

## 21:510:433 | Topics in Islamic History: Modernization and Visual Culture in the Middle East



Class Location: HIL 103

Class Meeting Times: M – W: 10:00AM-11:20AM

Professor: Dr. Ersin Altin

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### Course Overview:

Three credit undergraduate course; three contact hours; meets twice weekly. This class aims to trace modernization processes in the Middle East through analyzing the changing visual and material culture in the nineteenth and early twentieth centuries with an emphasis on Ottoman Empire. By looking at novel objects, products and practices that entered and were appropriated in the lives of Muslims in the nineteenth century, the class will analyze behavioral patterns and discourses created around these objects/practices under three foci: body, home and the city. Supplements for healthy bodies, furniture for “modern” homes, new urban recreational activities will constitute some of the case studies. In addition to readings, the class will explore visual representations of these novelties, as they appear in photographs, maps, advertisements and the like.

### Learning Objectives:

The objectives of this class are multifold: the class 1) seeks to enhance students’ awareness of historicities of daily objects and visual representations of them that accompanied the changing practices and discursive production around them; 2) helps students understand those historicities’ connections with the larger concepts such as hegemony, discourse, orientalism, modernity and resistance; 3) encourages students to refer to these concepts in analyzing readings and primary sources during in-class discussions as well as in their written assignments; 4) helps students develop analytic thinking skills and improve their writing and verbal skills with assigned tasks such as presentations, research projects, and written assignments.

### Course requirements:

Attendance and taking notes are essential. Students should complete all assigned readings before class time. Students will conduct a research project and they will present their project in two different phases (see below). Students are expected to submit a paper that documents their research and that analyzes the case study of their selection within the theoretical frame they learn from course lectures and readings.

- Alert attendance at weekly sessions (grade lowered for poor attendance)
- Participation, 15% of final grade
- Midterm Presentation, 25% of final grade
- Final Presentation, 30% of final grade
- Final Paper, 30% of final grade

**1. Participation:** All students are expected to read the texts before class time (see class schedule) and participate in class discussions.

**2. Midterm Presentation:** Students will team up in pairs and analyze a case study of their selection. Teams will present their findings and propose a research strategy in Midterm Presentation. Assignment details will be announced later.

**3. Final Presentation:** Students are expected to present an articulate argument in this presentation. Both midterm and final presentations should be based on a thorough mastery of the literature. They should be structured coherently and delivered with appropriate visual material.

**4. Final Paper:** At the end of the semester, each student will produce a report that synthesizes one or several themes discussed in class. This can be substituted by a research paper.

-- All assignments must be submitted both as a paper copy and digitally. Digital copy should be submitted to Turnitin on Blackboard. The two copies must be identical. Late submissions or submission in wrong format or form will not be accepted.

Following rubric will be used to calculate overall grade:

- A: Outstanding
- A-: Outstanding, with one or two areas of improvement
- B+: Very good
- B: Good
- B-: Good overall, with some significant weaknesses
- C+: Satisfactory, with some potential for improvement
- C: Satisfactory, but needs significant development
- C-: Barely satisfactory
- D: Poor: overwhelming flaws
- F: Failing: doesn't complete assignment

### **Course Calendar Highlights:**

- 1/25 Selection of teams and case studies
- 3/1 Midterm Presentations
- 5/1 Final Presentations
- 5/8 Final Paper

### **Attendance:**

Attendance is mandatory and will be checked. You are expected to arrive promptly and be prepared for the day's material. Avoid coming to class late or departing early. Doing so is extraordinarily disruptive to other students, and is only acceptable in an emergency situation. You must notify the instructor in advance, in writing (email or printed note), if you plan to miss class for religious holiday.

