## Sabancı University

## Spring 2021

## CULT 391

## Turkish Culture: Critical Perspectives

Monday 14.40 – 16.30

Tuesday 12.40 – 13.30

#### Ayşe Gül Altınay

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*Office Hour*

Tuesday 14.40 – 15.30

or by appointment

Overview

What is “Turkish Culture”? Who defines it? Who and what does it include and *not* include? What is the relationship between our understandings of “culture” and “nation”? How can we conceptualize the connections between political economy and culture? Why should we take popular culture seriously? Asking these questions and others, this course aims to examine the interconnections between culture, power, history, and politics in Turkey.

In these extraordinary times of a pandemic challenge and online learning, this class will give us a chance to reflect on questions of identity and belonging in the context of uncertainty, crisis, and transformation. The pandemic is introducing major changes to almost everything that we have taken for granted as “normal” or as “important.” This is a precious moment to become aware of what we have taken for granted and how it is being or can be transformed for a less violent, more inclusive, more peaceful world. To borrow from feminist scholar Dina Georgis: What is a “better story” of the planet, of Turkey, of politics, and of ourselves at this particular moment in time? Where do we see this “better story” unfolding? What forms is it taking and who are its creative subjects?

All the participants in the class will be invited to contribute examples from their everyday lives and fields of interests to help us develop a more inclusive and comprehensive understanding of how ideas about identity and belonging are both shaping our contemporary lives and are being reimagined in new ways.

The class will be held synchronously on Zoom and will be ***very interactive***. We will be using breakout rooms, the chat, the poll, working together on drive documents and other options that online teaching makes possible. Since much of the learning will be mutual and interactive, everyone will be asked to ***keep their videos on***, be “present” as active listeners and active participants, both in the large room and in the small break-out rooms that will be used regularly and frequently.

You have to attend the synchronous Zoom lectures and real-time online exams with your SU email account. The exams will be proctored and you will have to keep ***your webcam and microphone on during the exam***. In the case of non-compliance with this and other declared exam procedures, your exam will be void. Make sure to check that your webcam and microphone function properly before the exam.

***Requirements and Grading:***

***Attendance and participation* (10 points)** Since this will be a very interactive class, attendance is strongly encouraged and class participation will play a major role in your learning experience, as well as constituting 10% of your final grade.

***Reflection Journal* (20 points)**Keep a journal, where you make regular entries (at least weekly) about your reflections on the course readings and discussions. Questions and guidelines for the journal will be shared during the first week of classes. Each week, you will be asked to upload a section of your journal or a reflection on the experience of keeping a journal on SU Course (2 points each).

***In-Class Writing Assignment* (10 points)** For a total of 5 weeks, there will be an in-class writing group exercise, where you will be writing a short essay responding to a prompt, which you will share with a small group of students to get feedback. Each student will be asked to give feedback to others’ essays. The prompts will be taken from the readings of the week, on which you will be writing your personal reflections. Specific guidelines will be shared during the first week of classes.

***Quiz* (20 points)** For a total of 10 weeks, there will be a short quiz (2 points each) at the beginning of the Monday class, with one or more questions regarding the readings of that week.

***Midterm Exam* (20 points)** There will be a midterm exam on April 19 during the regular class hour.

***Final Exam* (20 points)** The final exam will take place during the time announced by the university and will cover all the readings and discussions of the semester. .

The course material will be shared on SU Course+ and all assignments, quizzes and exams will be submitted through the same platform.

Please make sure to review the university policies below and pay utmost attention to proper academic citation and academic integrity! Failing to do so will result in the relevant disciplinary measures outlined in the Academic Integrity policy.

