

Sabancı University, FASS, Fall 2023

HIST 511: Trends, Debates, Historians I

Instructor: Ayşe Ozil (ayseozil@sabanciuniv.edu)

Time: Wednesdays, 13:40-16:30

Place: FASS 1079

Office Hours: By appointment

Course description:

This course will explore the meanings and practices of history-writing from Antiquity through the Late Medieval Era. The focus will be both on historians who lived and wrote within this time range and on modern scholars who studied various aspects of history and history-writing concerning the same period. We will relate each historian to their context and historiographical paradigm and situate each contribution within the framework and literature to which it pertains. Based on these historians and their works, we will pay due attention to the examination of various historical questions, debates and trends. A side objective of the course is to study problems of overall organization and sustained consistency in writing synthetic books and the emphasis is on reading complete books by leading historians. The course will start with introductory sessions on meanings, methodologies and sources of history-writing. We will then move on to an exploration of Ancient Greece and Rome to be followed by the Medieval Era. These works will then be scrutinized for the methodological insights they might shed on Ottoman historical studies. In this context, we will discuss controversies among scholars of Ottoman history about the question of the emergence of empire in a late medieval context. To counterbalance the mostly political and also socio-economic focus of the course, we will close the semester with a reading on women's history.

Requirements and Assessment:

1. Attendance and informed **participation**: Students are required to attend every session, having critically read the assigned texts to initiate and participate in class discussions. Students should also follow up on **any extra assignment**. (15 %)
2. **Presentation in class**: Students make **20-min** presentations in class on a rotating basis beginning with Week 3. Presentations will be based on an assigned article or book chapter about the topic of that week and will not be a simple summary of the assigned text, but involve a discussion of the wider context and additional research. **Class** is also expected to read the assigned text and **prepare questions/comments** for discussion. (20 %)
3. **Take-home Examination (Final Paper)**: Students choose a topic from (or related to) the syllabus, submit the title, a detailed abstract (700-word) and a preliminary bibliography (at least 10 items) for their final paper (**deadline: Oct 25**). (5 %) The final paper must include discussion/references to at least 5 subjects/questions raised

in class and the readings. Students submit their final paper (**4000 words; deadline: Jan 12**). (30 %)

4. **Final examination:** The examination is composed of 2-3 essay questions. (30 %)

Schedule and Readings:

Readings and **extra materials** will be available on reserve, on SU course+, (<http://sucourse.sabanciuniv.edu>), or online. Since all announcements on the online page are considered official by the university rules, it is the students' responsibility to follow these announcements and materials provided through SU course+ online. Students are to check the SU course+ website in order to follow weekly pacing, additional materials and announcements.

"Course content, requirements and policies are subject to change at the discretion of the instructor".

Topics and Required Readings

Week 1, Oct 4: History and Historiography

- R. G. Collingwood, *The Idea of History* (Oxford: Oxford University Press, 1970), Introduction.
- Wilhelm von Humboldt, *On the Historian's Task* (1822), in *The Modern Historiography Reader*, ed. Adam Budd (London: Routledge, 2009), 167-171.
- Ferdan Ergut, *Tarihin Hakikatleri* (Istanbul: İletişim, 2021), excerpts.

Week 2, Oct 11: Practicing History: Evidence, Causation and Interpretation

- E. H. Carr, *What is History?* (Middlesex: Penguin, 1964), Ch. 4.
- R. G. Collingwood, *The Idea of History* (Oxford: Oxford University Press, 1970), Epilegomena 3.
- Ludmilla Jordanova, *History in Practice* (London: Arnold Publishers, 2000), Chs. 4 and 7.

Week 3, Oct 18: History as a Discipline

- Carlo Ginzburg, "The Judge and the Historian", *Critical Inquiry*, vol. 18, no. 1 (1991), 79-92.
- François Hartog, *Regimes of Historicity* (NY: Columbia University Press, 2015), excerpts.

Week 4, Oct 25: Ancient Greek Historical Traditions I

- . Herodotus, *The Histories* (Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2008).
- . T. J. Luce, *The Greek Historians* (London and New York: Routledge, 1997), Chs. 2, 3.
- . John Gould, *Herodotus* (London: Bristol Classical, 2000), Chs. 2, 4.
- . Rosalind Thomas, *Herodotus in Context: Ethnography, Science and the Art of Persuasion* (Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 2000), Chs. 6, 7.

