

**THE OTTOMAN EMPIRE, 1300-1800**  
**HIST 535-002/387-005, Spring 2017**  
**Monday 4:30-7:10 pm**  
**Planetary Hall 224**

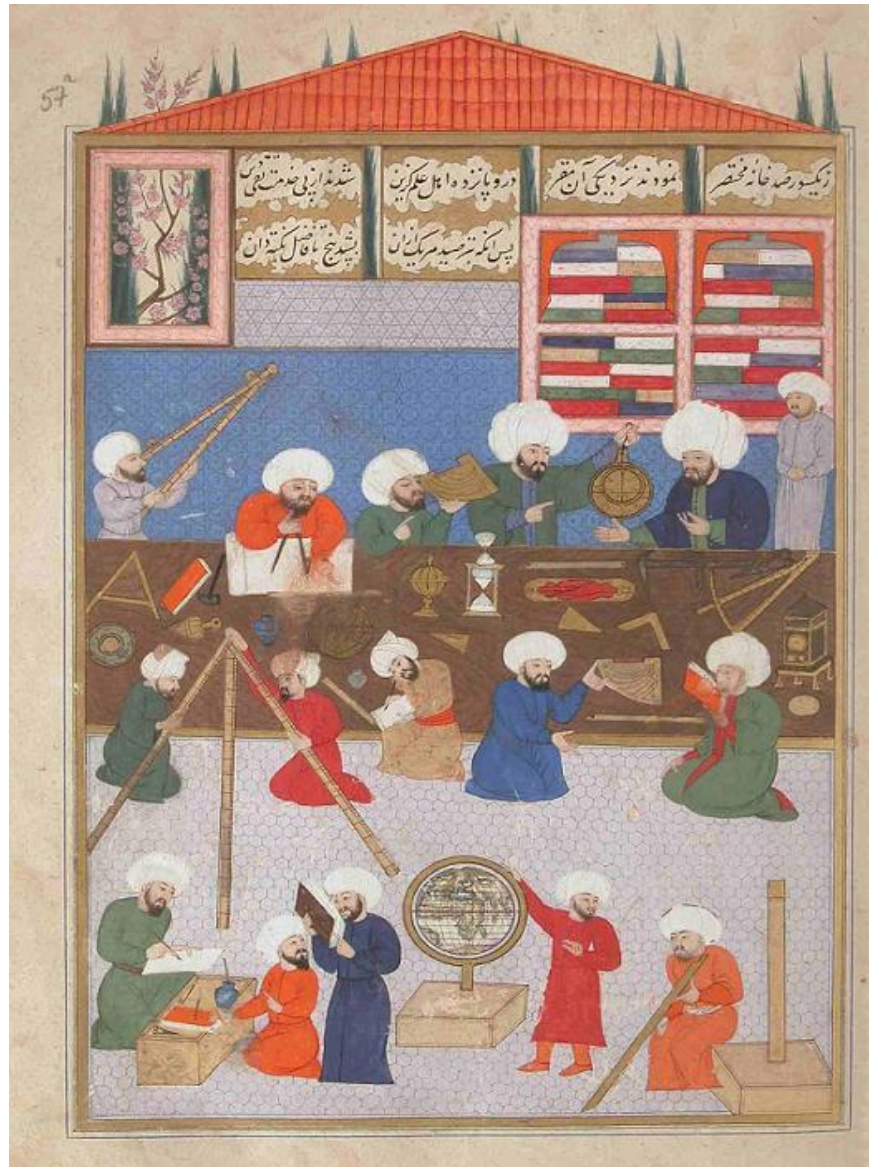
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## **Course Description**

Who were the Ottomans that once ruled much of today's Eastern Europe and the Middle East? European contemporaries mostly called them simply 'Turks' but, in their own perception, they were the *Rumis*. The Ottoman experience cannot be squeezed in a clear civilizational category as it comprises a host of diverse cultures, religions, communities, and institutions. Scholars characterized it in different ways, ranging from Weber's 'Oriental Despotism' to Hodgson's 'Gunpowder Empire.' Once considered as only part of the national history of today's modern Turkey it is now being studied in quest for a range of intriguing questions of modern historical inquiry. This course treats this complexity of Ottoman history in a survey that examines principal developments and institutions in areas ranging from government to economy and from arts to leisure. Lectures and readings include historical analyses by contemporary historians and primary sources left by the Ottomans themselves. We will examine the Ottoman Empire from its origins in the thirteenth century to the end of the sixteenth century when it was widely thought to have reached its ideals. We will treat the Ottoman experience within the broader context of world history while at the same time highlighting its peculiarities. The dynamics of its expansionism, political and cultural encounters, institutional development, social and economic networks, manifestations of piety, relations across lines of class, religion and gender will be covered. The course will undertake a critical inquiry into the established narratives of Ottoman history through discussing primary sources and theoretical approaches in modern scholarship.

## **Course Policies**

Class activities will involve lectures, discussions and student presentations.

Attendance is required and all excused absences should be accompanied with proper documentation.

Attendants must have read the course material prior to class time.

For assignments and performance all are responsible from the full content of the course.

Students are strictly bound by George Mason Honor Code (<http://academicintegrity.gmu.edu>) and common rules of academic integrity.

Students who request academic accommodation for a warranted condition should first contact the Office of Disability Services at 703-993-2474, <http://ods.gmu.edu/>.

Electronic devices in classroom may not be used beyond the purpose of note-taking.

All should strictly comply with George Mason University Honor Code and adhere to the standards of academic integrity. For more information see <http://oai.gmu.edu/honor-code>.