***Academic Integrity*** [*http://www.sabanciuniv.edu/en/academic-integrity-statement*](http://www.sabanciuniv.edu/en/academic-integrity-statement)

***Academic Freedom*** [*http://www.sabanciuniv.edu/en/statement-of-academic-freedom*](http://www.sabanciuniv.edu/en/statement-of-academic-freedom)

***Non-Discrimination***[*http://www.sabanciuniv.edu/en/non-discrimination-statement*](http://www.sabanciuniv.edu/en/non-discrimination-statement)

***Sexual Harassment***[*http://www.sabanciuniv.edu/en/sexual-harassment-policy-statement*](http://www.sabanciuniv.edu/en/sexual-harassment-policy-statement)

**\*\*\*\*\* Readings are subject to change \*\*\*\*\***

**Culture, Power, History**

**Week 1 – February 22/23**

**Introduction**

**February 22** Guest Lecturer: Attila Durak

Attila Durak, *Ebru: Kültürel Çeşitlilik Üzerine Yansımalar*

**February 23**

* Gabor Mate, “The Bermuda Triangle” and “The Seven A’s of Healing”

**Week 2 – March 1/2**

###### Culture, History, Memory

* Raymond Williams, “Culture”
* Michel-Rolph Trouillot, “An Unthinkable History: The Haitian Revolution as a Non-Event”
* Geoff Eley and Ronald Grigor Suny, “Introduction: From the Moment of Social History to the Work of Cultural Representation”

*Recommended reading:*

* Tanıl Bora (ed.), *Modern Türkiye’de Siyasi Düşünce: Cilt IV: Milliyetçilik*

**Week 3 – March 8/9**

**History and the “Turkish Nation” I**

* Afet İnan, “Atatürk ve Tarih Tezi”
* Abdulrahman Miralay, “Amerika’nın Keşfinde Türklerin Hizmeti”
* Ş. Günaltay ve H. R. Tankut, “Dil ve Tarih Tezlerimiz Üzerine Gerekli Bazı İzahlar”
* Afet İnan, *Türkiye Halkının Antropolojik Karakteri ve Türkiye Tarihi* (selections)
* Ziya Gökalp, “Yeni Türkiye’nin Hedefleri”
* Ahmet Yıldız, “*Ne Mutlu Türküm Diyebilene”* (selections)
* Büşra Ersanlı, “Bir Aidiyet Fermanı: ‘Türk Tarih Tezi’”
* American Anthropological Association Statement on “Race”
* Tanıl Bora, “İnşa Döneminde Türk Milli Kimliği”

**Week 4 – March 15/16**

**History and the “Turkish Nation” II**

* Mesut Yeğen, “Yurttaşlık ve Türklük”
* Kemal Kirişçi, “Disaggregating Turkish Citizenship and Immigration Practices”
* Barış Ünlü, “Türklük Sözleşmesi’nin İmzalanışı”

**Week 5 – March 22/23**

###### Military and Militarization

* Halil İnalcık, “Osmanlı Devrinde Türk Ordusu”
* İbrahim Kafesoğlu, “Ordu-Millet”
* “Askerliğe Hazırlık”
* *Tarih* (1934) (selections)
* *Türk Ordusu* (selections)
* Leo Tolstoy, “Patriotism and Government”
* Erik Zürcher, “Little Mehmet in the Desert: The Ottoman Soldier’s Experience”
* Taha Parla, “Ordu”
* Ayşe Gül Altınay & Tanıl Bora, “Ordu, Militarizm ve Milliyetçilik”
* Nadire Mater, *Mehmedin Kitabı* (selections)

**Whose Culture?**

**Week 6 – March 29/30** Guest Lecturer: Murat Çelikkan (March 30, [Hafıza Merkezi](https://hakikatadalethafiza.org/))   
**Inclusion/Exclusion: Ethnic and Geographic Difference**

* Film Screening and discussion
* Selections from Rojin Canan Akın and Funda Danışman, *Bildiğin Gibi Değil: 90’larda Güneydoğu’da Çocuk Olmak*
* Hatice Bozkurt ve Özlem Kaya *“Fotoğrafı Kaldırmak”: Eşi Zorla Kaybedilen Kadınların Deneyimleri* (s.6-22: Sunuş, Önsöz, Tarihsel Arkaplan, Zorla Kaybetmelerin Cinsiyeti & s.62-65: Sonuç ve Öneriler)

*Recommended:*

* Selections from Kemal Kirişçi and Gareth M. Winrow, *Kürt Sorunu: Kökeni ve Gelişimi*
* Baskın Oran, “Kürt Milliyetçiliğinin Diyalektiği”

