Late Ottoman State & Society

The Ottoman Empire (present-day Turkey, Iraq, the Levant, Egypt, North Africa and the Balkans) was one of the most important political formations in the premodern world. This seminar aims to examine the dynamics that shaped state and society in the late Ottoman Empire (c. 1700-1922). It examines the complex social and political transformations it went through, the emergence of independent nation-states in its former territories, and the legacy it left behind. The seminar focuses on the social and economic life, religion, law, government, ideology, arts, and sciences of the late Ottoman period and territory. It addresses how people negotiated their relationships to the Ottoman state in their daily lives, and the fundamental changes that the empire faced as it disintegrated into nation-states.

GRADING

Class participation: 30%
Response papers: 30%
Research paper: 40%

Research Paper: (40%) At the end of the course, you will write a 20-page research paper, due December 11, 2015. Try to come up with a theme for your paper as early in the course as possible; keep me informed regarding your progress and any problems you may be facing in writing it. We will dedicate one meeting for research paper presentations. The presentation should be around 20-25 minutes followed by questions and comments (a conference paper style).

NOTE: Plagiarism is a very serious offense. Be sure to cite properly other people’s ideas in your papers. If any part of the paper is plagiarized, it will receive a “zero” and it cannot be rewritten for credit. Please contact me if you are unsure about the proper method of citation.

ATTENDANCE AND PARTICIPATION

Participation: Students will be expected to attend the class regularly, to ask informed questions, and to respect each other, the professor, and guest lecturers. Students will also participate in regular discussions. If these discussions are to be successful, students will need to have carefully read the assigned texts. A large portion of the participation grade will be determined by the extent to which the student’s participation in these discussions demonstrates his or her engagement with and understanding of the assigned texts. Students can increase their participation grade by visiting their professor during his office hours for informal conversation and/or help with the course.
**Attendance policy:** I take attendance in class. If you are absent frequently enough that I (and others) notice, your participation grade will suffer (unless those absences are caused by hospitalization or some other traumatic personal or family event). Mild illnesses and/or fatigue in general do not constitute an excusable reason for absence, so you should do what you can to avoid them, as classroom discussions are crucial to your grade. You are to read the assigned readings beforehand and be ready for classroom discussion.

**Presentations:** Students will give presentations, 10-15 minutes long, and lead discussions on topics relevant to the week’s readings. These presentations will continue throughout the course. Presentations should aim to concisely elucidate for the rest of the class the broader significance of the reading.

**CLASSROOM RULES**

1. The use of laptops, headphones, cell phones, or any electronic gadgets is not permitted in the classroom. Any gadget that is considered distracting will not be permitted.
2. No food in classroom (drinks should have a lid or a cap on).

**REQUIRED TEXTS**


Hanoğlu, Şükrü, *A Brief History of the Late Ottoman Empire*

Fortna, Benjamin, *Imperial Classroom: Islam, the State, and Education in the Late Ottoman Empire*

Hourani, Albert, *Arabic Thought in the Liberal Age, 1798-1939*.

Kayali, Hasan, *Arabs and Young Turks: Ottomanism, Arabism, and Islamism in the Ottoman Empire, 1908-1918*.


**RECOMMENDED READINGS**


Halil Inalcik, *The Ottoman Empire: the Classical Age*, 1300-1600 (Phoenix, 2001)

Norman Itzkowitz, *The Ottoman Empire and Islamic Tradition* (University of Chicago, 1972)
SOURCES ON OTTOMAN HISTORY

Suraiya Faroqhi, Approaching Ottoman History: An Introduction to the Sources (Cambridge University Press, 2000)

http://www.ottomanhistorypodcast.com/2013/05/sources-ottoman-empire-bureaucracy.html

SCHEDULE OF CLASSES

WEEK 1

Tuesday: September 1
INTRODUCTION + SYLLABUS

Quataert, “The Ottoman Empire from its origins until 1683,” 13-37.
Fuad Köprülü, The Origins of the Ottoman Empire, 71-117

WEEK 2:

Tuesday: September 8
NATURE OF THE LATE OTTOMAN STATE

Quataert, “The Ottoman Empire, 1683–1798,” “The nineteenth century,” 37-75
Şükrü Hanoğlu, “Introduction,” “The Ottoman Empire at the Turn of the Nineteenth Century”(ch.1) and “Initial Ottoman responses to the Challenge of Modernity.” (ch.2)
**WEEK 3**

**Tuesday: September 15**  
**INSTITUTIONS OF THE OTTOMAN EMPIRE – MILITARY INSTITUTIONS**

Quataert, “The Ottoman Empire, 1683–1798,” 54-108.


