

MIR 557.01: MODERN EMPIRES, GLOBAL POLITICS

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Course Description

This course provides an overview of the major cultural themes in Ottoman Empire history from its foundation to the eighteenth century. The course is designed as a survey course, but students are strongly encouraged to participate in class discussions.

Grading

Midterm: 40%

Final: 40%

Short weekly reports: 10%

Participation and contribution: 10%

Revisions of the Syllabus:

The instructor reserves the right to revise this syllabus at any time during the semester. Materials may be added or subtracted after the start of the semester. All course reading materials will be available on the Moodle site.

Week 1 (February 13): Introduction

- Peter Burke, "Introduction" in *What is Cultural History?* (Cambridge; Malden, MA: Polity, 2008), 1–19.
- Orhan Pamuk, "Reşat Ekrem Koçu's Collection of Facts and Curiosities: The Istanbul Encyclopedia," in *Istanbul: Memories and the City*, trans. Maureen Freely (New York: Vintage International, 2006), 151–169.

Week 2 (February 20): Identity

- Christine Isom-Verhaaren and Kent F. Schull, "Introduction," in *Living in the Ottoman Realm: Empire and Identity, 13th to 20th Centuries*, ed. Christine Isom-Verhaaren and Kent F. Schull (Indiana University Press, 2016), 1–6.
 - Cemal Kafadar, "A Rome of One's Own: Reflections on Cultural Geography and Identity in the Lands of Rum," *Muqarnas* 24 (2007): 7–21.
 - Robert Ousterhout, "Ethnic Identity and Cultural Appropriation in Early Ottoman Architecture," *Muqarnas* 12 (1995): 48–62.
 - Metin Kunt, "Ethnic-Regional (Cins) Solidarity in the Seventeenth-Century Ottoman Establishment," *International Journal of Middle East Studies* 5 (1974): 233–239.
- Suggested reading: Zeynep Aydoğan, "Changing Perceptions along the Frontiers: The Moving Frontier with Rum in Late Medieval Anatolian Frontier Narratives," in *Living in the Ottoman Realm: Empire and Identity, 13th to 20th Centuries*, ed. Christine Isom-Verhaaren and Kent F. Schull (Indiana University Press, 2016), 29–41.

Week 3 (February 27): Reading, Writing, and Learning

- Madeline C. Zilfi, "The Ottoman Ulema," in *The Cambridge History of Turkey. Volume 3: The Later Ottoman Empire, 1603-1839*, ed. Suraiya Faroqhi (Cambridge: University Press, 2006), 209–25.
- Suraiya Faroqhi, "Readers, Writers and Storytellers" in *Subjects of the Sultan: Culture and Daily Life in the Ottoman Empire* (London: Tauris, 2000), 185–203.
- Gottfried Hagen, "Afterword: Ottoman Understandings of the World in the Seventeenth Century," in *An Ottoman Mentality: The World of Evliya Çelebi*, ed. Robert Dankoff (Leiden: Brill, 2006), 215–56.

Week 4 (March 5): Legal System

- Colin Imber, "The Law" in *The Ottoman Empire, 1300-1650: The Structure of Power* (New York: Palgrave Macmillan, 2002), 216–51.
- Fariba Zarinebaf, "Ottoman Justice in Multiple Legal Systems" in *Crime and Punishment in Istanbul, 1700-1800* (Berkeley, California: University of California Press, 2010), 141–156.
- Haim Gerber, "The Structure of the Ottoman Legal Process in the Seventeenth and Eighteenth Centuries" in *State, Society, and Law in Islam: Ottoman Law in Comparative Perspective* (Albany, NY: State University of New York Press, 1994), 25–57.

