

THE OTTOMAN EMPIRE:
STATE AND SOCIETY, 1300-1600

Fall 2017
(21:510:338)

Monday 2:30-3:50 / Wednesday 1:00-2:20 pm
CONKLIN HALL 352

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Office Hours: TBA
Office: Conklin Hall, 327

READINGS:

- Caroline Finkel, *Osman's Dream: the Story of the Ottoman Empire, 1300-1923*, New York, 2006. (Required)
- All other readings will be posted on Blackboard

COURSE DESCRIPTION:

In this course, we will study the emergence of the Ottoman polity in western Anatolia in the fourteenth century and its gradual transformation into an imperial power in the eastern Mediterranean through the sixteenth. The formation of a distinct Ottoman imperial tradition and its constituents will be analyzed with reference to practices of government, ideology, law, and arts and sciences.

The course is organized thematically. It includes discussions of various social, economic, and cultural aspects of Ottoman history. It also aims to give students a hands-on approach to the Ottoman world, by exposing them to different types of historical evidence and encouraging them to use it for historical analysis.

COURSE OBJECTIVES:

Upon successful completion of this course, students will be able to:

- name and identify individuals, events, themes, and issues of major importance in the history of Ottoman civilization,
- demonstrate a basic level of competence in differentiating the major periods of Ottoman history and the significance of historical context,
- recognize the importance of cause and effect in history, and discuss the significance of change and continuity over time,
- develop an understanding toward the use of historical evidence by historians and display some familiarity toward different types of evidence,
- critically analyze historical evidence and articulate a synthesis with a thesis.

PROJECT AND GROUPS:

We will form 10 groups in the first week of classes for your Ottoman projects. Each group should ideally have 4 students. After groups are formed, each of you will be responsible for keeping all communication with your group members. Each group will have a discussion thread assigned to it on Blackboard, where group members may post messages, share notes, etc. It is absolutely essential that each student in this class belongs to a project group and works with his/her fellow group members. You will not receive a grade for your project unless you work with a group.

Each group will prepare a project that will involve the study of an aspect of the Ottoman culture and present it in class. In each presentation, the group will present their project for 20-25 minutes (each group member will speak for about 5-6 minutes). Detailed information about the projects, as well as a short list of topics you can choose from will be listed on Blackboard.

After each presentation, there will be a discussion session, where members of the presenting group may be asked questions for clarification or offered comments for improving their project. Following the presentation, the presenting group will give the class a short quiz about the material they presented in class. Because these quizzes will also be part of your grade, you will have to make sure that you listen to each presentation carefully and ask questions during the discussion session if you need further clarification.

Each group will receive a grade for their project (the same grade will apply to every group member). One part of your project grade will come from your classmates' evaluation of your presentation. In other words, the success of the quizzes will determine your grade. If you present your material well, this should mean there would be higher scores in the quizzes, hence a higher point for your project. I will assess the other components of your project grade (by evaluating the merits of the project on the use of sources, originality of the discussion, relevance to class materials, etc.) after the final project is submitted.

It is wiser to schedule your project presentation at an earlier date so you will have enough time to make your revisions before you submit your final project at the end of the semester.

EXAMS:

There will be two tests. The format and contents of the tests will be announced in class. In addition to these, there will be eleven quizzes in total (lowest quiz grade will be dropped). Please keep in mind that there will be no make-up for the quizzes. If you miss one, you will receive no credit for it.

GRADING:

%25	Test #1	
%25	Test #2	
%25	10 Quizzes	(2.5 points each)
%25	Project	

GRADING STANDARDS:

90-100	%	A (a genuinely outstanding achievement)
80-89	%	B (above average achievement)
70-79	%	C (comprehension of the subject at an appropriate university level)
60-69	%	D (unsatisfactory performance, barely passing)
Below 60%		F (failure)

COURSE POLICIES:

Attendance at all regularly scheduled meetings of this class is expected. Rutgers catalog states that “the recognized grounds for absence are illness requiring medical attention, curricular or extracurricular activities approved by the faculty, personal obligations claimed by the student and recognized as valid, recognized religious holidays, and severe inclement weather causing dangerous traveling conditions.” Four UNEXCUSED absences will lower your final grade by one letter grade. More than four UNEXCUSED absences will automatically result in your failure so it is your responsibility to come to class and see that you are marked present for the classes you attend. In the event that you have a medical, legal, or family-related problem that might lead to an extended absence, you need to meet me in person and bring necessary documentation as evidence for your problem. Only then, we can discuss whether your absence can be excused or not. An email message explaining your problem will NOT be considered as an excuse of your absence. Ultimately, it will be the instructor’s judgment to decide whether an absence can be excused or not. If you miss a class due to a reason that you cannot

document, please do not contact me to explain your case. Instead, consider it as one of your unexcused absences. Please remember that any student who misses 8 (eight) or more sessions through any combination of EXCUSED and UNEXCUSED absences will not earn credit in this class. Such students should withdraw to avoid getting an F.

