

## From the Ottoman Empire to Modern Turkey

History 200 Spring 2022

Meetings: Tu/Th 2:30-3:45pm, Humanities 1101

Instructor: Dr. Daniel Stolz [dastolz@wisc.edu](mailto:dastolz@wisc.edu)

Office hours: Fridays 10-11am on Zoom (see course website), or in person by appointment.

### **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 climate change, slavery and its abolition, gender, disease, migration, globalization, nationalism, 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 norms. Through the "Your Turn" collaborative assignments and other course elements, students will also improve their skill at developing and supporting a historical argument using primary sources.

### **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. 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 textbook, which we will use throughout the course: Douglas A. Howard, *A History of the Ottoman Empire* (Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 2017). ISBN 978-0-521-72730-3. Paperback and used copies are widely available. An eText is available from the publisher (Cambridge) and on some commercial e-readers.

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

## Course Components and Grading

This course requires **regular engagement with the two class meetings per week *and* timely completion of periodic writing assignments**. It is not possible to succeed in this course by doing all the assignments at the end of the semester.

**In-class writing exercises (25% of course grade):** these include the “Your Turn” collaborative assignments, as well as occasional other in-class writing, such as short responses or quizzes.

**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%x3=15%):** writing assignments, one page each, addressing a question about a specific reading or film: due 2.3, 2.22, and 3.31. *Complete before class.*

**Midterm take-home (15%):** due Friday, March 12: a three-page essay based on a combination of primary and secondary sources that I will give you.

**Departing Ottoman-Americans Series Assignment (10%):** due Friday, April 22: a three-page essay responding to a podcast series on Ottoman-American experiences of immigration and deportation in the United States.

**Final take-home (20%):** due May 5 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, you have the option to turn in **one** assignment late for “passing” (D) credit anytime up to May 5<sup>th</sup>, the last class day of the semester. Work missing as of 12:01am on May 6 will receive no credit (except for the final assignment).

### Accommodations for Sick or Quarantined Students

If your semester is disrupted due to Covid or another health crisis, I will offer you reasonable accommodations to continue your progress in this course. I would always prefer you miss a day out of caution rather than take a risk with the health of the class. The in-class collaborative assignments have an established procedure for students who are sick or quarantined. (See separate handout.) Please contact me ASAP to discuss other accommodations.

## Learning Needs

### **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.

### **Writing Resources/History Lab**

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. Schedule a one-on-one consultation, in-person or virtual, at <http://go.wisc.edu/hlab>.

### **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/>

## Definition of Grades

This course is graded on an A, AB, B, BC, C, D, F scale:

A	= 93-100
AB	= 88-92
B	= 82-87
BC	= 77-81
C	= 72-76
D	= 67-71
F	= 66 or below.

### **\*\*Getting More Help\*\***

The course website has links to extensive UW resources that support student learning and wellness. Please see "Let Us Help" in the Course Orientation Module.

## Schedule of Course Meetings and Readings

### Week One: Introductions

#### 1.25: Introduction to this course

Please read the syllabus carefully.

#### 1.27 The World of Osman Beg

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

### Week Two: Origin Stories

#### 2.1 The founding of the Ottoman state

Howard, Chapters 1 and 2, pp. 7-79 (“Ottoman Genesis” and “A Blessed Dynasty”)

#### 2.3 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.

Watch *Resurrection Ertuğrul* episode (link on Canvas).

**\*First Response paper due before class**

### Week Three: Becoming an Empire

#### 2.8 The 15<sup>th</sup> and 16<sup>th</sup> century expansions: a military and political overview

Howard, Chapter 3, pp. 86-128 (“A World View, 1494-1591”)

#### 2.10 Constructing the imperial: Ottoman arts and sciences

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

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

### Week Four: Power and Difference in Ottoman society (I)

#### 2.15 Slavery

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

#### 2.17 Gender & sex

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

## **Week Five: Power and Difference in Ottoman Society (II)**

### **2.22 Christians and Jews**

Grehan, "Blood and Prayer," in *Twilight of the Saints*, pp. 164-189

Optional: Howard, Chapter 4, pp. 135-176 ("Ambiguities and Certainties")

**\*Second response paper due**

### **2.24 Contraction & Decentralization in the 17<sup>th</sup> and 18<sup>th</sup> Centuries: An Overview**

Howard, Chapter 5, pp. 181-222 ("The Global and the Local")

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

## **Week Six: Climate and Disease in History**

### **3.1 Climate change, the Ottoman version**

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

### **3.3 Plague: Ottoman experience and interpretations**

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

## **Week Seven: Exceptions to the Order**

### **3.8 Darkness**

Wishnitzer, *As Night Falls: Eighteenth-Century Ottoman Cities after Dark*, pp. 81-143.

### **3.10 "Tribes"**

*No reading assigned for today: work on finishing midterm essay.*

***Friday, 3.11: Midterm Essay Due on Canvas***

**SPRING BREAK (!)**

## **Week Eight: The Generative Crises of the Late Ottoman Era**

### **3.22 The long 19<sup>th</sup> century: an overview**

Howard, Chapter 6, pp. 227-272 (“Collaborations and Breakdowns, 1785-1882)

Optional shorter overview: Quataert, *The Ottoman Empire*, pp. 54-72.

### **3.24 The making of nationalist movements**

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

## **Week Nine: Power and Difference in the Age of Nationalism**

### **3.29 Christians and Jews revisited**

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

### **3.31 Ottoman-Americans: with guest scholar Prof. Richard Breaux (UW-La Crosse)**

Breaux, “Mahjari musicians : the recorded sounds of Arab Americans in the early twentieth century, 1912-1936,” in *Arab Worlds beyond the Middle East and North Africa*.

**\*Third response paper due**

## **Week Ten: To Save the Empire**

### **4.5 Population and Resettlement in the Late Ottoman Era**

Kasaba, *A Moveable Empire*, pp. 84-122 (Chapter 4, “Building Stasis”)

### **4.7 The CUP: Revolution and Rule**

Howard, Chapter 7, pp. 278-321 (“Dissolution, 1882-1924”)

## **Week Eleven: The End of Empire**

### **4.12 The Long World War I**

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

### **4.14 The Armenian Genocide: History and Memory**

Harootunian, *The Unspoken as Heritage*, excerpt.

**Week Twelve: Creating the Turkish Republic****4.19 Kemalism and the early Turkish Republic**

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

**4.21 Renouncing Empire: The Ottoman era in the Kemalist years**

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

*Friday 4.22: Deporting Ottoman-Americans Paper Due*

**Week Thirteen: Mid-20<sup>th</sup>-Century Experiments in Turkish Politics and Culture****4.26 Turkey's Democratic Transitions and the Second Republic****4.28 The Ottoman era in Turkish literature and film**

*Selections from 20<sup>th</sup>-century Turkish film will be available on Canvas.*

**Week Fourteen: The Ottoman Empire and Identity Politics in the 21<sup>st</sup> Century****5.3 Islam and Democracy: Recep Tayyip Erdoğan and Turkey's Crossroads**

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

Sarah El-Kazaz, "It Is About the Park: A Struggle for Turkey's Cities." [Jadaliyya.com](http://Jadaliyya.com)

**5.5 Is Turkey European? The EU Controversy, and Course Conclusion**

*The take-home final assignment is due on Canvas on May 9 at 5:00pm.*

*There is no final exam in this course.*