

THE OTTOMAN EMPIRE, 1300-1800
HIST 387-011, Fall 2014
Monday 7:20-10:00pm, E 122

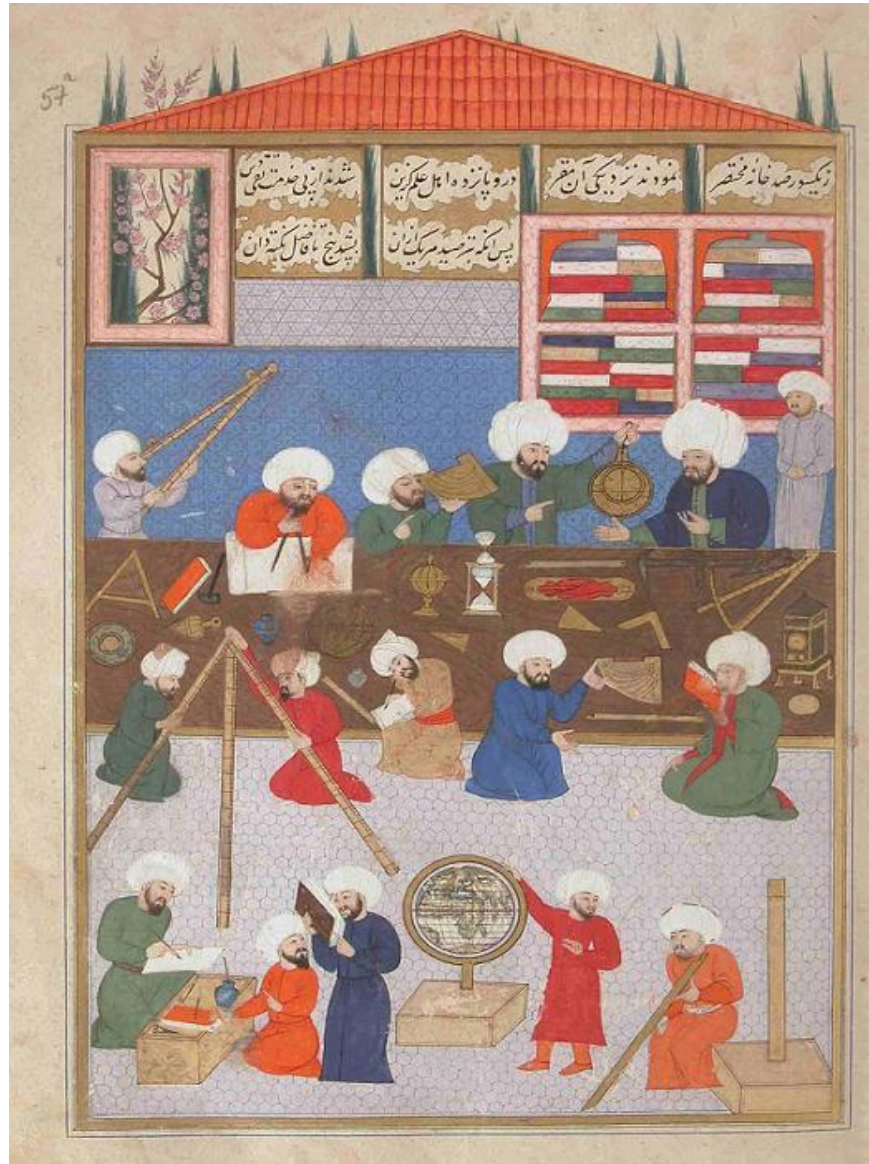
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Course Description

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 %)
Response Papers	(10 %)
Midterm I	(20 %)
Midterm II	(20 %)
Paper	(20 %)
Final	(20 %)

