

**HIST 4376
THE OTTOMAN EMPIRE (1299-1566)**

FALL 2012
TR, 1:00-2:15
JO 4.102

Professor Contact Information

Cihan Yuksel Muslu
cihanyuksel@utdallas.edu
Office Phone: 972 883 4930
Office JO 5.110
Office Hours: by appointment

Teaching Assistant

Jeremy Prince
jeremy.m.prince@student.utdallas.edu
Office Hours: BY APPOINTMENT

Course Pre-requisites, Co-requisites, and/or Other Restrictions

No pre-requisites.

Course Description

This course studies the history of the Ottoman Empire from its rise in the late thirteenth century to the mid-sixteenth century. As the Seljuk authority disintegrated in the aftermath of Mongol attacks, Asia Minor witnessed the emergence of principalities in the thirteenth century. The Ottoman principality, which was initially a minor one among its more powerful peers, became a world power by the mid-fifteenth century. Discussing the political and social conditions in thirteenth-century Asia Minor, the course analyses the transformation of the Ottoman principality into a leading Mediterranean sea-power. Institutions which were pillars of the Islamic societies for centuries (i.e. *vakif* or pious endowments) are discussed. The recurrent dynamics of Ottoman history such as centralization and decentralization are treated. The 'decline' paradigm is discussed. Institutions that contributed to the longevity of the empire are treated. The empire's role in the larger context of world history is emphasized, in addition to the dynamics of empire-building process.

Student Learning Objectives/Outcomes

Students will be introduced to a significant period in Middle Eastern and World histories.

The course aims to familiarize the students not only with the chronology of the Ottoman Empire, but also with the recent arguments and ideas in the field.

Student will read a selection of Ottoman primary sources and will be asked to discuss the primary sources critically.

Required Textbooks and Materials

Halil Inalcik, *The Ottoman Empire: the Classical Age, 1300-1600*

Suggested Course Materials

Karen Armstrong, *Islam: A Short History* (New York, 2000)

For those who are interested in reading more about the Islam. The book has also a useful chronology at the beginning.

Academic Calendar & Assignments

August 28, 2011 / Th: Syllabus and Introduction

August 30: GLOSSARY AND MAP

September 4: MAP QUIZ!

September 6: TBA

September 11: Turks before Asia Minor

Findley, *The Turks in World History*, Selections from Chapter 1, 28-52. (available as an e-book in our library catalogue)

September 13: Turks and Islam

Findley, pp. 56-75(Chp.2) (available as an e-book in our library catalogue)

September 18: Asia Minor before and after the Turks

Vryonis, "Nomadization and Islamization in Asia Minor," *Dumbarton Oaks Papers* 29(1975), 43-71. (Available online)

September 20: The Origins of the Ottomans: History and Historiography

Inalcik, Introduction and Chapter 1

September 25: "The Ottoman Emirate: From Triumph to Disaster"

Inalcik, chp.2

*Ibn Battuta, *The Travels of Ibn Battuta*, tr. Gibb, pp. 413-468.

*Arnakis, "Gregory Palamas," *Speculum* 26 (1951) (available online)

September 27: "The Ottoman Emirate: Civil War and Recovery"

Inalcik, Chp. 3

October 2: "The Ottoman Empire: Conquest and Consolidation"

Inalcik, Chps. 4 and 5

October 4: Review

October 9: Exam

October 11: Building an Empire: Dynasty

Inalcik, Chps. 5, 7, and 8

*Selections from Anonymous Chronicle regarding Bayezid I's policies. (Edited and Translated by Bernard Lewis, *Islam from the Prophet Muhammed to the Capture of Constantinople*, v.1, pp.135-141)

October 16: State and Law

Inalcik, chp.10

October 18: The Palace and the Central Administration

Inalcik, chps. 11 and 12

October 23: Provincial Administration

Inalcik, Chps. 13

October 25: Religion, Law, and Learning

Inalcik, chps. 16 and 17

"The Biography of an Ottoman Jurist (1350-1451)," from *Islam from the Prophet Muhammad to the Capture of Constantinople*, edited and translated by Bernard Lewis, vol. 2, pp.45-49.

October 30: Army

Imber, *The Ottoman Empire*, 2nd edition, chp.8 (pp.262-295)

November 1: TBA

November 6: Navy

Imber, *The Ottoman Empire*, 2nd edition, chp.9 (pp.295-323)

Hess, Andrew. "The Evolution of the Ottoman Seaborne Empire in the Age of Oceanic Discoveries," *Americal Historical Review* 75: 1892-1919

Fleet, "Early Turkish Naval Activities," in *Oriente Moderno: The Ottomans and the Sea*, ed. Fleet (2001).

November 8: Sources of Revenue and Economic Life

Inalcik, Chps.14 and 15

Dursteler, "Commerce and Coexistence: Veneto-Ottoman Trade in the Early Modern Era," *Turcica* 34(2002): 105-111 (not the entire article!)

November 13: Social and Urban Life

Boyar and Fleet, "Welfare" in *A Social History of Ottoman Istanbul* (Cambridge, 2010)

November 15: Social and Urban Life II

Inalcik, chps.18 and 19

Hattox, *Coffee and Coffee Houses*, 72-82 and 92-111.

November 20: Fall / Thanksgiving Break

November 22: Thanksgiving Break

November 27: Making of an Imperial Capital: Bursa, Edirne, Istanbul

Inalcik, "The Policy of Mehmed II Towards the Greek Population of Istanbul," in *Dumbarton Oaks Papers* (1969-1970), 231-249.

November 29: Art and Architecture

Necipoglu, "Suleyman the Magnificent and the Repression of Power in the Context of Ottoman-Habsburg-Papal Rivalry," in *Suleyman and His Time*, edited by Inalcik and Kafadar, 163-91.

December 4: Non-Muslims in the Empire

TBA

Ogier Ghiselin de Busbecq, *The Turkish Letters of Ogier Ghiselin de Busbecq*. Translated by Forster. First printed in 1927. (Baton Rouge: Louisiana State University Press, 2008), Foreword, Introduction, and Letter I (pp.1-76)

December 6: The Concept of Decline

Inalcik, chp.6

Kafadar, "The Ottomans and Europe," in *Handbook of European History*, eds. Brady and Oberman, 589-635.

December 11: Concluding remarks

December X is our official final exam schedule.

Grading Policy

Participation	50	
Attendance	50	
Mapquiz	30	
3 pop quizzes on readings	90	(3 out of 5)
Midterm	100	
Final Exam	180	
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	500	

- **In order to get a grade in this class, you have to complete all assignments!**
- **Class participation:** You are expected to participate in class discussions by incorporating information from assigned readings and lectures.
- **Attendance:** I will pass around a sign-in sheet at the beginning of every class. You are allowed to miss up to three classes.
- **Midterm and Final Exam:** I will provide you with detailed instructions before the exam.
- **Final Exam:** I may substitute the exam with a paper on a primary source reading.
- Please make sure that you consult the following link for school policies regarding issues such as student conduct and academic integrity, <http://go.utdallas.edu/syllabus-policies> Students are expected to know these policies.
- ***These descriptions and timelines are subject to change at the discretion of the Professor.***