**The Ottoman Empire -13th to 18th centuries**

**Instructor: Seema Alavi**

**Evaluation: 25% class discussions; 25% mid -term assignment; 50% end term assignment**

**The Course**

This course studies the making of the Ottoman Empire from the 13th to the 18th centuries. It focusses on the complex network of alliances, and forms of communication that sustained and reproduced empires in the pluralistic and diverse socio-cultural settings embraced by the early Ottomans. It discusses the making of Ottoman political sovereignty and economy in the early modern period in the backdrop of the many challenges faced by the Empire.

The course has a comparative edge, and encourages us to think about the deep cultural and intellectual affinities that the Ottoman empire had with the Mughals and the Safavids in India and Iran respectively.

**Schedule**

**Week 1-2:** Asia Minor Before the Ottomans: An Overview

**Week 3-4**: The Early Ottomans: The idea of frontier and gazi.

**Week 5-6:** Disintegration and Reintegration: Fall of Constantinople /Conquest of Istanbul (1453).

**Week 7-8:**  Centralization and its discontents: key institutions

**Week 9-10:** The making ofImperial Sovereignty

**Week 11-12:** Interpretations of Ottoman Economy

**Week 13** Ottoman court culture

Early Ottomans: The idea of frontier and

4The Early **Essential Readings**

**Essential Readings**

**Week 1-2;** The objective of this unit is to acquaint the students with the political culture in the region before the emergence of the Ottoman empire

* Albert Hourani, *The Emergence of the Modern Middle East* (London: Macmillan, 1981)
* Speros Jr. Vryonis, *The Decline of Medieval Hellinism in Asia Minor and the Process of Islamization from the Eleventh through the Fifteenth Century* (Berkeley: University of California Press, 1971), pp.69-133.
* David Morgan, *Medieval Persia, 1040-1797* (London: Routledge, 1988), 25-33
* S. Vryonis,’Nomadization and Islamization in Asia Minor’, *Studies in Byzantium*, 29 (1975), 41-71
* David Morgan, *The Mongols* (Oxford: Wiley-Blackwell, 2007)
* David Morgan, *Medieval Persia, 1040-1797* (London: Routledge, 1988), 51-61

**Week 3-4:** This unit covers the early history of the Ottoman empire, focusing on the conquests and the ideologies of warfare

* Cemal Kafadar, *Between Two Worlds: The Construction of the Ottoman State* (Berkeley: University of California Press, 1996)
* H. Inalcik, *The Ottoman Empire: the classical age, 1300-1600* (New Haven: Phoenix Press, 1994)
* H.Inalcik, ‘The Ottoman Turks and the crusades 1329-1451’, in K.Setton, ed. *History of the Crusades* (Wisconsin: Wisconsin University Press, 1969), Vol. IV: 222-54.

**Week 5-6:** This unit covers the developments up till the fall of Constantinople, and looks at the socio-political consequences

* H. Inalcik, *The Ottoman Empire: The Classical Age, 1300-1600* (New Haven: Phoenix Press, 2001), pp.17-22
* Steven Runciman, *The Fall of Constantinople, 1453* (Cambridge: CUP, 1990)
* Marios Philippides and Walter Hanak, *The Siege and the Fall of Constantinople in 1453: Historiography, Topography and Military Studies* (Farnham, UK: Ashgate, 2011)

**Week 7-8:** This unit covers the administrative institutions in the Ottoman empire, and examines the technology of rule

* H. Inalcik, *The Ottoman Empire: The Classical Age, 1300-1600* (New Haven: Phoenix Press, 2001)
* Linda Darling, *Revenue-Raising and Legitimacy: Tax Collection and Finance Administration in the Ottoman Empire* (Leiden: Brill, 1996)
* Haim Gerber, *State, Society, and Law in Islam: Ottoman Law in Comparative Perspective* (New York: State University of New York Press, 1994)
* Suraiya Faroqhi, ‘*Vakif* Administration in Sixteenth Century Konya: The Zavaye of Sadreddin-i-Konevi’, *Journal of the Economic and Social History of the Orient,* 17, 3 (May 1974), 145-72
* Karen Barkey, *Empire of Difference: The Ottomans in Comparative Perspective* (Cambridge: CUP, 2008)

**Week 9-10:** The making of Imperial sovereignty

* H. Inalcik, *The Ottoman Empire: The Classical Age, 1300-1600* (New Haven: Phoenix Press, 2001)
* Linda Darling, *Revenue-Raising and Legitimacy: Tax Collection and Finance Administration in the Ottoman Empire* (Leiden: Brill, 1996)
* Karen Barkey, *Empire of Difference: The Ottomans in Comparative Perspective* (Cambridge: CUP, 2008)

**(Week 11-12):** This unit looks at the economic developments in the Ottoman empire, and examines the historiography on the empire’s economic relations with Europe

* Huri İslamoğlu-İnan, ed., *The Ottoman Empire and the World Economy,* (Cambridge and Paris: Cambridge University Press and Maison des Sciences de l’Homme, reprint 1987)
* Ömer Lütfi Barkan, ‘The Price Revolution of the Sixteenth Century: A Turning Point in the Economic History of the Near East’, *International Journal of Middle East Studies,* VI (1975), pp. 3-28.
* Suraiya Faroqhi, *Towns and Townsmen of Ottoman Anatolia, Trade, Crafts, and Food Production in an Urban Setting 1520-1650* (Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 1984),
* Immanuel Wallerstein, The Ottoman Empire and the Capitalist World-Economy’, *Review (Fernand Braudel Center),* Vol. 2, No. 3 (Winter, 1979), pp. 389-99
* Halil Inalcik and Donald Quataert (eds.), *An Economic and Social History of the Ottoman Empire* (1994)

.

**(week 13):** This unit examines the cultural trends and literary culture in the Ottoman empire

* Ethel Sara Wolper, *Cities and Saints: Sufism and the Transformation of Urban Space in Medieval Anatolia* (University Park: Pennsylvania State University Press, 2003)
* Ahmed Yasar Ocak (ed.), *Sufism and Sufis in Ottoman Society* (Ankara, 2005)
* Walter G. Andrews & Mehmet Kalpakli, *The Age of the Beloveds: Love and the Beloved in Early-Modern Ottoman and European Culture and Society* (Durham, North Carolina: Duke University Press, 2004)
* Linda T Darling, ‘Political Literature and the development of an Ottoman Imperial culture in the Fifteenth century,’ *Journal of the Ottoman and Turkish Studies Association*, 1 (1-2), 2014.

**Additional Reading**

Inalcık, Halil. ‘Impact of the Annales School on Ottoman Studies and New Findings’. *Review* 1 (1978): 69–96.

Trevor-Roper, H.R. ‘Fernand Braudel, the Annales, and the Mediterranean’. *Journal of Modern History* 44 (1972): 468–79.

Stephen F. Dale, *The Muslim Empires of the Ottomans, Safavids and Mughals* (Cambridge: CUP, 2009)

Lauren Benton, *Law and Colonial Cultures: Legal Pluralism in World History, 1400-1900* (Cambridge: CUP, 2001)

Lauren Benton and Richard J. Ross (eds.), *Legal Pluralism and Empires, 1500-1850* (New York: NYU Press, 2013)

Fernand Braudel, *The Mediterranean and the Mediterranean World in the Age of Philip II.* Trans. S. Reynolds, 2 vols. (London: William Collins Sons, 1972)

Suraiya Faroqhi (ed.), *The Cambridge History of Turkey* (Cambridge: CUP, 2006), 3 vols.