HISTORY 274
History of the Ottoman Empire, 1300-1923

(General Education Curriculum: Fulfills Historical Analysis Approach and the Beyond the North Atlantic World Connection).

Instructor: Dr. Cemil Aydin
Email: caydin@email.unc.edu

DESCRIPTION
This course approaches more than six hundred years history of the Ottoman Empire from a world historical perspective. It will situate the Ottoman imperial experience in relation to Muslim, Mongolian and Byzantine traditions. Moreover, it will discuss the early modern and modern era transformation of the Ottoman Empire, and its legacy for contemporary Eastern Europe, the Middle East and North Africa.

JUSTIFICATION
There is a gap in our history curriculum with regard to medieval Muslim societies and Eurasia. This course on Ottoman Empire will help fill this gap, and will help our students to overcome the established Eurocentric narratives with regard to decline of medieval Muslim societies. This course will also provide a crucial background to the contemporary Middle East and Eastern Europe while encouraging our students to better understand modern world history.

ASSIGNMENTS AND GRADING POLICIES
I work with a 1000-point scale rather than grade points:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Assignment</th>
<th>Points</th>
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<tr>
<td>4 Tuesday Reading Reports (100 each)</td>
<td>400</td>
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<tr>
<td>Participation</td>
<td>200</td>
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<tr>
<td>Take Home Mid-Term (2 questions)</td>
<td>200</td>
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<td>Take Home Final Exam(2 questions)</td>
<td>200</td>
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<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>1000</td>
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Grading scale
1. **Four Reading Reports:** Students will read about 50-60 pages each week, approximately three articles, and they will write a report about these readings. Tuesday reports are very important for your class participation and final grade. They will be at least 1100 words, 3-4 double spaced pages, in length. The reading reports will usually review an assigned reading around a set a questions the instructor will provide in advance. You need to bring a hard copy of your response to the class. Then, you will be asked to summarize your paper in class. Each report must include your name, topic, date of the assignment, and word count.

2. **Participation and Professionalism:** This course has a discussion oriented seminar format which requires that each student is prepared to exchange his or her ideas with the class. Your performance in class discussion will be graded. Half of your participation grade, 10 percent, will be based on your professional conduct during the class. If you are disruptive to the class environment or miss the class for no reason, you will lose this portion of the grade. Phone texting, or focusing on social media (facebook, twitter) rather than participating in the class are common causes of lack of professionalism in classrooms.

3. **Take Home Mid-Term and Final Exam:** There will be a take home mid-term and in class final examination. For the take home examination, students will be asked two essay questions, with each worth 10 percent of the final grade. Responses to each essay question will be about 5 pages long (Double spaced). There will also be two essay questions on the final examination, each worth 10 percent of the final grade.

**COURSE OUTLINE**

This course outline is tentative and can be changed at the discretion of the instructor. Please complete all readings for the week by Tuesday at class time.

**WEEK 0 - August 21- Introduction-Basic Questions and themes of the course**

**WEEK 1- August 26-28**

**MUSLIM, MONGOLIAN AND BYZANTINE BACKGROUND**
I. The Ottoman Empire in World Historical Context
II. Multiple Legacies of the Ottomans (Muslim, Mongolian, Persian, Byzantine)

**Readings:**
*(Primary Source) G. Lewis, trs., *The Book of Dede Korkut*, pp. 117-32. (Includes the Story of Kan Turali)”

NO CLASS ON SEPTEMBER 2nd - LABOR DAY

**WEEK 2 – September 4**

**SECRETS OF OTTOMAN SUCCESS**

I. The Rise of the Ottomans, 1300-1452  
II. Causes of Ottoman Success

**Readings:**

*K. Mihailovic, Memoirs of a Janissary*, 140-163  

**First Reading Response:** Based on your readings of (only) three of the assigned readings, write a short paper on the secrets for the success of Ottoman principality in expanding its territories and in establishing long lasting state institutions? What made the Ottoman start-up principality to grow and expand successfully?

