

From the Ottoman Empire to Modern Turkey

History 200 Spring 2023

Meetings: Tu/Th 11:00am-12:15pm, Sewell Social Science Building, r. 4308

Instructor: Dr. Daniel Stolz 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 will 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 materials for this course will be provided on Canvas.

Course Components and Grades

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.

Engagement in class meetings (10%): you earn credit in this category by contributing to class discussions and/or serving occasionally as class note-taker.

In-class writing exercises (20%): at least four “Your Turn” collaborative assignments. More information will be distributed in class.

Weekly quizzes (15%): will primarily cover readings and films, and lecture content secondarily. On Canvas. Each quiz will be worth approximately 1%.

Response papers (25%): more information will be available on Canvas.

One two-page paper due February 2. (5%)

One two-page paper due February 21. (5%)

One two-page paper due March 30. (5%)

One three-page paper due April 21. This paper will respond to an episode of the “Deporting Ottoman-Americans” podcast series. (10%)

Midterm take-home essay (12%): due Friday, March 10: a three-page essay based on sources that I will give you. More information to be made available on Canvas.

Final essay (15%): due May 5 at 5:00pm. More information to be made available on Canvas.

Turkish Studies Events (3%): attend any ONE of the following events on campus this spring:

- 1) “Sovereignty and Autonomy in the Late Ottoman Empire,” with Prof. Aimee Genell. This talk traces the Ottoman routes of the post-Ottoman political order in the Middle East. Friday, Feb. 17, 12:00-1:15pm, Ingraham 206.
- 2) “One Hundred Years of Rural-Urban Relations in Turkey,” with Prof. Reşat Kasaba. Thursday, Feb. 23, 4:00-5:30pm, Humanities 5233.
- 3) “Harlem in Germany: Race, Migration, and the American Analogy in the Federal Republic,” with Prof. Lauren Stokes. Tuesday, April 4, 4:00-5:30pm, room TBA.

Other options are available if none of these fits in your schedule.

Extra credit opportunities (up to 3%): attend one additional Turkish Studies event and write a one-page response or give a two-minute presentation to the class about what you learned.

Honors option: Students completing this course with the honors option should discuss an honors project with me no later than March 10, i.e., before spring break. Projects are due May 1.

Policies and Resources

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 4th, the last class day of the semester. Work missing as of 12:01am on May 5 will receive no credit (except for the final assignment).

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.

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. The in-class collaborative assignments have an established procedure for students who are sick or quarantined. (See separate handout.)

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/>

Artificial Intelligence

You may not represent AI-generated responses as your own work. We will spend some time in class assessing the ability of current technology to answer questions about Ottoman History. Beyond that, I discourage you from using AI to do research for this class. In my experience, current technology will answer some questions wrongly with as much confidence as it answers some questions correctly. **Note: other instructors may have different policies. Consult your instructor.**

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>.

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.

Participation Rubric

Excellent (90-100)	Good (80-90)	Competent (70-80)	Inadequate (60-70)	Fail (0-60)
-Mastery over readings and previous discussion -Explores questions rigorously -Comes to class with interpretations and questions -Engages others	-Knows readings well -Consistent preparation and involvement -Offers analysis of texts in class	-Basic grasp of reading -Mostly offers facts or surface-level interpretations -Contributes when called upon but not actively engaged	-Insufficient command of reading -Attempts to contribute facts or interpretations when called but unable to offer substance	-Uninvolved -Unexcused -Disruptive

Schedule of Course Meetings and Readings

Week One: Introductions

1.24: Introduction to this course

Please read the syllabus carefully.

1.26 The World of Osman Beg

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

Week Two: Origin Stories

1.31 The founding of the Ottoman state

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

In-class Your Turn assignment

2.2 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

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

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

2.9 Designing empire: arts, learning, and charity in Ottoman society

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

Singer, *Constructing Ottoman Beneficence: An Imperial Soup Kitchen in Jerusalem*, excerpt.

In-Class Your Turn assignment

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

2.14 Slavery

Listen to “Slavery and Manumission in Galata” podcast episode.

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

2.16 Marriage, Gender, and Sexuality

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

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

2.21 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**

2.23 The 17th and 18th Centuries: Emergence of a New Political-Fiscal Order

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

2.28 Climate change, the Ottoman version

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

3.2 Plague: Ottoman experience and interpretations

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

In-Class Your Turn assignment

Week Seven: Exceptions to the Order

3.7 Darkness

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

3.9 "Tribes"

*No reading assigned for today: work on finishing **Midterm Essay, due Friday 3.10.***

SPRING BREAK

Week Eight: The Generative Crises of the Late Ottoman Era

3.21 The long 19th century: an overview

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

3.23 The making of nationalist movements

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

In Class Your Turn Assignment

Week Nine: Power and Difference in the Age of Nationalism

3.28 Religious Difference in the Age of Nationalism

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

3.30 Ottoman-Americans

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

4.4 The CUP Revolution and the Balkan Wars

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

4.6 World War I and the Turkish War of Independence

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

In-Class Your Turn Assignment

Week Eleven: Genocide and Forced Migration at the End of Empire

4.11 "Population Exchange" in Greece and Turkey

Watch *My Grandfather's People (Dedemin İnsanları)* streaming on Canvas.

4.13 The Armenian Genocide: History and Memory

Harootunian, *The Unspoken as Heritage*, excerpt.

Week Twelve: Creating the Turkish Republic

4.18 Kemalism and the early Turkish Republic

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

4.20 Renouncing Empire: The Ottoman era in the Kemalist years

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

In-Class Your Turn Assignment

Friday 4.21: Deporting Ottoman-Americans Paper Due

Week Thirteen: Mid-20th-Century Experiments in Turkish Politics and Culture

4.25 Turkey's Democratic Transitions and the Second Republic

4.27 The Mid-20th Century in Turkish Film and Music

Watch Kelerbeğin Rüyası and Devrim Arabaları streaming on Canvas

In-Class Your Turn Assignment

Week Fourteen: The Ottoman Empire and Identity Politics in the 21st Century

5.2 Islam and Democracy: Recep Tayyip Erdoğan and Turkey's Crossroads

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

Volfova, "Discourses and Practices of Neo-Ottomanism under the AKP," pp. 489-510.

5.4 Is Turkey European? The EU Controversy, and Course Conclusion

Final assignments are due on Canvas by 6:00pm on Tuesday, May 9.