

From the Ottoman Empire to Modern Turkey

History 200-003, Spring 2020

Meetings: Tu/Th 2:30pm-3:45pm Humanities 1217

Instructor: Dr. Daniel Stolz dastolz@wisc.edu

Office hours: M 10:45-11:45am, Th 1-2pm, Humanities 5110

Overview

The Ottoman Empire was one of history's most enduring states. Founded in the thirteenth century, it ruled most of the Middle East and North Africa, along with much of Europe, from the sixteenth century until the dawn of the twentieth. More than just an opportunity to learn about the Middle East, therefore, Ottoman history offers a chance to study the emergence of the modern world. This course takes a thematic approach. Topics will include the Ottoman history of climate change, slavery and its abolition, sexuality, science and medicine, Islamic law and mysticism, economic globalization, nationalism and genocide, military and educational reform, and constitutionalism. The course also addresses the demise of the Ottoman Empire and the formation of the Turkish Republic, with emphasis on the remembrance of the Ottoman era in modern Turkish politics, literature, and film.

Learning Objectives

Students who complete this course will gain a framework for understanding the major periods of Ottoman and Turkish history. However, this course does not focus on a detailed chronological narrative. Rather, we explore themes from Ottoman history in order to gain critical perspective on urgent issues. Students who complete this course will gain practice applying analytical tools to explain historical puzzles such as the rise of nationalism, the role of climate and disease in social change, the legal status and lived experience of minority communities, and the development of gender and sexual norms.

Explanation of credit hours

This 3-credit course meets as a group for 3 hours per week (according to UW-Madison's credit hour policy, each lecture counts as 1.5 hours). The course also carries the expectation that you will spend an average of at least 2 hours outside of class for every hour in the classroom. In other words, in addition to class time, plan to allot an average of at least 6 hours per week for reading, writing, preparing for discussions, and/or studying for quizzes and exams for this course.

Senior Auditors Policy

I welcome senior auditors in this course. In accordance with History Department policy, please complete a paper enrollment form, which I will sign and return to you to bring to the History Department office (Humanities Rm. 3211). Please remember that undergraduate students always have priority to participate in class discussions.

Course Materials

Please ensure that you have access to a copy of the following overview of Ottoman history: Suraiya Faroqhi, *The Ottoman Empire: A Short History*, trans. Shelley Frisch (Princeton, NJ: Markus Wiener Publishers, 2009). ISBN 978-1-55876-449-1. Used paperback copies are widely available for purchase, or you may use the copy on reserve in College Library.

Other readings and materials for this course will be provided on Canvas.

Assessment

Please submit all writing assignments on Canvas, in .doc or PDF form.

Components of Course Grade

In-class writing exercises (20%): these may include map exercises, short responses to readings or lecture materials, and synthesis of course concepts.

Contribution to in-class discussions (15%): contribute to class learning through critical analysis of course materials and productive engagement with other students' views.

Response Papers (5% \times 3=15%): writing assignments, one page each, addressing a question about a specific reading or film: due 1.30, 2.18, and 3.26. *Complete before class.*

Midterm take-home (15%): due Friday, March 6: a three-page essay that uses course materials to answer a thematic question about the first six weeks of the course.

Primary source analysis (15%): a three-page essay interpreting a primary source that we have not studied in class but that you will choose from a list I give you.

Final take-home (20%): due May 6 at 5:00pm: a five-page essay that uses course materials to answer a thematic question covering the breadth of the course.

Late Policy

Late work will lose one half-grade per day, beginning one hour after the deadline posted on Canvas. However, late work may be submitted for "passing" (D) credit until the last class day of the semester (May 1). Work missing as of Study Day (May 2) will receive no credit.

Preparing for Class

Although this course is officially a "lecture," most meetings will include discussion of readings or other assigned materials. Unless otherwise noted, please **complete readings (or films) by the day they appear on the syllabus** so that you can participate in these conversations.

Some course materials are "secondary sources." This is the term that historians use to describe the work of people who write *about* events in the past. When reading secondary sources, try to figure out how all the people and events fit into an *explanation* for how something important happened. This is the source's **argument**.

Other materials are "primary sources": the work of people who participated in or directly witnessed whatever it is that we are trying to understand. When dealing with primary sources, consider the following questions:

- ❖ What do you know about the author? (Draw on lecture notes, other assigned reading, or what you can glean from the source itself.)
- ❖ What was the author's **perspective** on the events or issue that the source describes?
- ❖ Who was the intended **audience** of the text? You may need to make an educated guess, based on the content.
- ❖ Why did the author write this text?
- ❖ What can this text serve as **evidence** for? What question or questions can it help us answer?

Learning Needs

Digital Devices

You may use a laptop or tablet (but not a phone) to consult readings, to take notes on lectures, and to complete certain in-class exercises. I expect you not to use your digital device to engage in activities that distract me or your classmates.

Accommodations

You are welcome to discuss your learning needs with me. If you plan to request accommodations in this course, please register with the McBurney Disability Resource Center as soon as possible. Please note that the McBurney Center now sends notification emails to faculty, rather than relying on “VISA” cards. I am guided by the university’s policy:

“The University of Wisconsin-Madison supports the right of all enrolled students to a full and equal educational opportunity. The Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA), Wisconsin State Statute (36.12), and UW-Madison policy (Faculty Document 1071) require that students with disabilities be reasonably accommodated in instruction and campus life. Reasonable accommodations for students with disabilities is a shared faculty and student responsibility. Students are expected to inform faculty of their need for instructional accommodations by the end of the third week of the semester, or as soon as possible after a disability has been incurred or recognized. Faculty will work either directly with the student or in coordination with the McBurney Center to identify and provide reasonable instructional accommodations. Disability information, including instructional accommodations as part of a student’s educational record, is confidential and protected under FERPA.”