Week 5 (March 12): Urban life

- Suraiya Faroqhi, "Town Life: Urban Identity and Lifestyle" in *Subjects of the Sultan: Culture and Daily Life in the Ottoman Empire* (London: Tauris, 2000), 146–161.
- Cemal Kafadar, "How dark is the history of the night and how black the story of coffee, how bitter the tale of love: the changing measure of leisure and pleasure in early modern Istanbul," in *Medieval and Early Modern Performance in the Eastern Mediterranean*, ed. Arzu Öztürkmen and Evelyn Birge Vitz (Turnhout: Brepols, 2014), 243–269.

Suggested reading: Tülay Artan, "Forms and forums of expression: Istanbul and beyond, 1600-1800" in *The Ottoman World*, ed. Christine Woodhead, Routledge Worlds (Milton Park, Abingdon, Oxon; New York: Routledge, 2012), 378–406.

Suggested listening: Empire Podcast, Episode 31: Conquering the Night: The History of Coffee (Guest: Cemal Kafadar)

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=nsj6SlsL2zU> or

<https://open.spotify.com/episode/6k7LCg7DPQNrqcZycvk0UV?si=7DcPQR71SzmFM3kcWB-CPA>

Week 6 (March 19): Gender, Love, and Sexuality

- Walter Andrews and Mehmet Kalpaklı, "Introduction" in *The Age of Beloveds: Love and the Beloved in Early-Modern Ottoman and European Culture and Society* (Durham: Duke University Press, 2005), 1–31.
- Dror Ze'evi, "Regulating Desire: Sharī'a and Kanun," in *Producing Desire: Changing Sexual Discourse in the Ottoman Middle East, 1500-1900* (Berkeley: University of California Press, 2006), 48–76.

Suggested reading: Dror Ze'evi, "Boys in the Hood: Shadow Theater as a Sexual Counter-Script," in *Producing Desire: Changing Sexual Discourse in the Ottoman Middle East, 1500-1900* (Berkeley: University of California Press, 2006), 125–148.

Suggested listening: Ottoman History Podcast, Episode 289: The Ottoman Erotic (Guest: Irvin Cemil Schick) <https://www.ottomanhistoricalpodcast.com/2016/12/irvin-cemil-schick.html> or https://open.spotify.com/episode/2yVgeJtNSoPrd4hj7L28mi?si=CxLwzbpQT6SU5kWAqQ-T_w

Week 7 (March 26): Inner worlds

- Cemal Kafadar, "Self and Others: The Diary of a Dervish in Seventeenth-Century Istanbul and First-Person Narratives in Ottoman Literature," *Studia Islamica* 69 (1989): 121–150.
- Derin Terzioğlu, "Man in the Image of God in the Image of the Times: Sufi Self-Narratives and the Diary of Niyāzī-i Mısrī (1618-94)," *Studia Islamica* 94 (2002): 139–165.

Suggested reading: Aslı Niyazioğlu, "How to Read an Ottoman Poet's Dream? Friends, Patrons and the Execution of Fiğānī (d. 938/1532)," *Middle Eastern Literatures* 16, no. 1 (2013): 48–59.

Suggested listening: Ottoman History Podcast, Episode 64: Dreams in Ottoman Society, Culture, and Cosmos (Guest: Aslı Niyazioğlu) <https://www.ottomanhistoricalpodcast.com/2012/08/dreams-in-ottoman-society-culture-and.html> or <https://open.spotify.com/episode/6PwkG18nY2dnjVi2nPcSq?si=BnJ4dz1SRvuDGOImSa2sYw>

Week 8 (April 2): Women in Society

- Suraiya Faroqhi, "Women's Culture" in *Subjects of the Sultan: Culture and Daily Life in the Ottoman Empire* (London: Tauris, 2000), 101–122.
- Başak Tuğ, "Ottoman Women as Legal and Marital Subjects," in *The Ottoman World*, ed. Christine Woodhead (Milton Park, Abingdon, Oxon; New York: Routledge, 2012), 362–77.
- Lucienne Thys-Şenocak, "Women in the City," in *A Companion to Early Modern Istanbul*, eds. Shirine Hamadeh and Çiğdem Kafescioğlu (Leiden; Boston: Brill, 2021), 86–113.

