Fall/Conquest of Constantinople, Reconstruction under Mehmed II


*Nicolo Barbaro, The Diary of the Siege of Constantinople, pp. 42-76.

Week 5. Oct. 1, 3, 5

Centralization and Its Key Institutions, the kul system, janissaries and timariots

Colin Imber, The Ottoman Empire, “Recruitment” pp. 128-142.

Week 6. Oct. 8, 10, 12

Key institutions continued; the imperial *barem*, law, *kanun*, *urf* and sharia, *vakifs*

Halil Inalcik, *The Ottoman Empire: The Classical Age, 1300-1600*, pp. 65-118.


Week 7. Oct. 15, 17, 19

MW—no lecture, review session before exam

Friday—Midterm Exam

Week 8. Oct. 22, 24, 26

The Age of Suleyman the Magnificent


17th Century “Crisis”


Week 10. Nov. 5, 7, 9

Social Unrest, Urban Challenges
Ralph Hattox, *Coffee and Coffeehouses*, pp. 72-130.


* selection from Lady Montagu, *The Embassy Letters*

**Week 11. Nov. 12,14,16**

The “Tulip Era”


**Orhan Pamuk, *My Name is Red***

Wednesday: Essay preparation

Friday: Guest lecture by Dr. Ali Yaycioğlu, *Provincial Administration and Decentralization*

**Week 12. Nov. 19, 21**

**No Class. Essays due before Thanksgiving break***


**Orhan Pamuk, *The White Castle***

**Week 13. Nov. 26, 28, 30**

Change, Transformation or “Decline”?


*Mustafa Ali, *Counsel for the Sultans***

**Week 14. Dec. 3, 5, 7**

The Reign of Selim III, Military Reforms and the Dawn of the Nineteenth Century

Stanford Shaw, *Between Old and New*, p. 112-149

**Week 15. Dec 10, 12, 14**

A Resilient Polity and the Challenge of Modernity

Donald Quataert, “Why Study Ottoman History?” *The Ottoman Empire, 1700-1922*, pp. 1-11.

WF: Review Session