**WEEK 4**

**Tuesday: September 22**  
**THE AGE OF REFORM + RESPONSES THE TANZIMAT**


Huri Islamoğlu and Caglar Keyder, “Agenda for Ottoman History,” in *The Ottoman Empire and the World Economy*, pp. 42-62.


**WEEK 5**

**Tuesday: September 29**

**REFORM AND REVOLUTION**


Hanioglu, “From Revolution to Imperial Collapse: The Longest decade of the Late Ottoman Empire,” 150-203


WEEK 6

Tuesday: October 6
WORLD WAR I AND ITS CONSEQUENCES

Hanioglu, “Conclusion”


Maria Todorova, “The Ottoman Legacy in the Balkans,” in Imperial Legacy: The Ottoman Imprint on the Balkans and the Middle East, L. Carl Brown, ed. pp. 45-77.


Melanie Schulze-Tanielian, Food and Nutrition, International Encyclopedia of the First World War

WEEK 7

Tuesday: October 13
STATE AND PROVINCIAL SOCIETY IN THE LATE OTTOMAN EMPIRE


Eugene Rogan, Frontiers of State in the Late Ottoman Empire: Transjordan, 1850-1921 (Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 1999), pp. 1-20 and 184-217.


From a Multi-ethnic/ Multi Confessional Polity to National Homogeneity

Quataert, “Inter-communal co-operation and conflict,” “Legacies of the Ottoman


**WEEK 8**

**Tuesday: October 20**

**OTTOMAN SUBJECTS + ALTERNATIVE IDENTITIES**

Quataert, “The Ottoman economy: population, transportation, trade, agriculture, and manufacturing,” “Ottoman society and popular culture,” 111-173

Asli Ergul, “The Ottoman Identity: Turkish, Muslim or Rum?” Middle Eastern Studies (Jun 2012): 629-645.


**WEEK 9**

**Tuesday: October 27**

**ARABIC THOUGHT IN THE LATE OTTOMAN EMPIRE**

Hourani, Albert, Arabic Thought in the Liberal Age, 1798-1939. (Selections)

Karl Barbir, “Memory, Heritage, and History: The Ottomans and the Arabs,” in Imperial Legacy, pp. 100-114.
**WEEK 10**

**Tuesday: November 3**

**IDEOLOGY**

Kayali, Hasan, *Arabs and Young Turks: Ottomanism, Arabism, and Islamism in the Ottoman Empire, 1908-1918.* (Selections)


**The Ottoman Ethno-Religious “Order”**

Benjamin Braude, “Foundation Myths of the Millet System,” in *Christians and Jews in the Ottoman Empire: The Functioning of a Plural Society*, pp. 69-88.


Mark Mazower, *Salonica, City of Ghosts: Christians, Muslims and Jews since 1430*, pp. 46-93.

**WEEK 11**

**Tuesday: November 10**

**IMPERIAL CLASSROOM**

Fortna, Benjamin, *Imperial Classroom: Islam, the State, and Education in the Late Ottoman Empire* (Selections)


**WEEK 12**
Tuesday: November 17

AN OTTOMAN CITY

Abraham Marcus, The Middle East on the Eve of Modernity: Aleppo in the Eighteenth Century (selections)


Recommended


WEEK 13 NO CLASS – MESA CONFERENCE
Tuesday: November 24

WEEK 14

Tuesday: December 1
RESEARCH PAPER PRESENTATIONS

WEEK 15

FINAL PAPER due on December 11 @ 11:59 PM. Please send me your paper to this email address: sayoub@austin.utexas.edu