

HIST 489/589: From Empire to Republic

Instructor: Ayşe Ozil
Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences
Fall 2024

Wednesdays 10:40-13.30, FASS 1080

Office hours: by e-mail appointment

Course content: This course offers a survey of the history of the late Ottoman Empire and the transition to Republican Turkey. The focus will be on the main aspects of the political and social sphere from the 19th through the early 20th centuries. At the end of the course, students are expected to have a grasp of the central features of the late Ottoman and early republican state and society, including issues of reform, mobility, subjecthood, and urbanization, among others. Students are also expected to familiarize themselves with discussions in scholarship on the period.

Course format: Students are expected to complete the assigned readings before each session and actively participate in discussions. Students are responsible for **checking *sucourse* regularly** to follow weekly pacing and announcements. Students will upload all assignments on SUCourse+.

Attendance and informed participation: Students must attend every session and actively participate in an informed manner.

Assessment and evaluation (for 489) Assessment and evaluation (for 589)

mid-term examination (40 %)	take-home examination (final paper) (30 %) abstract (10 %)
informed participation and presentation in class (20 %)	informed participation and presentation in class (20 %)
final examination (40 %)	final examination (40 %)

Presentation in session: Students will make a 15-minute presentation in class based on an assigned reading from or outside the syllabus. This reading will be assigned on SuCourse+ a week prior to the presentation. The presentation is expected to give an informed summary of the assigned text in relation to the session topic and relate it to the other topics discussed in the course. The presentation will include the main points raised in the text, its argumentation and sources/evidence used. **Deadline** to choose a session for presentation and inform the instructor by e-mail (on a first-come first-served basis): Oct 9.

Take-home examination (Final paper for 589): Students choose a topic from (or related to) the syllabus, submit the title, a 500-word abstract and a preliminary bibliography (at least 10 items) for their final paper (**deadline: week 7, at the end of the mid-term**). The final paper (4000 words) must include discussion/references to at least 5 subjects/questions raised in class and the readings. Students submit their final

paper (**deadline: Jan 7**) For references and bibliography, use the Chicago manual of style: http://www.chicagomanualofstyle.org/tools_citationguide/citation-guide-1.html

Plagiarism and academic dishonesty: Plagiarism includes copying from books or journals, duplicating the work of fellow students, and copying or downloading materials from the internet. Also, students should not use AI or AI-related tools for any coursework. Plagiarism or academic dishonesty of any kind and extent will have results that reach from an F for the assignment to an F for the course or disciplinary action. (Disciplinary action means that the student is referred to the Disciplinary Committee. The penalty decided upon by the Committee may lead to the dismissal of the student from the University.)

Course outline and required readings: Required readings and extra reading material will be available on SUCourse+ or on IC online. Course content, requirements and policies are subject to change at the discretion of the instructor.

Week 1: Introduction

Readings: Frederick Anscombe, *State, Faith and Nation in Ottoman and Post-Ottoman Lands* (Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 2014) Ch. 2: “The Premodern Islamic State and Military Modernization”.

Ali Yaycıoğlu, *Partners of the Empire: The Crisis of the Ottoman Order in the Age of Revolutions* (Stanford: Stanford University Press, 2016): Introduction, Chs.1/II: “The New Order”.

Week 2: Crisis and change at the turn of the 19th century

Readings: Ali Yaycıoğlu, *Partners of the Empire: The Crisis of the Ottoman Order in the Age of Revolutions* (Stanford: Stanford University Press, 2016), Ch. 3: “Communities: Collective Action, Leadership and Politics”, Ch. 4: “Crisis: Riots, Conspiracies, and Revolutions, 1806-1808”.

Murat Şiviloğlu, *The Emergence of the Public Opinion* (Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 2018), Ch. 2.: “A Bureaucratic Public Sphere”.

Week 3: The empire’s first nation-state: the Greek war of independence (1821)

Readings: Hakan Erdem, “ ‘Do not Think of the Greeks as Agricultural Labourers’: Ottoman Responses to the Greek War of Independence”, in *Citizenship and the Nation-state in Greece and Turkey*, eds. F. Birttek and T. Dragonas (New York: Routledge, 2005), 67-84.

Sophia Laiou, “The Greek Revolution in the Morea According to the Description of an Ottoman Official”, in *The Greek Revolution of 1821: A European Event*, ed. P. Pizaniyas (Istanbul: The Isis Press, 2011), 241-255.

Mark Mazower, *The Greek Revolution: 1821 and the Making of Modern Europe* (London: Allen Lane, 2021), Ch. 6: “Khurshid Pasha’s Harem”.

[**Primary Source:** Proclamation of Greek Independence by Alexandros Ypsilantis.]

Week 4: The Tanzimat state I: The Gülhane edict

Readings: Halil İnalçık, “Sened-i İttifak ve Gülhane Hatt-ı Hümayunu”, in Halil İnalçık, *Osmanlı İmparatorluğu* (Istanbul: Eren, 1993).

Butros Abu-Manneh, “The Islamic Roots of the Gülhane Rescript”, *Die Welt des Islams* 34/2 (1994), 173-203.

Edhem Eldem, “Tanzimat Hatt-ı Hümayunu’nu (1839) Baştan Okuma”, *Tarih ve Toplum: Yeni Yaklaşımlar*, 22 (2022), 9-97.

