

### PLEASE NOTE

We may have to revise the course plan according to the reassessment to be made country-wide, regarding higher education, at the beginning of April. The content to be delivered is certain but the method of course delivery, the number and dates of exams, and some other details are subject to change.

## HIST 233 – The Medieval Hero: East and West

### The Course

Designed as an introduction to reading and analyzing epic narratives, this course focuses on four such key types of works re-introduced in writing during the Middle Ages: the Shahnama, the Oghuznama, the Alexander Romance, and the Arthurian Legends. Introduced at the outset will be the main themes and narrative tools employed in the construction of epics; the common features which make a “hero”; and the relevant historical contexts. These will then be brought to bear on a close examination of the works in question, with the final case study of Alexander and the Romances serving to explore the common aspects of “Eastern” and “Western” epics and heroes. The course will conclude with a discussion of the afterlife of these epics.

**Instructor:** N. Zeynep Yelçe ([zeynep.yelce@sabanciuniv.edu](mailto:zeynep.yelce@sabanciuniv.edu))

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#### **Class Schedule**

Wednesday, 12:40-14:30 – Thursday, 13:40-14:30 (FASS G048)

#### **Office Hours – FASS 2021**

Wednesday, 15:00-16:00 or by appointment

### **Warning**

Please note that this course will be synchronous. Lecture videos will not be shared.

Please note that one module (weeks 5 and 6) of this course will be held in Turkish due to the nature of selected works. Although English translations of the relevant parts will be partially available, the discussions focusing on specific concepts will pursue in Turkish.

### **Time-Conflict Policy**

Time Conflict requests will not be accepted for this course.

### **Acknowledgement**

This syllabus is a contract between the instructor and the student. By taking this course, the student accepts the rules and requirements of the course.



**Course Requirements**

Attendance and participation	20 %
Reflection Portfolio	20 %
Midterm Exam	20 %
Final Exam	40 %

Exams constitute of around four essay questions. When answering the questions, you are expected to engage in contextual and conceptual discussion rather than citing exact dates and/or telling a story in detail.

Reflection Portfolio consists of four slides to be prepared as lectures proceed throughout the semester. Each slide contains your notes and reflections about the relevant legend and/or hero. The fifth slide is meant as an overall evaluation and analysis of all slides. No make-up will be offered for portfolio entries.

For more information, please see Course Information on SuCourse.

**Grading**

Your letter grade, as well as exam grades, is based on your individual performance. Requests for extra work or other compensation will not be accepted. E-mails concerning such requests will not be replied. Letter grades are calculated according to the following letter grade scale and are not open to negotiation.

min.	min.	min.	min.	min.	min.	min.	min.	min.	min.
59	64	68	72	76	80	84	88	92	96
D	D+	C-	C	C+	B-	B	B+	A-	A



### **Course Delivery Method**

Until further notice, I will be conducting the lectures on campus in our designated classroom. I will be more than happy if you join me in the classroom. We will, on the other hand, be using the campus infrastructure to enable online participation. Students may follow the lectures **synchronously** online.

Please note that lectures **will not** be uploaded for later access.

### **Attendance and Participation**

Attendance is compulsory in this course. Attendance follow-up starts at the end of the add-drop period. **Attendance is taken on an hourly basis during all sessions.** Failure to attend more than three hours requires points to be taken off the overall grade. **Students who miss 9 hours (regardless of medical reports) in total will automatically receive 0 points for Attendance and Participation.** For more information, please see Course Information on SuCourse.

Participation (contribution to class discussions, poll participation, general involvement, etc.) will be taken into consideration along with attendance in grade calculations.

### **Academic Honesty Policy**

HIST 233 does not tolerate dishonesty and plagiarism. Plagiarism is an ethical and academic offense. Papers with plagiarism issues will be graded F, and your semester grade may be F depending on the severity of the offense. The offense may also be referred to as the University Ethics Committee. For information on plagiarism, please see Course Information on SuCourse.

### **Students Affected by the Earthquakes**

Please get in touch with me for necessary accommodations.

### **Students with Special Needs**

It is the policy of Sabancı University to accommodate students with special needs and disabilities. To determine accommodations and/or academic adjustments, please contact [specialneeds@sabanciuniv.edu](mailto:specialneeds@sabanciuniv.edu).