Four unexcused absences will lower a student's final grade by a half letter. More than six unexcused absences will lower a student's final grade by one full grade (B+ to C+, for example). Any student who misses eight or more sessions through any combination of excused and unexcused absences will have missed more than a quarter of the class time and will not earn credit in this class. Such students should

withdraw from the course to avoid an F. See Rutgers-Newark Undergraduate catalog ([http://catalogs.rutgers.edu/generated/nwk-ug\\_current/pg576.html](http://catalogs.rutgers.edu/generated/nwk-ug_current/pg576.html)) for definition of *Excused* and *Unexcused* absences and the University's attendance policy.

### **Disabilities:**

Rutgers University welcomes students with disabilities into all of the University's educational programs. In order to receive consideration for reasonable accommodations, a student with a disability must contact the appropriate disability services office at the campus where you are officially enrolled, participate in an intake interview, and provide documentation: <https://ods.rutgers.edu/students/documentation-guidelines>. If the documentation supports your request for reasonable accommodations, your campus's disability services office will provide you with a Letter of Accommodations. Please share this letter with your instructors and discuss the accommodations with them as early in your courses as possible. To begin this process, please complete the Registration form on the ODS web site at: <https://ods.rutgers.edu/students/registration-form>. For more information please contact Kate Torres at (973) 353-5375 or in the Office of Disability Services in the Paul Robeson Campus Center, in suite 219 or by contacting [odsnewark@rutgers.edu](mailto:odsnewark@rutgers.edu).

### **Policy on Academic Integrity:**

All students are bound by the university honor code which strictly prohibits cheating and plagiarism in an assignments, exams, and papers. Cheating and plagiarism are illegal, immoral, and insulting to yourself, your professor, and your colleagues. They will NOT be tolerated in this course under any circumstances. Any student caught cheating or plagiarizing will automatically FAIL the course. As a standard minimum penalty, students who are suspected of cheating or plagiarism are reported to the Office of Academic Integrity. Pending investigation, further penalties can include failure of the course, disciplinary probation, and a formal warning that further cheating will be grounds for expulsion from the University.

All students are required to sign the Rutgers Honor Code Pledge. To receive credit, every assignment must have your signature under the following phrase: "On my honor, I have neither received nor given any unauthorized assistance on this examination / assignment."

### **Readings:**

#### General References on Modernity

Marshal Berman, *All That Is Solid Melts into Air: The Experience of Modernity*

Michel de Certeau, *The Practice of Everyday Life*

Martin Jay, *Downcast Eyes*

#### Case Studies

Alan Duben, and Cem Behar, *Istanbul Households: Marriage, Family, and Fertility, 1880-1940*

Suraiya Faroqhi *Subjects of the Sultan: culture and daily life in the Ottoman Empire.*

Ekrem Isin, *Everyday Life in Istanbul*

Uri Kupferschmidt, *European Department Stores and Middle Eastern Consumers. The Orosdi-Back Saga*  
*Liat Kozma, et. Al., A Global Middle East: Mobility, Materiality and Culture in the Modern Age*

Serif Mardin, "Super-westernization in the Ottoman Empire in the last quarter of the nineteenth century".  
*Turkey: Geographic and Social Perspectives*, P. Benedict et al. (eds.)

Douglas R. Nickel, *Francis Frith in Egypt and Palestine*

Edward Said, *Orientalism*

Donald Quataert (ed). *Consumption Studies and the History of the Ottoman Empire, 1550-1922*

In addition to the books, we will read a number of shorter essays, listen to scholarly podcasts, watch movies and analyze images.

