**Pols 504: Turkish Social and Political Thought**

**Spring 2021**

**Thursday 11:40-14:30**

**Instructors:**

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Zoom Meeting info for every lecture:

Meeting ID: 987 0265 8825

Passcode: 497122

**Description:**

This graduate seminar traces the historical development of Turkish social and political thought from the pre-Ottoman period to the twentieth century. The goal of the seminar is not to impress upon students a single, overarching, pre-conceived narrative of that history but to be an open forum where different scholars with varying views on many topics shed light on different periods and aspects of that history.

The seminar will be co-taught by two coordinators, Nedim Nomer and Abdurrahman Atçıl, and 9 visiting instructors. Most of them will talk about their recently published books. The seminar will revolve around the lectures, but it will leave ample room for class discussion and student participation. So we encourage and expect students to actively participate in the discussions after each lecture.

**Requirements:**

1. Attendance of all class meetings and ask at least one question to each speaker (5% of your final grade)
2. 5 response/opinion papers (no more than 500 words each) – (best 4 will make up 20% of your final grade)
3. A final research paper on a topic of your choice (70% of your final grade)
4. A short presentation at the end of semester (5% of your final grade)

A response paper is a concise statement of your interpretation of a concept, view, or a set thereof, which you come across in the readings. In that statement you would be expected to defend your stance against alternative interpretations. So a response paper is not a mere description or statement of a view; it is an argumentative defense of it. Please note that the response paper you write on the readings of a particular week **must be submitted** **before the lecture of the following week**.

**Recommended general readings about the topics of the course:**

*-The Cambridge History of Turkey*, 4 vols.

-Caroline Finkel, *Osman's Dream: The History of the Ottoman Empire*.

-Douglas A. Howard, *A History of the Ottoman Empire*.

-Suraiya Faroqhi, *Approaching Ottoman History: An Introduction to the Sources*.

-Halil İnalcık, *The Ottoman Empire: The Classical Age 1300-1600*.

-Halil İnalcık and Donald Quataert, eds., *An Economic and Social History of the Ottoman Empire*, 2 vols.

-Karen Barkey, *Empire of Difference: The Ottomans in Comparative Perspective*.

-Cemal Kafadar, *Between Two Worlds: The Construction of the Ottoman State*.

-M. Şükrü Hanioğlu, *A Brief History of the Late Ottoman Empire.*

-Donald Quataert, *The Ottoman Empire, 1700–1922.*

**Readings:**

Allreadings will be available online in Su-Course+

**Plan of the Course:**

Feb 25 Introduction

March 4 Nedim Nomer –Study of the History of Political Ideas

-Robert C. Lieberman, “Institutions, and Political Order: Explaining Political Change” The American Political Science Review, 96/4 (‘002), pp. 697-712

-Jal Mehta, “The Varied Role of Ideas in Politics” in Ideas and Politics in Social Science Research (ed.) Daniel Beland and Robert Henry Cox (OUP, 2011), pp.23-46

-Mark Bevir, “The Contextual Approach” in The Oxford Handbook of the History of Political Philosophy, (ed.) George Klosko, (OUP, 2011), pp.19-34

-Christian Zuckert, “The Straussian Approach” in The Oxford Handbook of the History of Political Philosophy, (ed.) George Klosko, (OUP, 2011), pp.35-47

March 11 Abdurrahman Atçıl: Political Thinking in the Ottoman World

-Marinos Sariyannis, “Introduction” and “Conclusion: Towards an Ottoman Conceptual History,” in his A History of Ottoman Political Thought up to the Early Nineteenth Century (Brill, 2009), pp.1-28; 432-460

-Heather Ferguson, “On the Perfect State: An Ottoman Vision of Order,” in her The Proper Order of Things: Language, Power, and Law in Ottoman Administrative Discourses (Stanford UP, 2018)

-Excerpts from:

Kınalızade, Ahlâk-i Alâî, in Sariyannis A History of Ottoman Political Thought up to the Early Nineteenth Century (Brill, 2009), 485-87.

Lütfi Paşa, Âsafnâme, in Sariyannis A History of Ottoman Political Thought up to the Early Nineteenth Century (Brill, 2009), 489-90.

Birgivi Mehmed Efendi, Ecvibatü’l-Hâsime, in Sariyannis A History of Ottoman Political Thought up to the Early Nineteenth Century (Brill, 2009), 499-500.

March 18 Evrim Binbaş, “Condominial Sovereignty and Condominial Messianism in the Timurid Empire: Historiographical and Numismatic Evidence.”

March 25 Baki Tezcan

-The Second Ottoman Empire: Political and Social Transformation in the Early Modern World (Cambridge UP, 2010)

-“The Disenchantment of Sufism, the Rationalization of Sunni Islam, and Early Modernity.”

-“ The Second Empire:The Transformation of the Ottoman Polity in the Early Modern Era.”

April 1 Samy Ayoub

-Law, Empire, and the Sultan: Ottoman Imperial Authority and Late Hanafi Jurisprudence (New York: Oxford University Press, 2019), Introduction and chapters 1-2.

April 8 Vasileios Syros: Italian Humanism in Dialogue with Ottoman Political Thought

-Syros, “Galenic Medicine and Social Stability in Early Modern Florence and the Islamic Empires, Journal of Early Modern History 17 (2003): 161-123

April 15 Harun Küçük

-Science Without Leisure: Practical Naturalism in Istanbul, 1660-1732 (University of Pittsburgh Press, 2019)

April 22 Hüseyin Yılmaz

-Caliphate Redefined: The Mystical Turn in Ottoman Political Thought (Princeton

UP, 2018)

April 29 Ali Yaycığlu

-Partners of the Empire: The Crisis of the Ottoman Order in the Age of Revolutions (Stanford UP, 2016).

May 6 Murat Şiviloğlu

-The Emergence of Public Opinion: State and Society in the Late Ottoman Empire (Cambridge UP, 2018)

May 13 **Semester Break**

May 20 Nurullah Ardıç

May 27 Student Presentations: students will talk about their paper topics: the research questions that motivate their work; the prevailing views in the literature which they seek to challenge, confirm or develop and why; how they conduct their research; the conclusions they expect or hope to establish, etc.