

Sabanci University  
Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences  
TS 551 / 12009 / FALL 2023

Class Time; Tuesday 11:40-14:40 at FASS G043

## Turkish Studies and History: Debates and Topics

Emre Erol – Mehmet Kuru – Ayşe Ozil

**Course Description:** This course introduces students to the debates and topics of contemporary research on Turkey and its peoples that employ historical methodology and sources. The course follows a broad chronology from the major events of the Ottoman Empire to contemporary issues in the Republic of Turkey. It introduces major themes such as politics and society in the empire and the nation-state, emergence and competition among political networks, history of political movements, migration, environment and economic transformation and how historical methodology and sources are utilized in the study of those themes.

**Objective:** Introduction of contemporary research, debates, and discussions in the field of Turkish Studies that employ history and historical methodology to provide a survey of the field.

**Format:** Three-hour-long weekly sessions that include lecturing by instructors and guest lecturers followed by student presentations and discussion time. Each week, the first half of the class will consist of a twenty-minute introduction to the theme, followed by an hour-long lecture. The second part of the class will start after a thirty-minute-long break and will consist of students' presentations and discussion time.

### Learning Outcomes:

- 1) Professional familiarity with the state-of-the-art contemporary research in the field of Turkish Studies.
- 2) Ability to identify use of history and historical methodology in interdisciplinary research.
- 3) Familiarization with the vocabulary, terminology, and schools of thought in the field of Turkish Studies.
- 4) Ability to situate the study of Turkey within the wider frameworks of area studies and studies in other fields.

**Course Requirements:** Students are expected to complete the assigned readings before class and actively reflect upon the content in the discussions following the weekly lectures and student presentations. Attendance is mandatory. Absence beyond 3 classes without an officially verified excuse will result with the automatic failure of the student. Each student is expected to present at least once on a topic of his or her choice that is confirmed by the lecturers at the beginning of the second week. The number and duration of the presentations may vary based on the enrolled student number. Be punctual, students will not be allowed into class after the first 10 minutes, and they will be counted as absent.

**Readings:** Readings are an essential part of this course. Students are expected to complete all the assigned readings for all weeks. A selection of readings is assigned for each week of the course from different sources. These reading assignments will be available to students through the SuCourse+ system. Those who wish to do so will be able to purchase a hard-copy reader from our university's printing shop. Some weeks include 'suggested readings' for those who wish to expand on the topic. They will not be a part of the mandatory assignments.

### **Grading:**

Presentation: \_\_\_\_\_ %35

Presentations are expected to last no more than **30 minutes**. The students are expected to prepare presentations on the topics of their choice related to the course material (Week 2-14). These presentations **should not be summaries**. Students are allowed and encouraged to expand on the topics by introducing relevant new material. Presentation topics will be determined during the first week of the lectures. **Presentations will be followed by Q&A sessions**. The presentation documents **must be sent** to the lecturers via email **one day before the presentation**. The presentation must be properly structured and academic citations should be used in the slides if necessary. The presentations will take place during the second part of the course, with the attendance of all students.

Question and Respond: \_\_\_\_\_ %35

Students are expected to write three questions and three short answers to their questions about **seven** of the readings / topics of the course. Each such question / answer trio must be related to a different week. The question / answer trio must be submitted to the SuCourse+ system **until 21:30 a night before the relevant lecture**. Each question / answer must be at least a paragraph long in length and there should be a critical assessment of the relevant reading / topic rather than a simple summary. The assignment must be properly structured and academic citations should be used in the text if necessary. Please do not forget to shortly summarize the arguments and/or parts of the text that you are responding to if need be.

In-class Final: \_\_\_\_\_ %30

There will be a 3-hour in-class final, in the form of during the final examination period. The examination will consist of a small amount of identification questions and multiple short essay questions. The answers for the short essays are expected to be structured, analytical and with references to the course content. Further instructions will be provided during the course.

Find a new material (Bonus, via async. Zoom session): \_\_\_\_\_ %10

The bonus assignment is designed around the idea of suggesting a new material to the course. This intellectual exercise aims to get students engaged with the material on a deeper level. Students are expected to find one new material (audio/visual or written primary source about one of the topics in the course, a reading, or describe it and make a case about its relevance in a **10-minute** asynchronous Zoom presentation and by submitting a **single page document summary**. Submission details are announced during the first weeks of the course.

## Grading Scale:

90-100	A
86-89	A-
82-85	B+
78-81	B
74-77	B-
70-73	C+
66-69	C
62-65	C-
58-61	D+
54-57	D
0-53	F

**N/A Policy:** Failure to attend four or more synchronous classes (**with or without** a valid excuse) **and** not submitting any number of the assignments / examinations; or valid make-ups will result with an N/A grade.