[Alternative reading for English speakers: Şükrü Hanioglu, *A Brief History of the Late Ottoman Empire* (Princeton: Princeton University Press, 2008), Ch. 4: The Tanzimat Era]

[**Primary Source:** “Gülhane Hatt-ı Hümayunu”, in Enver Ziya Karal, *Osmanlı Tarihi* (Ankara: TTK, 1995), vol. 5: 255-258; English translation: <https://www.anayasa.gen.tr/gulhane.htm>]

Week 5: The Tanzimat state II: Reform and the quest for parliamentary rule

Readings: Selim Deringil, *Conversion and Apostasy in the Late Ottoman Empire* (Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 2012): Ch. 1: “Avoiding the Imperial Headache: Conversion, Apostasy and the Tanzimat State”.

Şerif Mardin, *The Genesis of Young Ottoman Thought* (Princeton: Princeton University Press, 1962), Ch. 2: “The Young Ottomans”.

Erdem Sönmez, “From *Kanun-ı kadim* (ancient law) to *Umumun Kuvveti* (force of people): Historical Context of Ottoman Constitutionalism”, *Middle Eastern Studies*, 52/1 (2016), 116-134.

[**Primary Source:** “Islahat Ferman-ı Hümayunu”, in Enver Ziya Karal, *Osmanlı Tarihi* (Ankara: TTK, 1995), vol. 5: 258-264; English translation: <https://www.anayasa.gen.tr/reform.htm>]

Week 6: Language, politics and class in the 19th century

Readings: Özgür TÜresay, “The Political Language of *Takvim-i vekayi*: The Discourse and Temporality of Ottoman ‘Reform’” (1831-1834), *European Journal of Turkish Studies*, no. 31 (2020) (online journal)

Foti Benlisoy and Stefo Benlisoy, “‘Karamanlılar’, ‘Anadolu Ahalisi’ ve ‘Aşağı Tabakalar’: Türkdilli Anadolu Ortodokslarında Kimlik Algısı”, *Tarih ve Toplum*, no. 11 (2010), 7-22.

[Alternative reading for English speakers: Foti Benlisoy and Stefo Benlisoy, “Reading the Identity of ‘Karamanlı’ through the Pages of *Anatoli*”, in *Cries and Whispers in Karamanlidika Books*, eds. E. Balta and M. Kappler (Wiesbaden: Harrassowitz Verlag, 2010), pp. 93-108.]

Week 7: Mid-term examination during class hours on Wednesday for 489 and paper abstract preparation and submission for 589.

Week 8: Education from the empire to the nation-state

Readings: Benjamin Fortna, *The Imperial Classroom* (Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2002), Ch. 5: Maps.

Murat Şiviloğlu, *The Emergence of the Public Opinion* (Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 2018), Ch. 4.: “The Schooling of the Public”.

Amit Bein, *Ottoman Ulema, Turkish Republic: Agents of Change and Guardians of Tradition* (Stanford: Stanford University Press, 2011), Ch. 4: “The Remaking and Unmaking of Religious Education”.

Week 9: Ottoman society in the 19th century: Histories of migration

Readings: Reşat Kasaba, *A Movable Empire: Ottoman Nomads, Migrants and Refugees* (Seattle: University of Washington Press, 2009), Ch. 2: “A Movable Empire” and Ch. 4: “Building Stasis”.

Vladimir Hamed-Troyansky, *Empire of Refugees* (Stanford: Stanford University Press, 2024), Part I: Refugee Migration.

Week 10: Aspects of Mobility and the Making of Borders from the Empire to the Republic

Readings: Berke Torunoğlu, “Ottoman Diplomacy in Greece: The Case of Syros, 1830-1900”, *Middle Eastern Studies* 2024, pp. 1-12.

Ramazan Hakkı Öztan, “The Last Ottoman Merchants: Regional Trade and Politics of Tariffs in Aleppo’s Hinterland”, in *Regimes of Mobility: Borders and State Formation in the Middle East 1918-1946*, eds. J. Tejel and R. H. Öztan (Edinburgh: Edinburgh University Press, 2022).

Week 11: Subjecthood and Citizenship

Readings: Will Hanley, “What Ottoman Nationality Was and Was Not”, *Journal of the Ottoman and Turkish Studies Association*, 3/2 (2016), pp. 277-298.

Berna Kamay, “The Ottoman Empire, the United States and the Legal Battle over Extradition: the ‘Kelly’ Affair”, *New Perspectives on Turkey*, 65 (2021), pp. 78-99.

Week 12: Critical Perspectives on Early Republican State and Society

Erdem Sönmez, “A Past to be Forgotten? Writing Ottoman History in Early Republican Turkey”, *British Journal of Middle Eastern Studies*, 48/4 (2021), pp. 753-769.

Alexandros Lamprou, “Political Petitioning, Denunciation, and State-Society Relations during the Single-Party Period in Turkey”, *Turkish Studies* 18/3 (2017), pp. 514-541.

Sevgi Adak, *Anti-Veiling Campaigns in Turkey: State, Society, and Gender in the Early Republic* (London, Bloomsbury, 2022), excerpts.

Week 13: Architecture from the empire to the nation-state

Readings: Ahmet Ersoy, “Architecture and the Search for Ottoman Origins in the Tanzimat Period”, *Muqarnas* 24 (2007), 117-139.

Sibel Bozdoğan and Esra Akcan, *Turkey: Modern Architectures in History* (London: Reaktion Books, 2012), Introduction, Ch. 1: “Architecture of Revolution”; Ch. 2: “Building for the Modern Nation State”; Ch. 3: “The Modern House” ([IC: online access](#)).