**Week 7 – April 5/6** Guest Lecturer: Fethiye Çetin (April 5)

**Inclusion/Exclusion: Religious Difference**

* Fethiye Çetin, *Anneannem* (read the whole book)
* Yahya Koçoğlu, *Azınlık Gençleri Anlatıyor* (selections)
* Rıfat N. Bali, Arus Yumul ve Foti Benlisoy*,* “Yahudi, Ermeni ve Rum Toplumlarında Milliyetçilik”

**Week 8 – April 12/13  
Alevi vs. Sunni Islam**

* Nimet Altıntaş, “‘Rıza’dan İtiraza: Alevi Kadınlar”
* Yeşim Arat, “Group-Differentiated Rights and the Liberal Democratic State: Rethinking the Headscarf Controversy in Turkey”
* Hidayet Şefkatli Tuksal, “Türkiye’de İslami Feminizm Tartışmaları”
* Deniz Parlak “Paravanın Arkasından Çıkıp Mekanı Dönüştürmek: Kadınlar Camilerde”

**Week 9 – April 19/20**

***Midterm Exam***

**Week 10 – April 26/27**

**Social and Economic Exclusion**

* Necmi Erdoğan (ed.), *Yoksulluk Halleri* (selections)
* Ayşe Buğra and Çağlar Keyder (eds.) *Vatandaşlık Gelirine Doğru* (selections)

**Week 11 – May 3/4** Guest Lecturer: Arlene Avakian (May 5, Wednesday, 8pm)

**Gender, Nation, Difference**

* Ayşe Gül Altınay, “Women and the Myth: The World’s First Woman Combat Pilot”
* Zabel Yesayan, “Yeter” *Bir Adalet Feryadı: Osmanlı’dan Türkiye’ye Beş Ermeni Feminist Yazar (1862-1933)* içinde, der. Lerna Ekmekçioğlu ve Melisa Bilal.
* Arlene Avakian “Miras Yaşıyor” *Aslan Kadının Mirası: Amerikalı bir Ermeni’nin Feminist Olma Yolculuğu* ([*Okuma Parçası*](https://www.arasyayincilik.com/urun/aslan-kadinin-mirasi/) linkini tıklayarak okuyabilirsiniz)
* Visit <http://istanbulkadinmuzesi.org/> (make sure to read Fatma Aliye Hanım, Nuriye Ulviye Mevlan Civelek, Hayganuş Mark, Zabel Yesayan and Mihri Hanım)

*Recommended:*

* Yeşim Arat, “The Project of Modernity and Women in Turkey”
* Yaprak Zihnioğlu, *Kadınsız İnkılap: Nezihe Muhiddin, Kadınlar Halk Fırkası, Kadın Birliği*
* Fatmagül Berktay, “Osmanlı’dan Cumhuriyet’e Feminizm”
* Şirin Tekeli, “Birinci ve İkinci Dalga Feminist Hareketlerin Karşılaştırılmalı İncelemesi Üzerine Bir Deneme”
* Ece Öztan, “Kesişimsel Feminist Siyaset için Potansiyel Bir Alan: Eğitim”
* Arlene Avakian (2010) “A Different Future? Armenian Identity Through the Prism of Trauma, Nationalism, and Gender”

**Week 12 – May 10/11**

No classes (Break)

**Week 13 – May 17/18** Guest Speaker: İrem Az (May 17)  **Inclusion/Exclusion: Sexual Orientation and Gender Identity**

* Alp Biricik, “‘Erkek adam’ Ezberini Bozmak Üzerine: Türkiye’de Toplumsal Cinsiyet Sisteminin Resmi Söylem Üzerinden Kurgulanması”
* Yasemin Öz, “Görünmezlik Kıskacında Lezbiyenler”
* Cüneyt Çakırlar, “Transnational Pride, Global Closets and Regional Formations of Screen Activism”
* İrem Az, “little prayer: may we house ambiguous grief in queer activism”
* [*Benim Çocuğum*](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=UZ-3mScG8yE) (dir. Can Candan, 2013) – *watch before class*

**Week 14 – May 24/25**

**General Discussion**