# HIST 524

# “Gender Issues in the Ottoman Empire and Turkish Republic”

Fall 2022-23

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**Course description**: This is a graduate survey course on various historical aspects of Ottoman and Republican Turkish women. It aims to provide in-depth knowledge concerning the following issues: Status of women according to Islamic law; court women in the Ottoman classical period; modernization and gender issues; beginnings of active state involvement in issues such as maternality and abortion; development of female education; growing participation of women in public life; family life, marriage, and divorce during Ottoman reform period; Young Ottoman and Young Turk views on the emancipation of women; female sexuality in Ottoman Turkish literature; gender issues during the Republican era.

**Grade assessment :** 1 Research Paper = 50

1 Final Exam = 50

**Participants should choose their paper topics as soon as possible, i.e. within 2 or 3 weeks following the course start. They are also expected to read ahead the required texts assigned for each course week indicated in the syllabus.**

## COURSE SCHEDULE

**Week 1 : General introduction. Presentation of the aims and structure of the course**

Theoretical, conceptual and historical discussion on notions of gender and feminism.

**Week 2 : Women according to Islamic doctrine**

“Women”, from *The* *Korân* (Transl. by George Sale) (London: Frederick Warne and Co. Ltd, n.d.), pp 71-96.

Barbara Stowasser : “Gender Issues and Contemporary Quran Interpretation”, in Yvonne Yazbeck Haddad & John L. Esposito (eds.), *Islam, Gender, & Social Change* (New York; Oxford : Oxford University Press, 1998), 30-44.

Joseph Schacht : *An Introduction to Islamic Law* (Oxford : At the Clarendon Press, 1964), pp161-168, 175-179.

Judith E.Tucker : *In the House of the Law. Gender and Islamic Law in Ottoman Syria and Palestine* (Berkeley; Los Angeles; London : University of California Press, 1998), 179-186.

**Week 3 : Court women in the Ottoman classical period**

L.Peirce: “Shifting Boundaries: Images of Ottoman Royal Women in the 16th and 17th Centuries”, *Critical Matrix* 4, Fall/Winter 1988, 43-82.

Fariba Zarinebaf: “Women, Patronage, and Charity in Ottoman Istanbul”, in Amira el-Azhary Sonbol, *Beyond the Exotic. Women’s History in Islamic Societies* (New York: Syracuse University Press, 2005), 89-101.

**Week 4 : Orientalists/travellers' views of Ottoman women**

Lady Mary Montagu : *Turkish Embassy* Letters (London : Virago Books, 1994), Letters 27, 30-32, 34, 36, 39-41, 46-48.

Meyda Yeğenoğlu : *Colonial Fantasies:* ***Towards a feminist reading of Orientalism*** (Cambridge UP, 1998), chapter 3 (“Supplementing the Orientalist Lack: European Ladies in the Harem”)

**Week 5 : Family life, marriage, and divorce during the Ottoman reform**

**period**

Fanny Davis : *The Ottoman Lady. A Social History From 1718 to 1918* (New York; Westport, Conn.; London : Greenwood Press, 1986), pp 61-97, 119-129.

Tuba Demirci: “Family, State and the Blurring of the Public and the Private: Ottoman State and the Emergence of “Marriage Proper” in the Second Half of the Nineteenth Century” (unpublished article)

**Week 6 : Ottoman reform era and state involvement in gender issues: The**

**issue of maternality and abortion**

Fanny Davis : *The Ottoman Lady. A Social History From 1718 to 1918* (New York; Westport, Conn.; London : Greenwood Press, 1986), pp 33-43.

Mervat F. Hatem : “The Professionalization of Health and the Control of Women’s Bodies as Modern Governmentalities in Nineteenth-Century Egypt”, in Madeline C. Zilfi (ed.): *Women in the Ottoman Empire. Middle Eastern Women in the Early Modern Era* (Leiden; New York; Köln : Brill, 1997), pp 66-80.

