A History of the Turks
EUS3XXX

Time: 2 periods for lecture and 1 period for discussion (150 minutes per week)
Location: TBA

Instructor
Emrah Sahin, Ph.D.
emrahsahin@ufl.edu
(352) 294-7143
Office hours: TBA

Course Description
This is a course about modern Turkey that moves away from Western stereotypes about Turks and offers an informed and critical review of the Turkish nation. It explores early Turkish history and examines the Republic of Turkey since 1923. Throughout the course, you will study significant topics in Turkish and Islamic civilization including the image of the Turk in Western imagination, the Ottoman Empire, the Young Turks, and various coups and upheavals of the modern period, while at the same time paying close attention to the cultural and social life of the nation by addressing gender, daily life, workers, migrations, and the role of Islamic culture and religion. There is no prerequisite for this course.

Course Objectives
At the end of the course, you should be able to:

• Understand major themes related to Turkey and reflect on these themes,
• Discuss the cumulative effect of politics and culture on European and Middle Eastern collective memory,
• Reconsider the place of the Turkish nation in the Western and Islamic Worlds, and,
• Acquire essential skills for advanced studies in European and Turkish studies.

Required Materials and Supplies Fees
Readings and recommended materials will be posted on the e-learning website. There is no required textbook for this course. There are no additional fees for the course.

Evaluation of Grades
This course includes the following assignments along with lecture and discussion sections. Be willing, engaged, and punctual – that is, attend the lectures, participate in discussions, and complete your reading/writing assignments on time.

- **In-class mid-term examination** (30 points). The mid-term examination is scheduled on Week 6. Professor will address questions about this exam.

- **Take-home final examination** (35 points). The final examination will be drawn from lectures and select readings. A review class will provide guidelines and questions and the examination will be due during the regularly scheduled examination period.

- **Participation and Quizzes** (20 points). You will write 3 quizzes (5 points each). The quizzes will include multiple choices and short paragraphs based on topical materials.

- **Book review** (5 points) You submit a 4-page, double-spaced abstract on a text of your choice (see readings below and consult the professor for ideas and samples). Original abstracts capture the core of a book’s arguments and its themes, and thus will take full credit. This assignment is open to submission until the last meeting.

- **Attendance**, taken randomly in 10 class meetings, will register 10 points toward your final grade.

Worth noting is that the readings, assignments, and examinations must be completed by the date and time recorded on this syllabus. Though Professor Sahin reserves the right to make changes to this syllabus (with an in-advance warning if deemed necessary), the assignment schedules and UF regulations will stand at all times.

### Grading Policy

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<th>Letter Grade</th>
<th>A</th>
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More information on grades and grading policies is here:
[https://catalog.ufl.edu/ugrad/current/regulations/info/grades.aspx](https://catalog.ufl.edu/ugrad/current/regulations/info/grades.aspx)

### Class Attendance and Make-Up Policy

Attendance and participation are required for success. They not only constitute 15% of your grade. Repeated absences also affect your performance on exams and quizzes since they will be based on lectures and discussions. Missing class likewise means missing participation and falling behind in other assignments.
According to the Office of the University Registrar, “acceptable reasons for absence from class include illness, serious family emergencies, special curricular requirements (e.g., judging trips, field trips, and professional conferences), military obligation, severe weather conditions, religious holidays and participation in official university activities such as music performances, athletic competition or debate. Absences from class for court-imposed legal obligations (e.g., jury duty or subpoena) must be excused.”

For further information about the University of Florida’s attendance policy, please see the current Undergraduate Catalogue

(https://catalog.ufl.edu/ugrad/current/regulations/info/attendance.aspx)

Students Requiring Accommodations
Students with disabilities requesting accommodations should first register with the Disability Resource Center (352-392-8565, www.dso.ufl.edu/drc/) by providing appropriate documentation. Once registered, students will receive an accommodation letter which must be presented to the instructor when requesting accommodation. Students with disabilities should follow this procedure as early as possible in the semester.

University Honesty Policy
UF students are bound by The Honor Pledge which states, “We, the members of the University of Florida community, pledge to hold ourselves and our peers to the highest standards of honor and integrity by abiding by the Honor Code. On all work submitted for credit by students at the University of Florida, the following pledge is either required or implied: “On my honor, I have neither given nor received unauthorized aid in doing this assignment.” The Honor Code (https://www.dso.ufl.edu/sccr/process/student-conduct-honor-code/) specifies a number of behaviors that are in violation of this code and the possible sanctions. Furthermore, you are obligated to report any condition that facilitates academic misconduct to appropriate personnel. If you have any questions or concerns, please consult with the instructor.