Week 5, Nov 1: The Ancient Greek Historical Traditions II

- . Thucydides, *The Peloponnesian War*, trans. M. Hammond (Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2009).
- . T. J. Luce, *The Greek Historians* (London and New York: Routledge), Chs. 4, 5.

Week 6, Nov 8: Historiography on the Ancient Period I

- . Luke Pitcher, *Writing Ancient History: An Introduction to Classical Historiography* (I. B. Tauris: 2010).
- . R. G. Collingwood, *The Idea of History* (Oxford: Oxford University Press, 1970), 14-45.
- . Arnaldo Momigliano, "Greek Historiography", *History and Theory* 17/1 (1978), 1-28.
- . J. B. Bury, *The Ancient Greek Historians* (NY: Dover Publications, 1958), 36-149.
- . Neil MacGregor, *A History of the World in 100 Objects* (London: Penguin 2012), Chs. 25, 27, 31, 33, 35.

Week 7, Nov 15: Historiography on the Ancient Period II

- . François Hartog, *The Mirror of Herodotus: The Representation of the Other in the Writing of History* (Berkeley: UCLA Press, 1988), excerpts.
- . François Hartog, "The Invention of History: Pre-History of a Concept from Homer to Herodotus", *History and Theory*, vol. 39, no. 3 (Oct., 2000), pp. 384-395.

Week 8, Nov 22: Romans and History

- . Livy, *The Early History of Rome* (Middlesex: Penguin, 1960), esp. II, 9-15, XXIV, 1-4.
(<http://www.perseus.tufts.edu/hopper/text?doc=Perseus%3Atext%3A1999.02.0157%3Abook%3D24%3Achapter%3D3>)
- . Mary Beard, *SPQR: A History of Ancient Rome* (Norton and Co.: 2015), Prologue, Chs. 1-2.

Week 9, Nov 29: Historiography on Romans: Class and Gender

- . Mary Beard, *SPQR: A History of Ancient Rome* (Norton and Co.: 2015), Ch. 11.
- . Mary Beard, “The Public Voice of Women”, *Women’s History Review*, vol. 24 (2015), pp. 809-818 (also available in *London Review of Books*, vol. 36, no. 6 (2014), IC online)

Week 10, Dec 6: Historiography on the 19th Century Perceptions of the Classical Past

- . Edhem Eldem, “From Blissful Indifference to Anguished Concern: Ottoman Perceptions of Antiquities 1799-1869”, in Z. Bahrani, Z. Çelik and E. Eldem (eds.), *Scramble for the Past: A Story of Archaeology in the Ottoman Empire 1753-1914* (Istanbul: SALT, 2011), pp. 281-329.
- . Yannis Hamilakis, “Indigenous Archaeologies in Ottoman Greece”, in Z. Bahrani, Z. Çelik and E. Eldem (eds.), *Scramble for the Past: A Story of Archaeology in the Ottoman Empire 1753-1914* (Istanbul: SALT, 2011), pp. 49-69.

Week 11, Dec 13: The Early Medieval Period: Historians

- . St Augustine, *The City of God* (Washington, DC: Catholic University of America Press, 1950). (IC online)
- . R. G. Collingwood, *The Idea of History* (Oxford: Oxford University Press, 1970), 46-85.
- . Erich Auerbach, *Mimesis: The Representation of Reality in Western Literature* (Princeton: Princeton University Press, 1968), excerpts.

Week 12, Dec 20: The Late Medieval Period: The Question of the Emergence of the Ottoman State

- . Paul Wittek, *The Rise of the Ottoman Empire* (London: Routledge, 2012 [London: Royal Asiatic Society, 1938]). (IC online)
- . Halil İnalcık, “The Question of the Emergence of the Ottoman State”, *International Journal of Turkish Studies*, II (1980), pp. 71-79.
- . Cemal Kafadar, *Between Two Worlds: The Construction of the Ottoman State*, Berkeley: University of California, 1995.

Week 13, Dec 27: Topics in Historiography: Ottoman Historiography and Women

- . Leslie Peirce, *The Imperial Harem: Women and Sovereignty in the Ottoman Empire* (NY: Oxford University Press, 1993).

Week 14, Jan 3: Student paper presentations and discussion.