Suggested reading: Marinos Sariyannis, "Prostitution in Ottoman Istanbul, Late Sixteenth - Early Eighteenth Century," *Turcica* 40 (2008): 37–65.

Suggested listening: Ottoman History Podcast, Episode 71: Women Literati and Ottoman Intellectual Culture (Guest: Didem Havlioğlu) <https://www.ottomanhistoricalpodcast.com/2012/09/women-literati-and-ottoman-intellectual.html>

SPRING BREAK (April 8-14)

Week 9 (April 16): Intercommunal Relations

- Benjamin Braude, "Foundation Myths of the Millet System" in *Christians and Jews in the Ottoman Empire: The Functioning of a Plural Society*, ed. Benjamin Braude and Bernard Lewis (New York: Holmes & Meier Publishers, 1982), 69–88.
- Fariba Zarinebaf, "Intercommunal Life in Istanbul During the Eighteenth Century," *Review of Middle East Studies* 46, no. 1 (2012): 79–85.
- Karen A. Leal, "Communal Matters," in *A Companion to Early Modern Istanbul*, eds. Shirine Hamadeh and Çiğdem Kafescioğlu (Leiden; Boston: Brill, 2021), 365–393.

Suggested reading: Panagiotis C. Poulos, "Spaces of Intercommunal Musical Relations in Ottoman Istanbul," *YILLIK: Annual of Istanbul Studies* 1 (2019): 181–191.

April 23: National Holiday**Week 10 (April 30): Healing Culture**

- Rhoads Murphey, "Ottoman Medicine and Transculturalism from the Sixteenth through the Eighteenth Century," *Bulletin of the History of Medicine* 66, no. 3 (1992): 376–403.
- Miri Shefer-Mossensohn, "Medical Pluralism, Prevention, and Cure" in *Ottoman Medicine: Healing and Medical Institutions, 1500-1700* (Albany: SUNY Press, 2009), 21–61.

Week 11 (May 7): Slavery

- Y. Hakan Erdem, "Introduction," "Employment of Slaves in the Classical Ottoman Empire" in *Slavery in the Ottoman Empire and Its Demise, 1800-1909*, St. Antony's Series (Houndmills, Basingstoke, Hampshire: New York: Macmillan; St Martin's Press, 1996), XVII-XXII; 1–17.
- Ehud R. Toledano, "Introduction: Ottoman Slavery and the Slave Trade" in *Slavery and Abolition in the Ottoman Middle East*, Publications on the Near East (Seattle, Washington, London: University of Washington Press, 1998), 3–19.

Suggested readings: Kate Fleet, "The Extremes of Visibility: Slave Women in Ottoman Public Space," in *Ottoman Women in Public Space*, ed. Ebru Boyar and Kate Fleet (Leiden; Boston: Brill, 2016), 128–149.

- Jane Hathaway, "Eunuch Households in Istanbul, Medina, and Cairo during the Ottoman Era" *Turcica* 41 (2009): 291–303.

Suggested listening: Empire Podcast, Episode 30: Sultanas to Slaves: Voices from the Harem (Guest: Bettany Hughes) <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=wSmT3Y7etr4> or https://open.spotify.com/episode/0oIDdQ6eM34cyge08yyBfq?si=nu5sUEdUSvu_hO1mgoKSYg

Week 12 (May 14): Arts and Architecture

- Suraiya Faroqhi, "Architects, Pious Foundations and Architectural Aesthetics" in *Subjects of the Sultan: Culture and Daily Life in the Ottoman Empire* (London: Tauris, 2000), 125–145.
- Gülru Necipoğlu, "Challenging the Past: Sinan and the Competitive Discourse of Early Modern Islamic Architecture," *Muqarnas* 10 (1993): 169–80.

Suggested reading: Shirine Hamadeh, "Westernization, Decadence, and the Turkish Baroque: Modern Constructions of the Eighteenth Century," *Muqarnas* 24 (2007): 185–98.