Class Demeanor
Students are expected to arrive to class on time and behave in a manner that is respectful to the instructor and to fellow students. Please avoid the use of cell phones and restrict eating to outside of the classroom. Opinions held by other students should be respected in discussion, and conversations that do not contribute to the discussion should be held at minimum, if at all.
Course Evaluation
Students are expected to provide feedback on the quality of instruction in this course by completing online evaluations at https://evaluations.ufl.edu. Evaluations are typically open during the last two or three weeks of the semester, but students will be given specific times when they are open. Summary results of these assessments are available to students at https://evaluations.ufl.edu/results/.

Counseling and Wellness Center
Contact information for the Counseling and Wellness Center: http://www.counseling.ufl.edu/cwc/Default.aspx, 392-1575; and the University Police Department: 392-1111 or 9-1-1 for emergencies.

Course Schedule
WEEK 1
Lectures. 1) Course mechanics, 2) Turkish Origins
Discussion based on readings.
  • Carter Findley. “The Pre-Islamic Turks and Their Precursors”
  • Primary source. The Orkhon Inscriptions
  • Documentary. Barbarians: The Huns https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=SQYigCUcZjg

WEEK 2
Lectures. The Making of a New Order: Social Dynamics of the Ottoman Empire
Discussion
  • Emrah Sahin. “Ottoman Society”
  • Donald Quataert. “Why Study Ottoman History?”
  • Documentary. The History of the Turkish and Ottoman Empire https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ulBO-meEtC8
  • Stephen Colbert, Obama’s Ottoman Empire
    http://www.popscreen.com/v/7isYB/Colbert-Report-Obama039s-Ottoman-Empire

WEEK 3
Lectures. Running an Empire: Diplomacy and Bureaucracy
Discussion
  • Nuri Yurdusev. “Ottoman Attitude toward Diplomacy”
  • Suraiyya Faroqhi. Introduction, in Ottoman Empire and the World around It
  • Seminar, Istanbul: A Multi-perspectival City
    https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=KwSrCuSIIGo
**WEEK 4**

Lectures. Challenges of an Imperial Past: The Making of Europe and Turkey  
Discussion  
- Kemal Karpat. “Ottoman Rule in Europe from the Perspective of 1994”  
- Selim Deringil. “The Turks and ‘Europe’: The Argument from History”  
- Eugene Rogan on Why the Ottoman Empire Failed  
  [https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=m4UXwXhn9ME](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=m4UXwXhn9ME)

**WEEK 5**

Lectures. Tragedies: A Case of Minorities  
Discussion  
- Donald Quataert. “The Massacres of Ottoman Armenians”  
- Doğu Ergil. “The Kurdish Question in Turkey”  
- On Armenian Genocide: [https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=HGHBbaShIhU](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=HGHBbaShIhU) (by John Oliver)  
  [https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Fc1IdmlbHjU](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Fc1IdmlbHjU) (A political perspective)  
  [https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=548lD5SvERk](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=548lD5SvERk) (Survivor testimonies)  
- For Kurdish Question: [https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Y5g1k8pza6Q](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Y5g1k8pza6Q) (Nicholas Glastonbury)  
  [https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=F07TovjmFcl](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=F07TovjmFcl) (via Al-Jazeera)

**WEEK 6**

Lectures. Becoming a Nation: The Republic of Turkey  
No discussion – mid-term examination in class  
- Timothy Roberts and Emrah Sahin. “Construction of National Identities in Early Republics: A Comparison of the American and Turkish Cases”  
- Mattei Dogan. “Comparing Two Charismatic Leaders: Ataturk and de Gaulle”  
- Walter Cronkite. The Incredible Turk at [https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=UnRWKyCW0yE](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=UnRWKyCW0yE)

**WEEK 7**

Lectures. Limits of Democracy: Politics and Coups  
Discussion  
- Tanel Demirel. “Soldiers and Civilians: The Dilemma of Turkish Democracy”  
- Murat Belge. “Nationalism, Democracy, and the New Left in Turkey”

**WEEK 8**

Lectures. An Existential Crisis: Islam and Secularism  
Discussion  
- Hakan Yavuz. “Tempering of the Kemalist Revolution”  
- Llyod Fallers. “Turkish Islam”  
- Prime Minister at 2009 Davos Summit [https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=oY83IsO5VrM](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=oY83IsO5VrM)
WEEK 9
Lectures. Economy and Society
Discussion
• Utku Utkulu. “The Turkish Economy,” in Turkey since 1970: Politics, Economics, and Society
• Ibrahim Kaya. “State, Society, and Economy: Tensions between Liberty and Discipline”
• Movie, Cars of the Revolution https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=j9zp_xRkiLA

