

**THE OTTOMAN EMPIRE, 1300-1914**

**HIST 387, Spring 2022**

**Monday 1:30-04:10 pm**

**Horizon Hall 3010**

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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.

## Assignments and Grading

Participation	(10 %)
Midterm	(25 %)
Paper	(25 %)
Final	(40 %)

## 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>.*

- All students taking courses with a face-to-face component are required to follow the university's public health and safety precautions and procedures outlined on the university Safe Return to Campus webpage (<https://www2.gmu.edu/safe-return-campus>). Similarly, all students in face-to-face and hybrid courses must also complete the Mason COVID Health Check prior to coming to campus. The COVID Health Check system uses a color code system and students will receive either a Green, Yellow, Red, or Blue email response. Only students who receive a "green" notification are permitted to attend courses with a face-to-face component. If you suspect that you are sick or have been directed to self-isolate, please quarantine or get testing. Faculty are allowed to ask you to show them that you have received a Green email and are thereby permitted to be in class.
- Students are required to follow Mason's current policy about facemask-wearing. As of August 11, 2021, all community members are required to wear a facemask in all indoor settings, including classrooms. An [appropriate facemask](#) must cover your nose and mouth at all times in our classroom. If this policy changes, you will be informed; however, students who prefer to wear masks will always be welcome in the classroom.
- If the campus closes, or if a class meeting needs to be canceled or adjusted due to weather or other concern, students should check Blackboard [or other instruction as appropriate] for updates on how to continue learning and for information about any changes to events or assignments.
- Activities and assignments in this course will regularly use the Blackboard learning system, available at <https://mymason.gmu.edu>. Students are required to have regular, reliable access to a computer with an updated operating system (recommended: Windows 10 or Mac OSX 10.13 or higher) and a stable broadband Internet connection (cable modem, DSL, satellite broadband, etc., with a consistent 1.5 Mbps [megabits per second] download speed or higher. You can check your speed settings using the speed test on this website.)
- Activities and assignments in this course will regularly use web-conferencing software (Blackboard Collaborate / Zoom). In addition to the requirements above, students are required to have a device with a functional camera and microphone. In an emergency, students can connect through a telephone call, but video connection is the expected norm.
- Videorecordings -- whether made by instructors or students -- of class meetings that include audio, visual, or textual information from other students are private and must not be shared outside the class
- Live video conference meetings (e.g. Collaborate or Zoom) that include audio, textual, or visual information from other students must be viewed privately and not shared with others in your household or recorded and shared outside the class

## Course Plan

### Week One, January 24

#### Introduction

#### The Ottoman Empire in World Historical Context

### Week Two, January 31

#### Conflict and Symbiosis in Frontier Society

#### Interregnum and Reconstruction

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 7

#### Imperial Configuration and its Discontents

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

Inalcik, *Ottoman Empire*, 17-34

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

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

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

### Week Four February 14

#### Expansion and Consolidation in the Middle East

#### Encounters in Europe and the Indian Ocean

#### The Ottomans and the Renaissance

Inalcik, *Ottoman Empire* 35-54

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

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 Five, February 21

#### Ruling Establishment

#### Law and Administration of Justice

#### Institutions and Articulation of Learning

Inalcik, *Ottoman Empire*, 55-121

Inalcik, *Ottoman Empire*, 165-202

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

Peirce, *The Imperial Harem*, 3-10

### Week Six, February 28

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

#### Ethnic and Cultural Diversity

#### Religion and Piety

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

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

Karamustafa, *God's Unruly Friends*, 65-84  
Katib Chelebi, *The Balance of Truth*, 106-134  
Zilfi, "The Kadizadelis," 251-69

**Week Seven, March 7**  
**Midterm**

**Week Eight, March 14**  
**Spring Break**

**Week Nine, March 21**  
**Economy and the Marketplace**  
**Trade and Merchants**

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

**Term Paper Handout**

**Week Ten, March 28**  
**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

**Week Eleven, April 4**  
**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

**Week Twelve, April 11**  
**Decentralization of Power**  
**Social Disorder and Reconfiguration**

Barkey, *Bandits and Bureaucrats*, 141-188  
Kafadar, "The Question of Ottoman Decline," 30-75  
Mustafa Ali, *Counsel for Sultans*, 66-86

**Term Paper Due**  
**Final Paper Handout**

**Week Thirteen, April 18****Transformation of Classical Institutions****Responses to Modernity, Colonialism, and Globalization**

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

Hanioglu, *A Brief History of the Late Ottoman Empire*, 1-71

**Week Fourteen, April 25****The Age of Reform****The Ottomans and the World**

Hanioglu, *A Brief History of the Late Ottoman Empire*, 72-149

Akçura, *Üç Tarz-ı Siyaset (Three Policies)*. ([http://vlib.iue.it/carrie/texts/carrie\\_books/paksoy-2/cam9.html](http://vlib.iue.it/carrie/texts/carrie_books/paksoy-2/cam9.html))

**Week Fifteen, May 2****Presentations and Discussion****Final Paper Due**