Writing Resources

The History Lab is a resource center where experts (PhD students) will assist you with your history papers. No matter your stage in the writing process — choosing a topic, conducting research, composing a thesis, outlining your argument, revising your drafts — the History Lab staff can help you sharpen your skills and become a more successful writer. Drop by Humanities 4255 or schedule a one-on-one consultation at <http://go.wisc.edu/hlab>.

The Writing Center is a campus-wide resource offering help with any writing assignment in any course. They offer drop-in as well as by-appointment options, at eight different locations. Visit writing.wisc.edu to learn more.

Academic Integrity

I expect you to know and abide by the university’s policies on academic integrity. I follow the university’s policies for suspected violations.

For more information, see: <https://conduct.students.wisc.edu/academic-integrity/>

Schedule of Course Meetings and Readings

Week One: Introductions

1.21: Introduction to this course

Please read the syllabus carefully.

1.23 The World of Osman Beg

Findley, *The Turks in World History*, pp. 56-92.

Week two: Origin Stories

1.28 The founding of the Ottoman state

Faroqhi, *The Ottoman Empire*, pp. 41-55

1.30 Narrating the founding across Ottoman and Turkish history

Carney, "ResurReaction: Competing Visions of Turkey's (proto) Ottoman Past in *Magnificent Century* and *Resurrection Ertuğrul*," pp. 101-120.

***First Response paper due before class**

Week three: Becoming an Empire

2.4 The 15th and 16th century expansions: a military and political overview

Faroqhi, *The Ottoman Empire*, 59-81.

Casale, *The Ottoman Age of Exploration*, pp. 43-52.

2.6 Constructing the imperial: the arts of rule

Necipoglu, *The Age of Sinan*, pp. 189-230.

Week four: power and difference in Ottoman society (I)

2.11 Slavery

Hathaway, *Beshir Agha: Chief Eunuch of the Ottoman Imperial Harem*, excerpt.

2.13 Gender & sex

Peirce, *Morality Tales*, pp. 129-142.

Week five: power and difference in Ottoman society (II)

2.18 Christians and Jews

Najwa al-Qattan, "Across the Courtyard: Residential Space and Sectarian Boundaries in Ottoman Damascus," 13-46.

***Second response paper due**

2.20 Contraction & decentralization in the 17th and 18th centuries: a political and economic overview

Faroqhi, *The Ottoman Empire*, pp. 85-108.

Zilfi, "Women and Society in the Tulip Era, 1718-1730," pp. 290-303.

Week six: climate and disease in history

2.25 Climate change, the Ottoman version

White, "The Little Ice Age Crisis of the Ottoman Empire," pp. 71-90.

2.27 Bubonic Plague: Ottoman experience and interpretations

Varlik, "Plague Transformed," pp. 207-247.

Week seven: the world of things and pleasure

3.3 Consumption, commerce, & money

Singer, "The 'Michelin Guide' to Public Kitchens in the Ottoman Empire," pp. 69-92.

3.5 Crime, punishment, and the Ottomans at night

Wishnitzer, "Into the Dark: Power, Light, and Nocturnal Life in 18th-Century Istanbul," pp. 513-531.

Friday, 3.6: Midterm Essay Due on Canvas by 5:00pm

Week eight: contesting and reinventing the empire

3.10 The long 19th century: an overview

Quataert, *The Ottoman Empire*, pp. 54-72.

3.12 The Making of Nationalist Movements

Walther, *Sacred Interests: The United States and the Islamic World, 1821-1921*, pp. 33-67.

SPRING BREAK

Week nine: power and difference in the age of nationalism

3.24 Christians and Jews revisited

Phillips Cohen, *Becoming Ottomans: Sephardi Jews and Imperial Citizenship in the Modern Era*, excerpt.

3.26 Ottoman-Americans

Deporting Ottoman-Americans podcast series:
<http://www.ottomanhistorypodcast.com/p/doa.html>

***Third response paper due**

Week ten: How an Empire Ends: The Long World War, 1911-1923

3.31 The CUP: Revolution and Rule

Hanioglu, *A Brief History of the Late Ottoman Empire*, pp. 150-202.

4.2 The Long World War I

Watenpugh, *Bread from Stones: The Middle East and the Making of Modern Humanitarianism*, pp. 91-123

Week eleven

4.7 The Armenian Genocide: The Politics of Historical Memory

Harootunian, *The Unspoken as Heritage*, excerpt.

4.9 CANCELLED

Week twelve

4.14 Kemalism and the early Turkish Republic

Hanioglu, *Atatürk: An Intellectual Biography*, pp. 160-198.

4.16 Renouncing Empire: The Ottoman era in the Kemalist years

Bozdoğan, *Modernism and Nation Building*, pp. 56-105.

Friday 4.17: Primary Source Analysis Due on Canvas at 5:00pm

Week thirteen**4.21 Turkey in the Cold War years****4.23 The Ottoman era in Turkish literature and film**

Selections from 20th-century Turkish film will be available on Canvas.

Week fourteen**4.28 The AKP & Erdogan**

Arat and Pamuk, *Turkey between Democracy and Authoritarianism*, pp. 88-129.

4.30 Reclaiming the Empire: The Ottoman Era in Erdogan's Turkey

Sarah El-Kazaz, "It Is About the Park: A Struggle for Turkey's Cities." *Jadaliyya.com*

The take-home final is due on May 6 at 5:00pm. There is no timed exam in this course.