WEEK 10
Lectures. Modernity and Gender: A Case of Republican Women
Discussion
• Yeşim Arat. “The Project of Modernity and Women in Turkey”
• Deniz Kandiyoti. “On Missing Dimensions in the Study of Turkish Modernity”
• Worst and best scenarios, Turkish Parliament condemns Merve Kavakci and praises her sister https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ZK_3Lb4UOpk
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=fHsC8pxlD50

WEEK 11
Lectures. Daily Life and Gender: Careers and Shadow Theaters
Discussion
• Memoirs of Halide Edip and Emine Tugay
• Serdar Öztürk. “Karagöz Co-opted: Turkish Shadow Threater of the Early Republic”
• Documentary, The Sound of Istanbul https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=jTLjL_BdOs&feature=youtu.be
• Justin Bieber in Turkey https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=q-YkkIzSdSM

WEEK 12
Lectures. Turks in Europe: A Case of Germany and Netherlands
Discussion
• Critical Review of Localising Islam in Europe by Ahmet Yükleyen
• Colin Jerolmack. “Animal Practices, Ethnicity, and Community: The Turkish Pigeon Handlers of Berlin”
• Documentary, 39 Boys (Turkish Gangs in Germany) https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=fhT1t6oVysY
Week 13
Lectures. Turkey and the European Union
Discussion
- Ersin Kalaycıoğlu. “The Turkish-EU Odyssey and Political Regime Change in Turkey”
- Amie Kreppel and Sinan Ciddi. “Turkey and the EU’s Diplomatic Stalemate”
- Discussion. Turkey’s EU Membership Request https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=tjG8r4pmMQ

Week 14
Discussion and movie screening, Devrim Arabalari [Cars of the revolution]
Thanksgiving Days.

Week 15
Lecture. New Turkey: Recep Tayyip Erdogan and AK Party
Discussion
Take-home final instructions will be provided (due on the last class meeting)
- Recep Tayyip Erdoğan and Abdullah Gül on Democracy and Freedom
- France24 Interview with Erdogan https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=zAygnEfst0Y

Week 16
Lectures. Nothing Will Be the Same: The July 2016 Coup Attempt
No discussion – Conclusion and Review: History of Turks from the Past to the Present
- Recep Tayyip Erdoğan and Abdullah Gül on Democracy and Freedom
- The Coup Attempt https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=6Uu8DwF8Hm8
- John Trevor, Like America, Turkey is Also Burning http://www.cc.com/video-clips/wecesq/the-daily-show-with-trevor-noah-like-america--turkey-is-also-burning

Readings for Review and Further Study
Akcam, Taner. A Shameful Act: the Armenian Genocide
Arat, Yesim. Rethinking Islam and Liberal Democracy
Arslan, Senem. Nation Building in Turkey and Morocco
Aydin, Mustafa et al. *Turkish American Relations: Past, Present, and Future*
Brown, Carl. *Imperial Legacy: the Ottoman Imprint on the Balkans and the Middle East*
Dedeoglu, Saniye, and Adam Elveren. *Gender and Society in Turkey*
Deringil, Selim. *Conversion and Apostasy in the Late Ottoman Empire*
Dündar, Can. *We Are Arrested: A Journalist’s Notes from a Turkish Prison*
Finkel, Caroline. *Osman’s Dream: The History of the Ottoman Empire*
Fromkin, David. *A Peace to End All Peace: The Fall of the Ottoman Empire and the Creation of the Modern Middle East*
Gole, Nilufer. *The Forbidden Modern: Civilization and Veiling*
Hart, Kimberly. *Then We Work for God*
Karpat, Kemal. *Politicization of Islam: Reconstructing Identity, State, Faith, and Community in the Late Ottoman State*
Levin, Paul. *Turkey and the European Union: Christian and Secular Images of Islam*
Mango, Andrew. *Ataturk: The Biography of the Founder of Modern Turkey*
Norwich, John Julius. *Four Princes: Henry VIII, Francis I, Charles V, Suleiman the Magnificent and the Obsessions that Forged Modern Europe*
Pamuk, Orhan. *Snow*
Peres, Richard. *Day Turkey Stood Still: Merve Kavakci’s Walk into the Turkish Parliament*
Saktanber, Ayse. *Living Islam: Women, Religion, and the Politicization of Culture in Turkey*
Shankland, David. *The Alevis in Turkey: The Emergence of a Secular Islamic Tradition*
Uyar, Mesut and Edward Erickson. *A Military History of the Ottomans: From Osman to Atatürk*
White, Jenny. *Princeton Studies in Muslim Politics: Muslim Nationalism and the New Turks*
Yavuz, Hakan. *Islamic Political Identity in Turkey*
Yurdusev, A. Nuri. *Ottoman Diplomacy: Conventional or Unconventional?*
Zurcher, Eric. *Turkey: A Modern History*