

HISTORY 3A03
The Ottomans and the World Around Them
Mon. 2:30 - 3:20 p.m.; Wed. 2:30 - 4:20 p.m.
BSB/108

This course takes a close look at the Ottoman Empire which lasted from 1300 to 1918, spanned three continents and significantly challenged neighboring empires, Christian and Muslim, until the middle of the eighteenth century. We will survey the entire span of the empire, but pause at some length on the institutions and culture which characterized the sixteenth through the eighteenth centuries.

The Ottomans ruled over an enormous variety of multi-ethnic and religious groups. Students will be asked to consider a number of large issues around the nature of pre-modern empires: for examples, the geopolitics of expansion, the nature and limits of dynastic rule, imperial ideologies, ethnicity and religion. Topics discussed will be implicitly comparative to the extent possible. Ottoman rule in Istanbul (Constantinople) followed that of the Byzantines, and was contemporaneous with both the Austrian Habsburg and Russian Romanov empires. Both European and Central Asian in character, the Ottomans were challenged on their eastern borders by Muslim Mamluk, Persian and other Turkic civilizations. By the nineteenth century, the Ottomans were swept up in the colonial interventions of Britain and France, and as the “sick man of Europe” became embroiled in the post-Napoleonic struggle for world domination. War, bankruptcy, misrule, and emerging national identities of subject populations all contributed to the downfall of the empire in the final century of its existence. To understand the forces at work in the six hundred years of Ottoman rule is to understand much of the present-day eastern Mediterranean and many of the conundrums of the contemporary Middle East.

While this is largely a lecture course, there will be ample opportunity for you to raise questions in class. Only by reading, writing and discussing the subject do students learn the history of new areas of the world. Take this course seriously, attend lectures, keep up with the readings, and think critically about what you are reading. You will only get out of the course what you yourself put into it.

TEXTBOOKS

Required (available in Titles Bookstore; additional required articles are listed below and can be found on WebCT course site)

Colin Imber, *The Ottoman Empire, 1300-1650*, Palgrave Macmillan, 2002.

M. Şükrü Hanioglu, *A Brief History of the Late Ottoman Empire*, Princeton & Oxford, 2008.

Recommended (on reserve in Mills Library)

Suraiya Faroqhi, *The Ottoman Empire: A Short History*, Markus Weiner, 2009

(also available in Titles Bookstore in limited numbers)

Caroline Finkel, *Osman's Dream*, Basic Books, 2006.

Donald Quataert, *The Ottoman Empire 1700-1922* 2d ed. CUP, 2005.

COURSE REQUIREMENTS AND DISTRIBUTION OF MARKS

First assignment Article Critique (2000-2500 words, 8-10 pages) Due: February 11	25%
Second assignment Essay (3000- 4000 words, 12-15 pages) Due: March 18	40%
Final exam (to be scheduled by Registrar)	35%

E-mail Communication

It is the policy of the McMaster University History Department that all e-mail communication between students and instructors (including TAs) must originate from their official McMaster University e-mail accounts. This policy protects the confidentiality and sensitivity of information and confirms the identities of both the student and instructor. History Department instructors will delete messages that do not originate from McMaster e-mail accounts

Web-CT

Access to Web-CT is through your McMaster email account. Students should be aware that, when they access the electronic components of this course, private information such as first and last names, user names for the McMaster e-mail accounts, and program affiliation *may* become apparent to all other students in the same course. The available information is dependent on the technology used. Continuation in this course will be deemed consent to this disclosure.

Submission of course work:

Students are advised to retain a photocopy of each essay they submit, and to keep all research notes for their essays. History essays will be marked for clarity of writing, grammar, and organization, in addition to content and analysis.

I will not accept any assignment in electronic form. Period. Essays should be submitted on time. Permission to submit a late assignment is entirely at the discretion of the instructor and, except in exceptional instances, a penalty will be imposed (**3% per day**).

With a documented excuse the late penalty may be reduced or waived. No assignment will be accepted once all the others have been graded and returned. Prompt notification in writing is essential if exceptional circumstances timely completion of course requirements. Students that need special accommodations should make prior arrangement with the Centre for Student Development and the course instructor.