**Academic Integrity:** Cases of plagiarism will be directly referred to the Dean's Office for disciplinary action – for the university's Academic Integrity Statement, see:

<http://fdd.sabanciuniv.edu/sites/fdd.sabanciuniv.edu/files/akademikdurustluk.pdf> (Turkish)

<http://fdd.sabanciuniv.edu/sites/fdd.sabanciuniv.edu/files/academicintegrity.pdf> (English)

**Make-up Policy:** Students will only be allowed to have make-ups if they provide an official report from the University Health Center for the date of the relevant assignments (presentations or mid-term exam only) or an official permission notice from the university for participation in a university event on the date of the relevant assignments. No exceptions will be made to this rule.

## **Weekly schedule:**

### **Week 1- (October 3)**

Topic: Introduction

### **Week 2 - (October 10)**

Guest: Alp Eren Topal

Topic: Ottoman-Turkish Intellectual History: Navigating Continuities and Ruptures

Readings:

- Topal, "From Cumhur to Cumhuriyet: Towards an archeology of the (re)public in the Ottoman Empire" draft article
- Topal & Zemmin, "Conceptualizing Near Eastern Modernity: Religion, Politics, and Civilization", *Die Welt Des Islam* 62 (2022), 275 - 298.

Presentation: Doğukan İpek

### **Week 3 - (October 17)**

Guest: Alp Yücel Kaya

Topic: Economic and Social Change From the Ottoman Empire to the Turkish Republic

Readings:

- Doğan Çetinkaya, "Bir banka birleşmesi üzerinden Müslüman/Türk burjuvazisi üzerine tarihyazımını düşünmek", *Tarih ve Toplum* 21 (2023), 153 - 203.
- Fatma Eda Çelik, "Türkiye Modern Devleti'nin Osmanlı'daki kökenleri - Toprak yönetiminde ve Yönetmel Organlarda Dönüşüm", *Memleket Siyaset Yönetim Cilt 17, Sayı 37,*( Haziran 2022), 5 - 48.
- Oğuz Oyan, *Vergi - Ordu Sistemleri ve Geçiş Tartışmaları*, (İstanbul: Yordam Kitap, 2023)

Presentation: Fırat Köklü

### **Week 4 - (October 24)**

Guest: Banu Turnaoğlu

Topic: Republicanism: Debates and Research Trends

Readings:

- Cécile Laborde, "Republicanism", *The Oxford Handbook of Political Ideologies* (Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2013).
- Banu Turnaoğlu, "Ideological Struggle during the Formative Years of the Turkish Republic", *Middle Eastern Studies*, 52/4 (2016), 677-693.

Presentation: Barış Özcan

## **Week 5 - (October 31)**

Guest: Lea Nocera

Topic: The history of migration from Turkey to Europe: debates and sources

### Readings:

- Soysal L. (2008). "The migration story of Turks in Germany: From the beginning to the end". In R. Kasaba (Ed.), *The Cambridge History of Turkey*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 199-225.
- Abadan-Unat N. (2015). "Emancipation or Pseudo-emancipation: Fallacy or the Force of Social Control in a Global World", in Nermin Abadan-Unat and Gretty Mirdal, *Emancipation in Exile: Perspectives on the Employment of Migrant Women*. Istanbul: Istanbul Bilgi University Press, 11-41.
- Kirişçi, K. (2008). Migration and Turkey: The dynamics of state, society and politics. In R. Kasaba (Ed.), *The Cambridge History of Turkey* (Cambridge History of Turkey, pp. 173-198). Cambridge: Cambridge University Press.

Presentation: Onur Can Öz

## **Week 6 – (November 7)**

Guest: Doğan Çetinkaya

Topic: Debates and topics in the study of the Left

### Readings:

- Çetinkaya, Y. Doğan (2021). *Osmanlı'da Marksizm ve Sosyalizm: Yeni Kuşak Çalışmalar*. İletişim Yayınları. Sf 7-12.
- Khuri-Makdisi, Ilham (2010). *The Eastern Mediterranean and the Making of Global Radicalism, 1860–1914*. Berkeley: University of California Press. Pg 15-34.
- Ilıcak, H. Şükrü 'Jewish Socialism in Ottoman Salonika' *Southeast European and Black Sea Studies*, 2:3, 115-146.

