

HIST 1971N [CRN 25159]: THE DISSOLUTION OF THE OTTOMAN EMPIRE, 1840-1923

Spring 2010
Th. 4:00-6:20 p.m.
Smith-Buonanno Hall 207

Instructor: Engin Deniz Akarlı
Office: Sharpe House # 208 / 863-2446
Office hours: W 12:30-1:30 + Th 2-3 (or by appointment)

DESCRIPTION: This seminar focuses on external and internal developments that contributed to the gradual dissolution of the multi-religious and multi-ethnic Ottoman Empire into lands (a) that became dependently incorporated into the capitalist modern world order, and (b) where religious and ethnic-linguistic distinctions became the founding principle of solidarity and political organization. We will review the broad trends and transformations in late Ottoman history with a critical eye for the historiographical problems and peculiarities of our readings. Since these problems are readily observable in works on modern (i.e. the 19th- & 20th-century) history in general, students should be able to gain from this seminar a better understanding not only of late Ottoman history but also of the broader issues of the historiography of the modern era.

EVALUATION: Grades will be determined as follows: Six journals on six of the weekly assignments and meetings indicated below (36%); a final term paper on a topic of your choice (40%), and overall performance and participation in class discussions and presentations (24%).

Journals intend to help you organize your reflections and questions on specific assignments. They should be brief (about three pages) and include your reflections and questions on the assignments and discussions, as opposed to summarizing them.

Discussions: Students are expected to come to class prepared to take active part in class discussions. Beginning in week 7, two or three students will introduce the readings and lead the discussions

In your **final term paper**, you should make an effort to rely on primary sources available in English (and other languages you can read) and to use them critically. For instance, you can base your paper on contemporary eyewitness accounts or contemporary novels reflecting West European impressions of the Ottoman world during the period covered in this course. Likewise, you can read the memoirs of the natives of the Ottoman Empire and critically discuss the events, issues and outlooks that influenced them. (I will provide a list of travel accounts, memoirs and other references to guide you in planning your term paper.)

POLICIES: Three of the journals should be handed in by October 16 and the remaining three by December 4. Term paper topics are due by November 13 and **the final papers are due by December 18**. Except for a medical or other serious emergency, with written proof from a doctor or the university administration, delays will not be tolerated.

READINGS:

Available at the Brown Book Store and on Rockefeller reserve:

1. Donald Quataert, *The Ottoman Empire, 1700-1922* (Cambridge, 2000)

Available at Allegra Print & Imprinting and on reserve:

2. *HIST 1971N Reader*

COURSE OUTLINE AND ASSIGNMENTS:

Week 1: (Jan 28): Introduction to the course

Week 2 (Feb 4): Why study Ottoman history and how to study it?

Quataert, Ch. 1 (pp. 1-12) + Akarlı, "Stately Narratives of Turkey's Ottoman Past"* + Judith Tucker, "Taming the West: Trends in the Writing of Modern Arab Social History in Anglophone Academia"***

Week 3 (Feb 11): The Ottoman State from its origins in 1300 to its end in 1922:

Quataert, Chapters. 2-5 (pp. 13-89)

Weeks 4 & 5 (Feb 18 & 25): The Ottoman economy

- Quataert, Chapter 7 (pp. 111-141) + Akarlı, "Economic Policy & Budgets"* + Ç. Keyder, Manufacturing in the Ottoman Empire: 18th & 19th Centuries**
- Week 5 (Feb 25): Ottoman polity, society and culture
Quataert, Chapters 6 & 8 (pp. 90-110 & 142-173) + Akarlı, "Daughters and Fathers"*
- Week 6 (March 4): "Reform" & "reaction" (to what and for what?)
Akarlı, "Encounters"* + Eric Zürcher, "Ottoman Muslims and Turkish Nationalist Identity Politics, 1908-1938"***
- Week 7 (March 11): Communities and citizenship
Quataert, Ch. 9 (pp. 174-194) + Rodrigue, "Difference and Tolerance in the Ottoman Empire"* and "From *Millet* to Minority"*** + Akarlı, "Religious Communities in Ottoman Lands"* & "Law and Communal Identity in Late Ottoman History"*
- Week 8 (March 18): Arabs in Ottoman lands:
Barbir, "Memory, Heritage and History: The Ottoman Legacy in the Arab World"*** + Kawtharani, "Nationalist Thought and the Vision of the Ottoman: The Example of Lebanon"*** + Fattah, "Two Iraqi Travelogues of the Ottoman Period"***
- Week 9 (March 25): The "Turks" and "Greeks"
Strauss, "Ottoman Rule Experienced and Remembered"*** + Kasaba, "Izmir 1922: A Port City Unravels"*** + Millas, "Non-Muslim Minorities in the Historiography of Republican Turkey: The Greek Case"*** + Exertzoglou, "The Cultural Uses of Consumption"*
- Week 10: Spring recess
- Week 11 (April 8): Armenians and the end of the Ottoman Empire:
R. Suny, "Empire & Nation"*** + Rodrigue, "The Mass Destruction of Armenians and Jews in the 20th Century in Historical Perspective"*** + Levene, "Creating a Modern 'Zone of Genocide': The Impact of Nation- and State-Formation on Eastern Anatolia, 1878-1923."* + A. Göl, "Imagining the Turkish Nation through 'othering' Armenians"* + M. Göçek, "Turkish Historiography & the Weight of 1915"*
- Week 12 & Week 13 (April 15 & 22): Ottoman legacies:
Quataert, Ch. 10 (pp. 195-202) + Todorova, "The Ottoman Legacy in the Balkans"*** + Adanır, "Balkan Historiography Related to the Ottoman Empire since 1945"*** + A. Çınar, "National History as Contested Site"* + C. Philliou, "The Paradox of Perceptions"* + M. Todorova, "Conversion to Islam as a Trope of Bulgarian Historiography"*
[Reread: Karl Barbir, "Memory, Heritage, and History" and Kawtharani, "Nationalist Thought and the Vision of the Ottoman Empire in Lebanon"***]
- Week 14 (April 29): Review by way of revisiting the historiography of the Ottoman Empire:
S. Faroqhi & F. Adanır, "Introduction" to *The Ottomans and the Balkans* (pp. 1-55)**

May 17: Final papers are due

Have a nice semester!

- (*) Available on course website
(**) In the *HIST 1971N Reader*