## **Assignments and Grading**

Participation	(10 %)
Midterm I	(20 %)
Midterm II	(20 %)
Paper	(20 %)
Final	(30 %)

## **Course Plan**

### **Week One, January 23**

#### **Introduction**

### **Week Two, January 30**

#### **The Ottoman Empire in World Historical Context**

##### **Conflict and Symbiosis in Frontier Society**

Arnakis, "Gregory Palamas among the Turks...", 104-18

Cahen, *Pre-Ottoman Turkey*, 347-360

Ibn Battuta, *The Travels of Ibn Battuta*, 123-143

Inalcik, *Ottoman Empire*, 3-16

Kafadar, *Between two Worlds*, 118-150

### **Week Three, February 6**

#### **Interregnum and Reconstruction**

##### **Imperial Configuration and its Discontents**

Inalcik, "Ottoman Methods of Conquest," 103-29

Inalcik, *Ottoman Empire*, 17-34

Mihailovic, *Memoirs of a Janissary*, 87-143

Tursun Bey, *History of the Mehmed the Conqueror*, 31-67

### **Week Four February 13**

#### **Sectarian Activism and the Ottoman-Safavid Conflict**

##### **Expansion and Consolidation in the Middle East**

Allouche, *The Origins and Development of the Ottoman-Safavid Conflict*, 100-145

Hess, "Ottoman Conquest of Egypt (1517)," 55-76

Inalcik, *Ottoman Empire* 35-54

McNeill and Waldman, "Letters from Selim and Ismail," 337-44

Zarinebaf-Shahr, "Qizilbash 'Heresy' and Rebellion in Ottoman Anatolia...", 1-14.

### **Week Five, February 20**

#### **The Ottomans and the Renaissance**

##### **Encounters in Europe and the Indian Ocean**

Casale, "His Majesty's Servant," 43-70

Hess, "The Evolution of the Ottoman Seaborne Empire...", 1892-1919

Inalcik, "A Case Study in Renaissance Diplomacy," 342-368

Kafadar, "The Ottomans and Europe," 613-25

Sidi Ali Reis, *The Travels and Adventures*, 1-24

### **Week Six, February 27**

#### **Ruling Establishment**

##### **Law and Administration of Justice**

Heyd, "The Ottoman Criminal Code," 93-132

Inalcik, *Ottoman Empire*, 55-121

## **Midterm I Handout**

## **Week Seven, March 6**

### **Religion and Piety**

#### **Institutions and Articulation of Learning**

Inalcik, Ottoman Empire, 165-202

Karamustafa, *God's Unruly Friends*, 65-84

Katib Chelebi, *The Balance of Truth*, 106-134

Mandaville, "Usurious Piety: The Cash-Waqf Controversy," 289-308

Zilfi, "The Kadizadelis," 251-69

## **Midterm I**

## **Week Eight, March 13**

### **Spring Break**

## **Week Nine, March 20**

### **Family, Women, Gender, and the Marginals**

#### **Ethnic and Religious Diversity**

Andrews, *The Age of the Beloved*, 193-216

Braude and Lewis, *Christian and Jews in the Ottoman Empire*, 1-34

Dursteler, "Fatima Hatun née Beatrice Michiel," 355-382

Lady Montagu, *Complete Letters of Lady Mary Wortley Montagu*, 341-52

Peirce, *The Imperial Harem*, 3-10

## **Term Paper Handout**

## **Week Ten, March 27**

### **Economy and the Marketplace**

#### **Trade and Merchants**

Baer, "The Administrative, Economic and Social Functions of Turkish Guilds," 28-50

Hanna, *Making Big Money in 1600*, 1-15

Inalcik, "Capital Formation in the Ottoman Empire," 97-140

Inalcik, *Ottoman Empire*, 140-162

Masters, *The Origins of Western Economic Dominance in the Middle East*, 72-109

## **Week Eleven, April 3**

### **Arts, Architecture, and Literature**

#### **Social Life, Leisure and Pleasure**

Eldem, *The Ottoman City Between East and West*, 1-17

Hattox, *Coffee and Coffeehouses*, 72-111

Katib Chelebi, *The Balance of Truth*, 50-65, 101-106

Singer, "The 'Michelin Guide' to Public Kitchens in the Ottoman Empire," 69-89

Tietze, *Mustafa Ali's Description of Cairo 1599*, 39-56

**Week Twelve, April 10****Imperial Ideology****Crises, Declinism, and Reform**

Flemming, "Political Genealogies in the Sixteenth Century," 121-137

Gibb, "Lutfi Pasha on the Ottoman Caliphate," 287-95

Kafadar, "A Rome of One's Own," 7-25

Kunt, "Ethnic-regional (*cins*) Solidarity in the Seventeenth Century," 233-9

Necipoglu, *The Age of Sinan*, 27-35

Schmidt, *Mustafa Ali's Künhü'l Ahbar*, 49-70

**Midterm II Handout****Term Paper Due****Week Thirteen, April 17****Decentralization of Power****Social Disorder and Reconfiguration**

Barkey, *Bandits and Bureaucrats*, 141-188

Inalcik, "Centralization and Decentralization, 1600-1700," 27-52

Kafadar, "The Question of Ottoman Decline," 30-75

Mustafa Ali, *Counsel for Sultans*, 66-86

**Midterm II****Week Fourteen, April 24****Transformation of Classical Institutions****Responses to Modernity, Colonialism, and Globalization**

Aksan, *An Ottoman Statesman in War and Peace*, 34-46

al-Jabarti, *Napoleon in Egypt: al-Jabarti's Chronicle of the French Occupation*, 24-33

Defterdar, *The Book of Counsel for Vezirs and Governors*, 116-120

Inalcik, "Military and Fiscal Transformation in the Ottoman Empire," 283-337

**Final Paper Handout****Week Fifteen, May 1****General Discussion****Week Sixteen, May 8****No Class****Final Paper Due**