Academic Dishonesty

“Academic dishonesty consists of misrepresentation by deception or by other fraudulent means and can result in serious consequences, e.g. the grade of zero on an assignment, loss of credit with a notation on the transcript (notation reads: “Grade of F assigned for academic dishonesty”), and/or suspension or expulsion from the university.

It is your responsibility to understand what constitutes academic dishonesty. For information on the various kinds of academic dishonesty please refer to the Academic Integrity Policy, specifically Appendix 3, located at <http://www.mcmaster.ca/univsec/policy/AcademicIntegrity.pdf>

The following illustrates only three forms of academic dishonesty:

1. Plagiarism, e.g. the submission of work that is not one’s own or for which other credit has been obtained. (*Insert specific course information, e.g. style guide*)
2. Improper collaboration in group work. (*Insert specific course information*)
3. Copying or using unauthorized aids in tests and examinations.

SCHEDULE OF LECTURES

Jan. 5: Introduction

Jan. 7: Mapping the Empire
Readings: Imber, 1-44.

Jan. 12-14: Who were the Ottomans?
Readings: Imber, 87-127.

Jan. 19 -21: Emergence to 1453
Readings: Imber, 252-317; Andrew Hess, “The Ottoman Conquest of Egypt (1517) and the Beginning of the Sixteenth Century War,” *International Journal of Middle East Studies* 4:1 (1973), 55-76. (WebCT pdf)

Jan. 26-28: Süleyman & Europe
Readings: Imber, 44-86; Christine Woodhead, “‘Present Terroure of the World’ *History* 72(234) (1987), 20-37. (WebCT pdf)

Feb. 2- 4: Imperial Systems 1600-1800
Readings: Imber, 128-76; Marc Baer, “Islamic Conversion Narratives of Women: Social Change and Gendered Religious Hierarchy in Early Modern Istanbul,” *Gender & History* 16(2) (2004), 425-58. (WebCT pdf)

Feb. 9 -11: Governing Beyond Istanbul

Readings: Imber, 177-215; André Raymond, "Soldiers in Trade: the Case of Ottoman Cairo," *British Journal of Middle Eastern Studies* 18:1 (1991), 16-37. (WebCT pdf)

FIRST ASSIGNMENT DUE FEBRUARY 11

Feb. 16 18: Mid-term break

Feb. 23 -25: The Ottoman Glue

Readings: Imber, 216-51, 318-25; James Grehan, "The Mysterious Power of Words: Language, Law, and Culture in Ottoman Damascus (17th-18th centuries)" *Journal of Social History* 37:4 (Summer 2004), 991-1015. (WebCT pdf)

Mar. 2: No Class

Mar. 4: Ottomans & the World Around Them circa 1700

Readings: Hanioglu, Chapter 1; Robert Olson, "The Ottoman Empire in the Middle of the Eighteenth Century and the Fragmentation of Tradition: Relations of the Nationalities (Millets), Guilds (Esnaf) and the Sultan, 1740-1768," *Die Welt des Islam* 17:1/4 (1976-77), 72-77. (WebCT pdf)

Mar. 9-11: The Ottoman Road to the Modern

Readings: Hanioglu Chapter 2-3; Avigdor Levy, "Military Reform and the Problem of Centralization in the Ottoman Empire in the Eighteenth Century," *Middle Eastern Studies* 18:3 (1982), 227-49. (WebCT pdf)

Mar. 16-18: The Tanzimat Era & Constitutionalism

Readings: Hanioglu, Chapter 4; Selim Deingil, "The Invention of Tradition as Public Image in the Late Ottoman Empire," *Comparative Studies in History and Society* 35:1 (1993), 3-29. (WebCT pdf)

SECOND ASSIGNMENT DUE MARCH 18

Mar. 23-25: Young Turks & revolutions

Readings: Hanioglu, Chapter 5-6, Engin Akarli, "The Tangled Ends of an Empire: Ottoman Encounters with the West and Problems of Westernization: An Overview," *Comparative Studies of South Asia, Africa and the Middle East* 26 (2006), 253-66. (WebCT pdf)

Mar. 30 -April 1: The End of Empire

Readings: Hanioglu, Chapter 6 cont. & Conclusions

April 6: Review

Final exam to be scheduled by Registrar.