

TURKS & EUROPE: FROM THE OTTOMAN EMPIRE TO THE EU

ICS 162/Turkish 135/Culanth 152/History 141

Fall 2010
T/Th, 4:25-5:40, 320 Languages

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Officially, Islam plays no role in decisions to accept Turkey as a member of the EU, yet debates frequently focus on whether a “Muslim” country belongs in Europe. Working from this context, this course introduces students to issues of cultural history and identity from the emergence of the Ottoman Empire to Turkey’s EU accession process. In addition to providing a general historical survey, reading assignments will alternate from the descriptive to the analytical as they help us examine, interpret, and question assumptions about Ottoman, Turkish and Muslim polities in European contexts. One of our goals will be to decode dominant narratives about “Turks” and to situate scholarly debates about Turks and Europe into interpretive frameworks. Our discussions will focus on recent scholarship that addresses topics such as the “*gazi* thesis,” the “Sultanate of Women,” conversion, Sufism, gender, and Euro-Islam.

By examining how different historical narratives not only describe but construct the subjects they describe, we will begin to understand and challenge persistent Orientalist and/or nationalist historiographies. Readings will furthermore introduce students to Ottomans and Turks to help foster a multi-perspectival approach. This will encourage a dynamic, rather than reductive, understanding of Turkish-European relations. Additional readings will address aspects of representation and identity in accounts told from the “outside” and the “inside.”

Problems in Ottoman/Turkish studies that have preoccupied scholars will form the basis for student research projects. Examples include the Byzantine-Ottoman transition, conversion in the Balkans, the Ottoman Caliphate, *Pax Ottomanica*, the agency of women, *kanun* and *şeriat*, Ottoman institutions (such as the *devşirme*, *millet*s, Capitulations, Sufi orders, etc.), minorities (*zimmi*), the “Ottoman legacy,” and EU accession.

Class time will be spent in a combination of discussion and short lecture. Readings, short written responses, and comparative analyses will provide the context for students to select and develop final research projects. By the end of the semester, you will be familiar with important debates concerning Ottoman culture and Turks that continue to leave their mark on Europe and the Middle East today.

Readings (available at the bookstore):

Caroline Finkel, *Osman’s Dream: The Story of the Ottoman Empire 1300-1923*

Heath Lowry, *The Nature of the Early Ottoman State*

Lady Mary Montagu, *The Turkish Embassy Letters*

Orhan Pamuk, *The White Castle*

Leslie Peirce, *Imperial Harem: Women and Sovereignty in the Ottoman Empire*

Edward Said, *Orientalism*

articles and book chapters available on BlackBoard

Course Requirements and Grading:

- Regular attendance is mandatory, absences will lower your grade
- Commitment to discussions is mandatory, non-participation will lower your grade
- Five 2-page reading responses sent to goknar@duke.edu. [10%]
- Discussion facilitating. Prepare a thematic outline of the reading. Explain how the reading is framed and its significance and implications. Treat this as preliminary exam preparation. [10%]
- Two essay tests. [30%]
- An EndNote bibliography of 15 articles or sources annotated with brief summaries for use in your final paper. [10%]
- Presentation of draft of final research project [10%]
- A 15-page final research project on a topic of your choice [30%]

Students are expected to abide by the Duke Honor Code.

SCHEDULE:

‘♦’ before a reading indicates that entire book should be read (grad. students only)

Week I Introduction

Tues., Aug. 31: Introduction

Thurs., Sept. 2: Goffman, from *The Ottoman Empire and Early Modern Europe*

Week II “The Gazi Thesis”

Tues., Sept. 7: ♦ Lowry, *The Nature of the Early Ottoman State*, Intro, ch. 1

Thurs., Sept. 9: Lowry, *The Nature of the Early Ottoman State*, ch. 7-8
[Reading Response 1 due Friday by 11 a.m.]

Week III Orientalism & the Discourse of the “Turk”

Tues., Sept. 14: ♦ Said, *Orientalism*, Preface, Intro, ch. 1 (“Knowing the Oriental”)

Thurs. Sept. 16: Sherley, “Discours of the Turkes”
[Reading Response 2]

Week IV Ottoman Lives: Mustafa Ali & Katib Çelebi

Tues., Sept. 21: Barkey, “Islam and Toleration”
Fleischer, from *Bureaucrat & Intellectual*, p. 1-10 (Intro.) &
Making of an Ottoman
Mustafa Ali, from *Counsel for Sultans* (trans. Tietze), p. 49-60

Thurs., Sept. 23: Katib Çelebi, from *The Balance of Truth*, p. 7-49
[RR3]

Week V **The Sultanate of Women**

Tues., Sept. 28: ♦ Peirce, from *Imperial Harem*, Intro, ch. 3, 7, Conc.

Thurs., Sept. 30: Sajdi, “Decline, Its Discontents, and Ottoman Cultural History”

Week VI **The “Decline” Paradigm**

Tues., Oct. 5: Review & Discussion

Thurs., Oct. 7: **First Essay Test**

Week VII

Tues., Oct. 12: **FALL BREAK, NO CLASS**

Thurs., Oct. 14: TBA

Week VIII **Travelers in the Empire**

Tues., Oct. 19: ♦ Montagu, from *Turkish Embassy Letters*, p. 56-126
Lisa Lowe, “Travel Narratives and Orientalism”

Thurs., Oct. 21: Dankoff, from *An Ottoman Mentality*
Evliya Çelebi, from the *Seyahatname* (“Book of Travels”)

Week IX **Modernization**

Tues., Oct. 26: Pamuk, *The White Castle*

Thurs., Oct. 28: McCarthy, “Destablization, 1566-1789” (start on pg. 174 at
“Ottoman Attempts at Reform” and read to pg. 191)
[RR 4]

Week X **Ottoman Reform**

Tues., Nov. 2: McCarthy, “Reform, 1789-1912,” *The Ottoman Turks*
Ottoman Reform Documents: 1839, 1856, 1876, 1909

Thurs., Nov. 4: Smith & Roberts, “Nation: Real or Imagined?” and “Self-
Determination”

Week XI**The Ottoman Legacy**

Tues., Nov. 9: Gole, "Kemalism: The Civilizing Mission"
Brown, from *Imperial Legacy*, (Intro, Ch. 2, and Ch. 5)

Thurs., Nov. 11: Sells, "Islam in Serbian Religious Mythology," *Islam and Bosnia*

Week XII**Proposal due Sun., Nov. 14****Turkey & the EU**

Tues., Nov. 16: Pamuk, from *Other Colors*
Robins, "Interrupting Identities: Turkey/Europe"
Tarifa & Adams, "Who's the Sick Man of Europe?"

Thurs., Nov. 18: Review & Discussion

Week XIII

Tues., Nov. 23: **Second Essay Test**

Thurs., Nov. 25: THANKSGIVING BREAK, NO CLASS

Week XIV**Neo-Ottomanism**

Tues., Nov. 30: Aydin & Çakır, "Political Islam in Turkey"
Taşpınar, *Between Neo-Ottomanism and Kemalism*

Thurs., Dec. 2: Film: *Coup/Darbe*

Week XV**Draft of research paper due Wed., Dec. 1 at noon**

Tues., Dec. 7: presentation of papers

Thurs., Dec. 9: presentation of papers

Week XVI

Final papers due on Monday December 13 by noon.