

Department of History
St. Lawrence University
Spring 2010



The Ottoman Empire and the Early Modern World

Instructor: Howard Eissenstat
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Class times: MW 1:40 – 3:10
Office Hours: MW 9:40 – 11:10 and by appointment

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Class Description:

This course examines the rise and development of the Ottoman Empire from its origins in early 14th Century Anatolia to the end of the 18th Century. In addition to tracing the development of political and military institutions, this course will explore changing social relations, with particular attention to the role of women and non-Muslim populations in Ottoman society. A particular emphasis of this course will be the relation of the Ottoman Empire to wider global trends and its diplomatic, military, and cultural interactions with Europe.

Required Texts

Daniel Goffman, *The Ottoman Empire and Early Modern Europe*
Caroline Finkel, *Osman's Dream*
Orhan Pamuk, *My Name is Red*

Basic reading expectations: On average you can expect to have between 100 - 150 pages of reading assigned per week. Some weeks will be less; others will be more. It is incumbent upon you to have read, thought about, and be prepared to intelligently discuss these readings in advance of class.

Grading Breakdown:

Class Participation: 20%
Midterm Exam: 20%
Final Exam: 40%
Synopsis Essay: 20%

Grading:

While I grade on a hundred point scale during the semester, the final grades for the university are submitted on a four point scale. This table will help you understand how I convert between these systems.

96-100	4.0	68-70	2.0
92-95	3.75	65-67	1.75
88-91	3.5	62-64	1.5
84-87	3.25	59-61	1.25
80-83	3.0	55-58	1.0
77-79	2.75	0-54	0.0
74-76	2.5		
71-73	2.25		

Participation and attendance:

As you will note from the grading breakdown, participation is a large component of your final grade for the class. It is not an automatic A. Participation does not mean the same thing as attendance, though, obviously, you must attend in order to participate. To guarantee yourself a good grade in this portion of the class, you must come to class on a regular basis. You need to come prepared, having read – and thought about – the class assignment. You should listen actively, take notes where appropriate, ask questions and be prepared to challenge both other students and the professor. Not incidentally, doing these things are also the basis to a successful classroom experience.

Exams: Both the midterm and the final exam will be short essay format. You will be given prep materials in advance. They are no surprises on these exams, but preparing for them is labor intensive.

Synopsis Essay: In consultation with the professor, you will choose a scholarly monograph to read and analyze. This paper should be between 8 – 10 pages long. *You must schedule a meeting to discuss this paper before February 1st.*

Make-ups:

Regular classes: You are expected to miss no more than three class sessions over the course of the semester. These three absences include medical and personal emergencies (deaths in the family, colds, flu, etc.). If you miss more than three class sessions, your participation grade will be penalized five percent for each class you missed.

Quizzes, exams, etc.: Outside of documented medical emergencies, there are no make-ups for quizzes and exams. Don't miss them. Please note that family vacations, weddings, etc., are not considered valid excuses to miss a quiz or exam. Make sure your family does not plan holidays or travel in such a way that it conflicts with your exam schedule.

Academic Honesty:

I take issues of academic honesty seriously. Plagiarism undermines the very core of scholarly work and the intellectual integrity of the university. In my experience, such cases occur when the student is overwhelmed with the assignment or does not know the proper conventions for citation. These are problems that can – and should – be addressed in advance. Regardless, if I find evidence of academic dishonesty, I will pursue the case to the full extent outlined in the University and departmental guidelines (see SLU Student Handbook, p. 55 at http://www.stlawu.edu/student_handbook/ and page 10 of the History Department Handbook: http://www.stlawu.edu/history/handbook_newest.docx). I further suspect that it is very bad for your karma.

Accommodation:

If you have a disability and need accommodation, and have already contacted the Office for Special Needs (<http://web.stlawu.edu/needs/index.html>), please see me in private to discuss the accommodation needed. We should have this discussion as soon as possible in the semester. I would also like to know at least ten days before a quiz or exam whether any accommodation is needed.

Contacting Me

In addition to my regularly scheduled office hours, I often work in my office, so it is generally easy to schedule a mutually convenient time to meet and discuss questions you might be having in class. Outside of the office, it is easiest to contact me by e-mail, which I check often. Unless I am travelling or expect to respond to a question in class, I will always respond to e-mails within twenty-four hours of receiving them. I seldom check my voice mail and so this is a less effective way of contacting me. Should you decide to leave a voice mail, please follow up with an e-mail to make sure I get the message.

Cell phones and laptops:

Cell phones: I hate them. Be sure you turn yours off before class begins.

Laptops are not allowed in class. Please turn yours off before class begins.

This syllabus:

Every semester turns out a little differently than planned. This syllabus will likely be revised over the course of the semester. Changes will be announced in class and a revised syllabus may be posted to Angel.