You are expected to come to class having done the assigned readings and participate in class discussions.

Punctuality and courtesy at all times are expected.

Academic dishonesty of *any sort* will not be tolerated. It is your responsibility to comply with the university's policy on academic integrity. To review the policies go to http://history.newark.rutgers.edu/index.php?content=rn_integrity. You are also expected to sign the plagiarism agreement on Blackboard.

If you have questions or concerns about this class, come and talk to me in my office hours. *Please do not send email inquiries related to your absence or class materials.* It is your responsibility to find out about the subjects covered in your absence and study them.

If for any family or medical reason you find it absolutely necessary to miss an examination, you must contact me before the exam and have my consent to your absence. Failure to do so will result in a zero for the assignment. With the exception of extreme cases there will be no early or make-up exams! As with all other exams, you must contact me in advance should an extreme emergency arise.

Rutgers abides by the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990, the Americans with Disabilities Act Amendments (ADAA) of 2008, and Sections 504 and 508 which mandate reasonable accommodations be provided for qualified students with disabilities and the accessibility of online information. If you have a disability and may require some type of instructional and/or examination accommodation, please contact me early in the semester so that I can provide or facilitate in providing accommodations you may need. If you have not already done so, you will need to register with the Office of Disability Services, the designated office on campus to provide services and administer exams with accommodations for students with disabilities. The Office of Disability Services is located in the Robeson Student Center. I look forward to talking with you soon to learn how I may be helpful in supporting your academic success in this course. For more information on disability services at Rutgers, go to <http://disabilityservices-uw.rutgers.edu/>

NOTE: This syllabus is subject to amendment or change at the discretion of the instructor.

- Sept 6 Introduction; discussion of syllabus and course policies
- Reading for Sept 11-13: *EOE*, Introduction, pp. xxv-xxxvi (See Blackboard)
- Sept 11 Forming project groups; discussion of project ideas
- Sept 13 Documentary: The Ottomans. Quiz #0
- Reading for Sept 18-20: *Osman's Dream*, xi-xviii & Ch.1
- Sept 18 Why study Ottoman history? Introduction to Ottoman historiography
- Sept 20 NO CLASS—instructor away at conference.
- NOTE: DEADLINE for selecting a presentation topic!
- Reading for Sept 25-27: *Osman's Dream*, Ch.2; *EOE*, historiography, pp. 253-255 (see Blackboard)
- Sept 25 Ottoman historiography, sources, methodology
- Sept 27 PRESENTATION Group #1, Quiz #1
- Reading for Oct 2-4: *Osman's Dream*, Ch.3; *EOE*, central administration, provincial administration, pp. 10-17; imperial ideology, pp. 273-276; Boyar & Fleet, pp. 28-71; Imber, 87-215 (see Blackboard)
- Oct 2 State
- Oct 4 PRESENTATION Group #2, Quiz #2
- Reading for Oct 9-11: *Osman's Dream*, Ch.4; Boyar & Fleet, pp.72-270 (see Blackboard)

Oct 9 NO CLASS—instructor away at conference

Oct 11 Society

- Reading for Oct 16-18: *Osman's Dream*, Ch.5; *EOE*, economy and economic policy, pp. 192-195; Pamuk, *Introduction*, pp. 1-20 (see Blackboard)

Oct 16 PRESENTATION Group #3, Quiz #3

Oct 18 Economy

- Reading for Oct 23-25: *Osman's Dream*, Ch.6

Oct 23 PRESENTATION Group #4, Quiz #4

Oct 25 PRESENTATION Group #5, Quiz #5

Oct 30 **Test #1**

- Reading for Nov 1-8: *EOE*, hajj, pp. 246-248; sharia, pp. 526-527; Imber, pp. 216-251 (see Blackboard)

Nov 1 PRESENTATION Group #6, Quiz #6

Nov 6 Religion and law

Nov 8 PRESENTATION Group #7, Quiz #7

- Reading for Nov 13-15: *EOE*, sciences, pp. 506-511; Shefer, pp. 63-100 (see Blackboard)

Nov 13 PRESENTATION Group #8, Quiz #8

Nov 15 Science and medicine

- Reading for Nov 20-22: *EOE*, education, pp. 198-204 (see Blackboard)

Nov 20 Learning and education

Nov 22 **NO CLASS (Thanksgiving holiday)**

Nov 27 PRESENTATION Group #9, Quiz #9

Nov 29 **Test #2**

- Reading for Dec 4-6: *EOE*, classical Ottoman literature & folk literature, pp. 337-340; Necipoglu, Canon for the arts (see Blackboard)

Dec 4 Literature and the arts

Dec 6 PRESENTATION Group #10, Quiz #10

- Reading for Dec 11-13: Sajdi, pp. 1-40 (see Blackboard)

Dec 11 The Ottoman legacy

Dec 13 Concluding remarks

Dec 18 **DEADLINE** for submitting revised Ottoman projects (submit papers on Blackboard before 5:59 pm)