Presentation: Doğukan İpek

## **Week 7- (November 14)**

Guest: Atacan Atakan

Topic: Uncovering the Ignored: History of Ottoman Childhood with a Specific Focus on Corporeality, Sexuality, and Gender

### Readings:

- Fortna, B. C. (2016). "Bonbons and Bayonets: Mixed Messages of Childhood in the Late Ottoman Empire and the Early Turkish Republic". In *Childhood in the Late Ottoman Empire and After*. Leiden, The Netherlands: Brill. [https://doi.org/10.1163/9789004305809\\_009](https://doi.org/10.1163/9789004305809_009)
- Maksudyan, N. (2014). *Orphans and Destitute Children in the Late Ottoman Empire*. Syracuse University Press. Pg 1-17.
- Morrison, Heidi (2015). *Childhood and Colonial Modernity in Egypt*. Palgrave Macmillan London. Pg 43-61.

Presentation: Onur Can Öz

## **Week 8 - November 21**

Guest: Enno Maessen

Topic: 20<sup>th</sup> century Istanbul and urban history

Readings:

- Gül, Murat (2009). *The Emergence of Istanbul: Transformation and Modernisation of a City*. I.B. Tauris. Pg 127-172.
- Eldem, Edhem (2006). "Ottoman Galata and Pera between Myth and Reality", in *'Milieu de Mémoire' to 'Lieu de Mémoire': The Cultural Memory of Istanbul in the Twentieth Century*, ed. Ulrike Tischler. Münih: Meidenbauer. Pg 18–36.

Presentation: Fırat Köklü

## **Week 9 – (November 28)**

Guest: Ayşe Köse Badur

Topic: Politics and Ideology in the Young Turk period

Readings: **TBA**

Presentation: Seydi Şeker

## **Week 10 – (December 5)**

Guest: Selçuk Dursun

Topics: Environmental Policies in the late Ottoman and Early Republican Period

Readings: **TBA**

Presentation: Deniz Gürkan

## **Week 11 – (December 12)**

Guest: Yaşar Tolga Cora

Topic: Economy and Society in the Early Republican Period

Readings:

- Neslişah L. Başaran Lotz, "Türkiye’de Burjuvazinin Gelişiminde Tüccarlar: Müslüman-Türk Aileler ve Ticaret Ağları", *Tarih ve Toplum: Yeni Yaklaşımlar*, no. 21 (Bahar 2023), 204-246.
- Yaşar Tolga Cora, "Nemlizadeliler: Erken Cumhuriyet Dönemi Ekonomipolitiğinde Milli Tüccarı Aramak", *Tarih ve Toplum: Yeni Yaklaşımlar*, no. 21 (Bahar 2023), 247-270.

Presentation: Barış Özcan

## **Week 12 – (December 19)**

Guest: Erdem Sönmez

Topic: Historiography in Early Republican Period, 1930s-1950s

### Readings:

- Cemal Kafadar and Hakan T. Karateke, "Late Ottoman and Early Republican Turkish Historical Writing," In *The Oxford History of Historical Writing*, vol. 4: 1800-1945, Stuart Macintyre, Juan Maignashca ve Attila Pók (eds.), (New York: Oxford University Press, 2011): 559-577.
- Erdem Sönmez, "Clio between Revolution and Collapse: The Making of the Historical Discipline in the Late Ottoman Empire," *Modern Intellectual History*, 2022. (first view). <https://doi.org/10.1017/S1479244322000439>
- Suavi Aydın, "The Use and Abuse of Archaeology and Anthropology in Formulating the Turkish Nationalist Narrative," in *Nationalism in the Troubled Triangle: Cyprus, Greece and Turkey*, Ayhan Aktar, Niyazi Kızılyürek and Umut Özkırımlı (eds.) (Basingstoke, Palgrave Macmillan, 2010): 36-46.
- Erdem Sönmez, "A Past to be Forgotten? Writing Ottoman History in Early Republican Turkey," *British Journal of Middle Eastern Studies* 48, no. 4 (2021): 753-769.

Presentation: Deniz Gürkan

## **Week 13 – (December 26)**

Guest: Berk Esen

Topic: Contemporary Turkish Politics and the Post-Kemalism Debate

### Readings:

- Akkoyunlu, Karabekir. (2023) "One hundred years of Kemalism" in Özerdem Alpaslan & Öztürk Ahmet Erdi. ed. *A companion to modern turkey's centennial : political sociological economic and institutional transformations since 1923*. Edinburgh University Press. Pg 53-65.
- Esen, B., Gümüüşçü, Ş., Yavuzylmaz, H. (2023). *Türkiye 'nin Yeni Rejimi: Rekabetçi Otoriterlik*. İstanbul: İletişim Yayınları. Pg 17-54 and 247-262.

Presentation: Seydi Şeker

## **Week 14 – (January 2)**

Topic: A reflection on the state of the field of Turkish Studies