A final word on work-load:

Yes, it is a lot of work. Welcome to university.

Course Schedule

Week 1

Monday, January 18 Introductions / Why Study the Ottomans

Wednesday, January 20 The Islamic World up through the Mongol Invasions
*Richard Eaton, "Islamic History as World History"

Week 2

Monday, January 25 The Pre-Islamic Turks
*Carter Findley, *The Turks in World History*, 21 - 55

Wednesday, January 27 Turks and Islam in Western Eurasia
*Carter Findley, *The Turks in World History*, 56 – 92
*Excerpts *The Book of Dede Korkut*

Week 3

Monday, February 1 The Ottoman Emirate
Finkel, 1 – 21.
Reminder: you must meet with the professor regarding your paper by this date.

Wednesday, February 3 Interregnum and Reconstitution
Finkel, 22 – 47.
*V.L. Ménage, "Some Notes on the Devshirme," 64 – 78.

Week 4

Monday, February 8 Imperial Orientations and Imperial Imaginings
Goffman, 1 – 51.

Wednesday, February 10 Mehmet II and the Conquest of Constantinople
Finkel, 48 – 80.
Goffman, 51 – 58.

Week 5

Monday, February 15 Beyazit II and the Foundations of the Modern Middle East
Finkel, 81 – 114.

Wednesday, February 17	The Formation of “Classical” Ottoman Society Goffman, 59 – 92.
Week 6	
Monday, February 22	Religious Diversity in the Ottoman Empire: The Meaning of Tolerance Bruce Masters, “The Limits of Tolerance”
Wednesday, February 24	Religious Diversity in the Ottoman Empire: Creating Institutions and Interests Benjamin Braude, “Foundation Myths of the Millet System” Kevork Bardakjian, “The Rise of the Armenian Patriarchate of Constantinople” Joseph H. Hacker, “Ottoman Policy toward the Jews and Jewish Attitudes toward the Ottomans during the Fifteenth Century”
Week 7	
Monday, March 1	Exploring the history of non-elite women in Ottoman History Faroqhi, “From Slave Market to Arafat: Biographies of Bursa women in the late fifteenth century,” 133- 149. Selections, Leslie Peirce, <i>Morality Tales</i>
Wednesday, March 2	Midterm Exam
Week 8	Spring Break, March 5 – 14
Week 9	
Monday, March 15	The Reign of Suleiman – War, Politics, and Diplomacy Finkel, 115 – 151.
Wednesday, March 17	The End of Expansion: Suleiman’s Successors Finkel, 152 – 222. Goffman, 98 – 127.
Week 10	
Monday, March 22	Contextualizing the Ottoman Empire in Renaissance Europe Linda A. Darling, “The Renaissance and the Middle East” Goffman, 131 - 188
Wednesday, March 24	Discussion <i>My Name is Red</i>

Week 11

Monday, March 29 The Power of the Pashas
Finkel, 223 - 288

Wednesday, March 31 Regulating Society, Part I
*Ralph S. Hattox, *Coffee and Coffeehouses: The Origins of a Social Beverage in the Medieval Near East*, (Seattle and London, University of Washington Press, 1985), 11 – 60.

Week 12

Monday, April 5 Regulating Society, Part II
*Dror Ze'evi, *Producing Desire: Changing Sexual Discourse in the Ottoman Middle East, 1500 – 1900*, (Berkeley: University of California Press, 2006), 48 – 98.

Wednesday, April 7 The Empire Unravels
Finkel, 289 – 328
Goffman, 189 – 225.

Week 13

Monday, April 12 The Question of Military Decline
*William H. McNeil, “The Age of Gunpowder Empires, 1450 – 1850,” 103 – 139.
*Jonathan Grant, “Rethinking the Ottoman ‘Decline’: Military Technology Diffusion in the Ottoman Empire, Fifteenth to Eighteenth Centuries”

Wednesday, April 14 The Ottoman Empire in a World Economic System
*Wallerstein, Decdeli, and Kasaba, “The Incorporation of the Ottoman Empire into the world-economy,” 89 – 97
*Selections, Halil Inalcik, *An Economic and Social History of the Ottoman Empire, vol. 1*, 44 – 75.

Week 14

Monday, April 19 The Tulip Age
Finkel, 329 – 371.

Wednesday, April 21 The Power of the Provinces
Finkel, 372 - 412

Faroqhi, McGowan, Quataert, and Pamuk, *An Economic and Social History of the Ottoman Empire, vol.II*, 658 – 677.

Week 15

Monday, April 26

The Changing Economy of the Ottoman Empire
Faroqhi, McGowan, Quataert, and Pamuk, *An Economic and Social History of the Ottoman Empire, vol.II*, 680 – 739.

Wednesday, April 28

Dawning of a New Age: Napoleon in Egypt