**WEEK 3 – September 9-11**

**EMPIRE AFTER THE CONQUEST OF ISTANBUL**

I. The Test of 1402  
II. Mehmet II and the Classical Ottoman System

**Readings:**

* B. Lewis (ed., trans.) (Primary Text) Islam from the Prophet Muhammad to the Capture of Constantinople, 141-8.  
*Runciman (Primary Text) on the Fall of Constantinople  
*Tursun Bey (Primary Text) History of Mehmed the Conquerer

**Second Reading Response:** What was the importance of Istanbul for the Ottoman Empire? What changed after Istanbul? (Need to use at least two assigned readings)
Week 4 - September 16-18
EXPANSION IN THE MIDDLE EAST
I. The Ottoman-Safavid Conflict
II. Reclaiming the Abbasid Legacy and Invasion of the Central Lands of Islam

Readings:
*A. Allouche, “The Origin and Development of the Ottoman-Safavid Conflict”
*Parry on “Bayezid II and Selim I”

Third Reading Response: Why did the Ottoman Empire have war with Safavids and invade Egypt? Are these wars any different than the Ottoman wars against other empires in Europe? (Must refer to two assigned readings)

WEEK 5 - September 23-25
ADVANCES IN EUROPE & THE INDIAN OCEAN
I. In Pursuit of the Red Apple: Advances into the Heart of Europe, 1520-1574
II. Competing with Emerging Oceanic Empires in the Age of Discovery

Readings:
*Ozbaran, “The Ottoman Turks and the Portuguese in the Persian Gulf,” Journal of Asian History 6: 45-87

Fourth Reading Response: How can you characterize the Ottoman Empire’s grant strategy in Europe, Central Asia and Indian Ocean in relation to Habsburg and Portuguese Empires? (Must refer to at least 3 assigned readings)

Week 6 - September 30 (Homework Break on October 2nd)
CLASSICAL INSTITUTIONS AND VALUES
1. Kul System, Kanun
I. Timar, Waqf and Medrese

Readings:
*R. Repp, The Mufti of Istanbul, pp. 27-72
*Uriel Heyd, Kanun and Sharia in Old Ottoman Criminal Justice,” pp. 407-424

Fifth Reading Response: Read at least two of the above readings and write down at least 3 characterizes of the Ottoman classical institutions that you found surprising and original compared to other empires and states you know about. Be ready to discuss your points in the class panel.

WEEK 7 - October 7-9
Focus on THE OTTOMANS AND EUROPEAN EARLY MODERNITY

Readings:
*Cemal Kafadar, “A history of coffee houses in the Ottoman Empire” (unpublished conference paper)

Sixth Reading Response

WEEK 8 - OCTOBER 14-16
Focus on IMPERIAL COSMOPOLITANISM

Readings:


*S. Hattox, Coffee and Coffeehouses, pp. 72-130

*Lady Montagu, Complete Letters of Lady Mary Wortley Montagu, pp. 325-352


*R. Dankoff, trans., Evliya Celebi in Bitlis, pp. 117-151


B. Braude and B. Lewis, “Introduction,” in B. Braude and B. Lewis, eds., Christian and Jews in the Ottoman Empire, pp. 1-34


Seventh Short Paper & Student Panel Question: Was the Ottoman Empire a “Muslim empire?” Why or why not? Did cosmopolitanism of the empire contradict with its Muslim tradition? (Student must refer at least 5 of the course readings until Week 10)

WEEK 9 - October 21-23
THE CRISIS OF THE 17th CENTURY: BEGINNING OF DECLINE?
I. What was the crisis about? Who wrote about that?
II. Politics of Decline Discourses

Readings:
*M.A. Cook, ed., A History of the Ottoman Empire to 1730, pp. 103-132.
*S. Faroqhi. “Political Tensions in the Anatolian Countryside Around 1600.”
*A. Reid, “The Battle of Lepanto and its Place in Mediterranean History,” Past and Present 57: 53-73
*C. Fleischer, Bureaucrat and Intellectual in the Ottoman Empire, pp. 235-293
*(Primary Text): Mustafa Ali. Counsel for the Sultans, tr. A. Tietze, pp. 66-86. [discourse on signs, reasons, and remedies of decline according to influential late sixteenth-century author.]

Eight Reading Response: Did the Ottoman Decline after the in the seventeenth Century? Why or why not? (Must refer to at least two assigned readings)

WEEK 10 - October 28-30.
BEYOND THE BATTLE OF VIENNA: RE-THINKING THE MEANING OF OTTOMAN WARFARE IN EUROPE

I. What happened after the Vienna Defeat?
II. Is there a new Ottoman empire in the 18th century?

* Emrah Sefa Gürkan, “Christian Allies of the Ottoman Empire,” European History Online at.
*Donald Quataert, The Ottoman Empire, 1700-1922, chs. 3, 4.
* Felix Konrad, “From the ‘Turkish Menace’ to Exoticism and Orientalism: Islam as Anthithesis of Europe (1453-1914)” at European History Online

Ninth Reading Response: Was the battle of Vienna an example of Clash of Civilizations? What did this battle change for the History of Ottoman Empire?