Course Plan

Week One, August 25

Introduction

Week Two, September 1

Labor Day, No Class

Faroghi, *The Ottoman Empire*, 1-109

Week Three, September 8

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

Dede Korkut, *The Book of Dede Korkut*, 117-132

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

Kafadar, *Between two Worlds*, 62-90

Vryonis, "Nomadization and Islamization in Asia Minor," 43-71

Week Four, September 15

Interregnum and Reconstruction

Imperial Configuration and its Discontents

Response Paper 1 Due

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

Kafadar, *Between two Worlds*, 118-150

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

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

Week Five, September 22

Sectarian Activism and the Ottoman-Safavid Conflict

Expansion and Consolidation in the Middle East

Response Paper 2 Due

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

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

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

Minorsky, "Shaykh Bali Efendi on the Safavids," 437-450

Morgan, *Medieval Persia*, 101-123

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

Week Six, September 29**The Ottomans and the Renaissance****Encounters in Europe and the Indian Ocean****Midterm I Handout****Response Paper 3 Due**

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

Brummett, "Imagining the Early Modern Ottoman Space," 16-58

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

Renda, "The Ottoman Empire and Europe," 1-24

Week Seven, October 6**Ruling Establishment****Law and Administration of Justice****Midterm I**

Cook, *Commanding Right and Forbidding Wrong in Islamic Thought*, 307-30

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

Inalcik, *Ottoman Empire*, 65-118

Murphey, *Aziz Efendi's Book of Sultan's Laws and Regulations*, 1-12

Repp, *The Mufti of Istanbul*, 27-72

Week Eight, October 14**Note: Monday class meets on Tuesday****Religion and Piety****Institutions and Articulation of Learning****Response Paper 4 Due**

Ahmed, "The Sultan's Syllabus," 183-218

Inalcik, *Ottoman Empire*, 165-178

Katib Chelebi, *The Balance of Truth*, 21-47, 75-97, 106-134

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

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

Zilfi, "The Kadizadelis," 251-69

Week Nine, October 20

**Family, Women, Gender
Ethnic and Religious Diversity
Response Paper 5 Due**

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
Faroghi, *Subjects of the Sultan*, 101-123
Lady Montagu, *Complete Letters of Lady Mary Wortley Montagu*, 341-52
Peirce, *The Imperial Harem*, 3-10

**Week Ten, October 27
Economy and the Marketplace
Trade and Merchants
Response Paper 6 Due**

Baer, "The Administrative, Economic and Social Functions of Turkish Guilds," 28-50
Evliya Çelebi, *Narrative of Travels*, 104-110
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
Pamuk, "Institutional Change and the Longevity of the Ottoman Empire, 1500-1800," 225-247

**Week Eleven, November 3
Arts, Architecture, and Literature
Social Life, Leisure and Pleasure
Midterm II Handout
Response Paper 7 Due**

Eldem, *The Ottoman City Between East and West*, 1-17
Faroghi, "Social Life in Cities," 576-608
Hattox, *Coffee and Coffeehouses*, 72-111
Katib Çelebi, *The Balance of Truth*, 50-65, 101-106
Sinan, *Record of Construction*, 112-139
Singer, "The 'Michelin Guide' to Public Kitchens in the Ottoman Empire," 69-89
Tietze, "Poet as Critic of Society," 120-160
Tietze, *Mustafa Ali's Description of Cairo 1599*, 39-56

Week Twelve, November 10

**Imperial Ideology
Crises, Declinism, and Reform
Term Paper Handout
Midterm II**

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

**Week Thirteen, November 17
Decentralization of Power
Social Disorder and Reconfiguration
Response Paper 8 Due**

Abou el-Haj, *The Rebellion of 1703 and the Structure of Ottoman Politics*, 16-40
Barkey, *Bandits and Bureaucrats*, 141-188
Inalcik, "Centralization and Decentralization, 1600-1700," 27-52
Kafadar, "The Question of Ottoman Decline," 30-75
Koci Beg, *The Veliyyuddin Telhis*, 547-571
Mustafa Ali, *Counsel for Sultans*, 66-86
Thomas, *A Study of Naima*, 100-110

**Week Fourteen, November 24
Transformation of Classical Institutions
Responses to Modernity, Colonialism, and Globalization
Final Paper Handout
Term Paper Due**

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*, 116-133
Hourani, "The Fertile Crescent in the Eighteenth Century," 35-70
Inalcik, "Military and Fiscal Transformation in the Ottoman Empire," 283-337

**Week Fifteen, December 1
Presentations and Discussion**

**Week Sixteen, December 8
Final Paper Due**