## Schedule

<u>Week</u>	<u>Date</u>	<u>Lecture Topics, Reading Assignments</u>
1	1/18	<b>Introduction to course</b>
2	1/23	<b>Modernity and Visual Culture</b> Jay, chapter 7, pp. 381-435; Berman, Introduction, pp. 15-37.
	1/25	<b>The Modern Eye</b> Nickel, pp. 20-55; <a href="http://napoleon.lindahall.org/index.shtml">http://napoleon.lindahall.org/index.shtml</a> ; Daniel Pontillo, <i>Gaze: Eyes, Seeing, and Being Seen in History and Society</i> , <u>Podcast</u> (12/30/11)
<b>Modern Body</b>		
3	1/30	<b>Locating Modern Body: Issues</b> Nikki R. Keddie, <i>Material Culture and Geography: Toward a Holistic Comparative History of the Middle East</i> , pp. 709-735
	2/1	<b>Making Modern Body: Supplements for the Modern World</b> Quataert, Chapter 7, pp. 25-32
4	2/6	<b>Making Modern Body: Marriage, Fertility, Reproduction</b> Duben, and Behar, pp. 188-194
	2/8	<b>Workout: Stronger the better</b> Isin, pp. 122-138
5	2/13	<b>The look: Shopping for beauty I: personal products</b> Quataert, pp. 152-168
	2/15	<b>The look: Shopping for beauty I: corset</b> Quataert, pp. 175-190; <i>Women's Magazines: Kadin, Hanımlara Mahsus Gazete, Sıis</i>
6	2/20	<b>The look: Shopping for beauty II: Attire</b> Kupferschmidt, pp. 25-46
	2/22	<b>The look: Shopping for beauty II: cont'd</b> Kupferschmidt, pp. 25-46
7	2/27	<b>The look: Portraits (Photograph, Painting)</b> Duben, and Behar, pp. 48-52
	3/1	<b>Midterm Presentations</b>
<b>Modern Home</b>		
8	3/6	<b>Plan change: Adjusting Spaces</b> Isin, pp. 81-91
	3/8	<b>Moving to the Apartment Building</b> Isin, pp. 91-103
9	3/13	<b>Spring Break</b> No class
	3/15	<b>Spring Break</b> No class
10	3/20	<b>Furnishing Interiors</b> Isin, pp. 144-150; Quataert, pp.156-185

- 3/22            **Manner and Etiquette**  
Isin, pp. 119-134
- 11      3/27            **Redefining Domesticity**  
Duben, and Behar, pp. 48-52
- 3/29            **Home Economics**  
Kupferschmidt, "The social history of the sewing machine in the Middle East"; Omnia Sharky, "Schooled Mothers and Structured Play: Child Rearing in Turn-of-the-Century Egypt,"
- Modern City**
- 12      4/3            **Going out: Changing tempo**  
Isin, pp. 171-174; Faroqhi, pp. 256-257. James Ryan, *Transportation and Public Space in Ottoman Istanbul*, podcast.
- 4/5            **Health and the City**  
Celik, pp. 23-35; Keith Watenpaugh, *The Middle Class in the Modern Middle East*, Podcast (4/8/2016)
- 13      4/10            **Parks & Recreation**  
Celik, pp. 46-65
- 4/12            **Re-dividing Time**  
Avner Wishnitzer, "Teaching time: Schools, schedules, and the Ottoman pursuit of progress," 5-32.
- 14      4/17            **Extending time: Life at Night**  
Frierson, "Mirrors Out, Mirrors In," pp. 194-197; Duben & Behar, pp. 197-199; Wishnitzer, "Into The Dark: Power, Light, And Nocturnal Life In 18th-Century Istanbul"
- 4/19            **Café, Cinema, Theater**  
Nezih Erdoğan. "The Spectator in the Making: Modernity and Cinema in Istanbul, 1896-1928; Chris Gratien and Kalliopi Amygdalou, *Urban Space in the Ottoman World*, <http://www.ottomanhistorypodcast.com/p/urban-space-in-ottoman-world.html>, podcast.
- 15      4/24            **Strolling and Walking**  
Chris Gratien and Kalliopi Amygdalou, *Urban Space in the Ottoman World*, <http://www.ottomanhistorypodcast.com/p/urban-space-in-ottoman-world.html>, podcast.
- 4/26            **Others Out**  
Faroqhi, pp. 311-345
- 16      5/1            **Final Presentations**