### **Anti-Discrimination Policy**

HUM 201 classroom is free from all discrimination based on, including but not limited to, race, ethnicity, creed, religion, language, disability, gender, and sexual orientation. Students are expected to maintain this environment.



## **SUCOURSE and COMMUNICATION**

You are responsible for reading your e-mails, following course announcements, as well as exam and assignment dates. You can find all you need to know about the course in SuCourse.

**Homepage:** You can find my e-mail, office hour information, and class schedule here.

**Announcements:** This is the most important tab if you wish to make life easier. Our communication is through Announcements. All announcements and updates are posted here and simultaneously sent to your e-mail address. You are responsible for reading all e-mails and announcements carefully. If you lose or cannot find an e-mail or cannot remember a date, check the Announcements.

**Syllabus:** You can find the syllabus for the whole semester here. For updates, follow the Announcements and Course Information.

**Course Information:** This tab is regularly updated. You can find important information about Discussion and Office Hours, Portfolio Instructions, Exam Rules, Tips for Papers and Exams, Plagiarism, as well as Tips for Remote Learning.

**Lectures:** You can find lecture slides in pdf format here. Lecture videos will not be shared.

**Reading:** The list and links to our sources are provided here. Sources are provided as either online e-books, e-pub or pdf files. Access to these sources will be removed as soon as the semester officially ends.

**Portfolio:** This is where you upload your Portfolio slides.

**Stuff to Explore:** Interesting and useful websites and other material, not mandatory.

**Attendance:** You can follow your attendance (not participation) here.





## COURSE SCHEDULE

**WEEK 01. Mar 01-02 : Introduction**

**WEEK 02. Mar 08-09 : Medieval Life and the Medieval Hero**

**WEEK 03. Mar 15-16 : The Shahnameh**

Read: Ferdowsi, *Shahnameh*, pp. 38-80 (parts on the legendary kings)

**WEEK 04. Mar 22-23 : Rostam and the *Shahnameh***

Read: Ferdowsi, *Shahnameh*, pp. 179-198 (Seven Trials of Rostam)

Due: Reflection Slide 1 (March 27, Sunday, 23:00)

**WEEK 05. Mar 29-30 : Oguz and Oguznama**

Read: *Oğuz Destanı: Reşideddin Oğuznâmesi*, pp. 17-49; *Oğuz Kağan Destanı*; "Tevarih-i Al-i Selçuk Oğuznamesi," pp. 163-99.

**WEEK 06. Apr 05-06 : Oguznama and the Book of Dede Korkud**

Read: "Dirse Han Oğlu Boğaç Han", "Basat Depegözi Öldürdigi"

Due: Reflection Slide 2 (April 09, Sunday, 23:00)

**WEEK 07. Apr 12 : Midterm Exam**

**WEEK 08. April 19 : Arthurian Legends**

Read: Selections from *The History of the Kings of Britain*

**WEEK 09. April 26-27 : Arthur and The Quest of the Holy Grail**

Read: Selections from *Le Morte d'Arthur*

Due: Reflection Slide 3 (April 30, Sunday, 23:00)



**WEEK 10. May 03-04 : Alexander the Great and Alexander Romances**

Read: Ferdowsi, *Shahnameh*, pp. 441-528 (parts on Alexander), and Pseudo-Callisthenes, *The Greek Alexander Romance*.

**WEEK 11. May 10-11 : Alexander and Iskandar**

Read: Ferdowsi, *Shahnameh*, pp. 441-528 (parts on Alexander), and Pseudo-Callisthenes, *The Greek Alexander Romance*.

Due: Reflection Slide 4 (May 14, Sunday, 23:00)

**WEEK 12. May 17-18 : Modern Re-presentations**

Watch : Indiana Jones and the Last Crusade (1989) director: Steven Spielberg  
(available on Netflix)

Read : Aronstein, "Not Exactly a Knight"

**WEEK 13. May 24-25 : The Hero in Medieval Fantasy: "The Witcher"**

Watch : The Witcher (2019) – Season 1  
(available on Netflix)

Due: Reflection Portfolio in full (May 28, Sunday, 23:00)

**WEEK 14. May 31: Conclusion**

**June 01-11: Final Exam to be announced by Student Resources**