WEEK 11 – November 4-6
CHALLENGE OF DECENTRALIZATION AND RIVAL EMPIRES
I. Political Upheavals in the Capital
II. The Rise of the Periphery: Social Unrest in the Provinces

Readings:
*K. Barkey, Bandits and Bureaucrats, pp. 141-188
*R. Abou el-Haj, The Rebellion of 1703 and the Structure of Ottoman Politics,
*C. Kafadar, Janissaries and Other Riffraff of Istanbul,
*C. Kafadar, When Coins Turned into Drops of Dew and Bankers Became Robbers of Shadows,
*A. Raymond, “The Economic Crisis in Eighteenth-Century Egypt,” pp. 687-707

Tenth Reading Response: Based on at least 2 of the above reading, discuss your impression of the 18th century Ottoman empire. Was this a despotic empire with little room for individual and social autonomy and participation? Are frequent janissary revolts a sign of chaos or limited government?
WEEK 12 - November 11-13
OTTOMAN EMPIRE IN THE AGE OF ATLANTIC REVOLUTIONS
I. Decentralization and Central Government’s Response
II. Post-Napoleonic Diplomacy and Reform

Readings:
* Sükrü Hanioğlu, “Chapter 2 and Chapter 3: Initial Ottoman Response to the Challenge of Modernity & The Dawn of the Age of Reform” in A History of Late Ottoman Empire (Princeton University Press, 2008)
* R. Kasaba, The Ottoman Empire and the World Economy, pp. 11-87
* J. C. Hurewitz, Diplomacy in the Near and Middle East, pp. 1-5
* Karpat, ed., The Ottoman State and its Place in World History (Leiden, 1974), 107-118
* Subrahmanyam and Armitage, ed., Atlantic Revolutions in a Global Age, Selections

Eleventh Reading Response: What was happening in the Ottoman Empire during the Atlantic Revolutions and Napoleonic Wars? Was the the Ottoman Empire an outside observer or an active participant in these events? Why or why not?

WEEK 13 - November 18-20
THE OTTOMAN EMPIRE IN THE NEW WORLD ORDER OF THE 19TH CENTURY
I. Decentralization in the Provinces
II. The Rise of Nationalism

Readings:
* (Primary Text) 1839 Tanzimat Proclamation
* Sükrü Hanioğlu, “Chapter 4: Tanzimat Era” in A History of Late Ottoman Empire (Princeton University Press, 2008)
* (Primary Text) W. E. Gladstone, Bulgarian Horrors and the Question of the East (London: John Murray, 1876)
* R. Clogg, A Short History of Modern Greece, pp. 16-69
* R. Clogg, The Movement for Greek Independence, pp. 17-21; 106-118
* B. Jelavich, The Establishment of the Balkan National States, 1804-1920,

WEEK 14 - November 25
AN ANTI-IMPERIALIST EMPIRE? OTTOMANS AND EUROPEAN COLONIALISM
I. Ottomanism and the Restructuring of the Empire
II. The Ottomans as the Leader of “the Muslim World”

Readings:
*Selim Deringil, “They Live in a State of Nomadism and Savagery”: The Late Ottoman Empire and the Post-Colonial Debate” in Comparative Study of Society and History, p. 311-342.
*Sükrü Hanioğlu, “Chapter 5: The Twilight of the Tanzimat and the Hamidian Regime” in A History of Late Ottoman Empire (Princeton University Press, 2008)

Twelfth Reading Response: How and why did the Ottoman Empire began to be seen as the leader of the Muslim world in the second half of the 19th century? Did the Ottoman Empire really become more Muslim in the early 20th century?

WEEK 15 – December 2-4
OTTOMANS IN WWI AND AFTERMATH
I. World War One and the Disintegration of the Empire
II. The Ottoman Legacy in the Balkans and the Middle East

Readings:
*Shaikh Mushir Hosain Kidwai, Pan-Islamism (London, Lusac & Co, 1908)
*A. Hourani, “The Ottoman Background of the Modern Middle East,” in K. H. Karpat, ed., The Ottoman State and its Place in World History (Leiden, 1974)

FINAL TAKE HOME EXAM DUE ON DECEMBER 10 (MONDAY) by Noon.