Tuba Demirci and Selçuk Akşin Somel: “Control over Feminine Body, Procreation and Public Health: Demography, Bio-Politics and Abortion in the Ottoman Empire (1789-1908)”

(*Journal of the History of Sexuality* Vol.17, September 2008)

**Week 7 : Government involvement in female education**

Berrak Burçak : The Status of the Elite Muslim Women in Istanbul under the Reign of Sultan Abdülhamid II (1876-1908). Unpublished MA Thesis (Ankara : Bilkent University, 1997), 11-13, 23-29, 41-77.

Fanny Davis : *The Ottoman Lady. A Social History From 1718 to 1918* (New York; Westport, Conn.; London : Greenwood Press, 1986), pp 45-60.

**Week 8 : The issue of participation of women in public life : Female instructors ; authors of journals ; women as a labor force**

Fanny Davis : *The Ottoman Lady. A Social History From 1718 to 1918* (New York; Westport, Conn.; London : Greenwood Press, 1986), pp 217-229.

Donald Quataert : “Ottoman Women, Households, and Textile Manufacturing, 1800-1914”, in Nikki R.Keddie and Beth Baron (eds.) : *Women in Middle Eastern History. Shifting Boundaries in Sex and Gender* (New Haven and London : Yale University Press, 1991), 161-176

**Week 9 : Emergence of Women’s Right Movements in the Late 19th and**

**Early 20th Centuries Ottoman Empire**

Fanny Davis : *The Ottoman Lady. A Social History From 1718 to 1918* (New York; Westport, Conn.; London : Greenwood Press, 1986), pp 229-243.

Aynur Demirdirek : “In Pursuit of the Ottoman Women’s Movement”, in Zehra F.Arat (ed.):

*Deconstructing Images of “The Turkish Woman”* (New York : St.Martin’s Press, 1998), pp 65-81.

**Week 10 : Halide Edib : An Ottoman author, activist, and feminist**

Edib, Adivar: “The Occupation of Smyrna and the Internal Upheaval”, from *The Turkish Ordeal* (New York & London: The Century Co., 1928), pp 19-50

Hulya Adak: “National Myths and Self-Narrations: Mustafa Kemal's Nutuk and Halide Edib's Memoirs and The Turkish Ordeal" in Irzik, Sibel and Guven Guzeldere, eds. Special edition of *The South Atlantic Quarterly: Relocating the Fault Lines: Turkey beyond the East-West Divide.* Vol. 102 (2/3) (Durham: Duke University Press, 2003), pp 509-529.

**Week 11 : Non-Muslim Women inthe Ottoman Empire**

Haris Exertzoglou: “The Cultural Uses of Consumption: Negotiating Class, Gender, and Nation in the Ottoman Urban Centers During the 19th Century”, *Int.J.Middle East Stud.* 35 (2003), 77-101.

Dobrinka Parousheva: “The Challenge of Change: Bulgarian Women in Late 19th and Early 20th Century”, *Études balkaniques* 3-4 (1998), 48-66.

Amnon Cohen: “A Tale of Two Women”, Avigdor Levy (ed.), *Jews, Turks, Ottomans. A Shared History, Fifteenth Through the Twentieth Century* (Syracuse, NY: Syracuse University Press, 2002), 119-126.

Rachel Simon: “Jewish Female Education in the Ottoman Empire, 1840-1914”, Avigdor Levy (ed.), *Jews, Turks, Ottomans. A Shared History, Fifteenth Through the Twentieth Century* (Syracuse, NY: Syracuse University Press, 2002), 127-152.

**Week 12 : Women and the Nation in Early Republican Period**

Yeşim Arat : “The Project of Modernity and Women in Turkey”, in S. Bozdoğan & R. Kasaba, eds., *Rethinking Modernity and National Identity in Turkey* (Seattle and London: University of Washington Press, 1997), pp.95-113. (available on electronic reserve under ALTINAY, CULT 291)

Ayse Gul Altinay : *The Myth of the Military Nation. Militarism, Gender, and Education in Turkey* (New York; Houndsmills, England: Palgrave-Macmillan, 2004), pp 33-58.

**Week 13 : Present State of Women and Feminism in Turkey**

Cenk Özbay ve Ayşecan Terzioğlu (derl.): *Türkiye’de Cinsiyet Kültürleri. Dicle Koğacıoğlu Kitabı* (İstanbul: İletişim Yayınları, 2019).

**Week 14 : Presentations**