



Instructor: Ismail Noyan

Office Hour: Tuesday 1:30-2:20 AQ 6243

Hist 486 Political Thought and Action in the Ottoman Mediterranean during the long 19th century

Course details:

The overall aim of the course is to explore the political and economic transformation of the Ottoman Empire with a specific emphasis on political thoughts and their implementation across the Ottoman Mediterranean during the long 19th century. The first two weeks are dedicated to providing a brief background on the Ottoman Empire prior to the 19th century and also familiarizing students with the decline paradigm as it used to be the prevalent intellectual setting within which the Ottoman modernizations were discussed. In roughly chronological order, we analyze the roots, articulation, and implementation of political ideas and actions by traveling around the Ottoman Mediterranean (Algeria, Egypt, Syria, Lebanon, Anatolia, and the Ottoman Balkans). The course explores some key figures of the period including Mehmed Ali Pasha (1769-1849), Ahmet Cevdet Pasha (1823-1895), Butrus al-Bustani (1819-1883), and Muhammad Abduh (1849-1905). However, we will also pay attention to historically excluded groups such as non-elites, women, non-Muslims, and slaves and their understanding of and contribution to these major changes.

Course-level educational goals:

By the end of this course students will:

- have a better toolkit to examine the transformation of the Ottoman Empire in the long 19th century.

- Engage with scholarly debates and familiarize themselves with the historiographical debates about political thought and actions in the late Ottoman context.
- Make comparisons and relate with the content of previously taken History courses to better discern shared patterns across the World and the specifics of the Ottoman case if there is any.
- be able to formulate a research question, develop an argument and write a research essay.

Assessment

- Active class participation 20%
- In-class presentation of one of the week's readings 20%
- Outline 10% by July 23, 2023
- In-class presentation of the final project 10% on August 3, 2023
- Final project 40% by August 18, 2023

Materials:

Weekly readings will be available in electronic form through the SFU Library website.

Those with very little or no background information on the Ottoman Empire or the Middle East can consult the following books.

Hanioglu, M. Şükrü. *A Brief History of the Late Ottoman Empire*. New Jersey and Oxfordshire: Princeton University Press, 2008.

Worringer, Renee. *A Short History of the Ottoman Empire*. Toronto and London: University Of Toronto Press, 2021.

Topics to be covered

Topic 1: Introduction to Economic and Social History of the Ottoman Empire (1300-1600)

Quataert, Donald. *The Ottoman Empire 1700-1922*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 2005, Chapter 2 (pp. 13-36) and Chapter 3 (pp. 37-53).

Topic 2: Revisiting the Paradigm of Ottoman Decline

Lewis, Bernard. "Ottoman Observers of Ottoman Decline." *Islamic Studies* I, 1962, 71-87.

Kafadar, Cemal. "The Question of Ottoman Decline." *Harvard Middle Eastern and Islamic Review* 1-2, 1997-8, 30-75.

Tezcan, Baki. "The Second Ottoman Empire: The Transformation of the Ottoman Polity in the Early Modern Era." *Comparative Studies of South Asia, Africa and the Middle East*. 29 (3), 2009: 556-572). <https://doi.org/10.1215/1089201X-2009-038>

Topic 3: Modernization of the Ottoman Egypt

Fahmy, Khaled. *All the Pasha's Men: Mehmed Ali, His Army and the Making of Modern Egypt*. Cairo and New York: The American University in Cairo Press, 1997, introduction (pp. 1-37).

Fahmy, Khaled. *In Quest of Justice: Islamic Law and Forensic Medicine in Modern Egypt*. California: University of California Press, 2018, Chapter 1: Medicine, Enlightenment and Islam (pp. 39-80).

Topic 4: Greek Enlightenment (Naz Vardar will join us as a guest instructor)

Kostis, Kostas. *History's Spoiled Children: The Story of Modern Greece*. Oxford University Press, 2018. Chapter 1: The Empire Transforms (1700-1821), pp. 11-47.

Kitromilides, Paschalis. *Enlightenment and Revolution: The Making of Modern Greece*. Harvard University Press, 2013. pp. 175-196.

Philliou, Christine. *Biography of an Empire: Governing Ottomans in the Age of Revolution*. University of California Press, 2010. Chapter 1: The Houses of Phanar, Biography of an Empire I: Becoming.

Topic 5: Tanzimat Reforms

The Rescript of Gülhane *Tanzimat Fermanı* November 3, 1839

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

Petrov, Milen E.. "Everyday Forms of Compliance: Subaltern Commentaries on Ottoman Reform, 1864-1868," *Comparative Studies in Society and History* 46 (2004), pp. 730-759.

Topic 6:

A-)Sectarianism and its limits: The Case of Mount Lebanon, 1860

Makdisi, Ussama. "After 1860: Debating Religion, Reform, and Nationalism in the Ottoman Empire." *International Journal of Middle East Studies* 34, no. 4 (2002): 601-17. <http://www.jstor.org/stable/3879690>.

(Optional)

Al-Bustani, Butrus. *The Clarion of Syria: Patriot's call against the civil war of 1860*. Introduced and translated by Jens Hanssen and Hicham Safieddine. California: University of California Press, 2019, selections.

B-) Constitutionalism

Koçunyan, Aylin. "The Transcultural Dimension of the Ottoman Constitution." In *Well-Connected Domains: Towards an Entangled Ottoman History*, eds. Pascal W. Firges, Tobias P. Graf. Christian Roth, and Gülay Tukasoğlu. Leiden and Boston: Brill, 2014. 235-258.

(Optional)

Kaynar, Erdal. "Constitutionalism in the Middle East: From the Tanzimat to the Young Turk Revolution of 1908" , *Politika* 2017.

Retrieved from <https://www.politika.io/en/notice/constitutionalism-in-the-middle-east>

Topic 7: Islam and Modernity

Hallaq, Wael B. "Was the Gate of Ijtihad Closed?" *International Journal of Middle East Studies* 16, no. 1 (1984): 3–41. <http://www.jstor.org/stable/162939>.

Gesink, Indira Falk. *Islamic Reform and Conservatism: Al-Azhar and the Evolution of Modern Sunni Islam*. London and New York: I.B. Tauris Publishers, 2010, Chapter 8: Muhammad ‘Abduh and Ijtihad (pp. 165- 196).

Topic 8: Women and Modernity

Burçak, Berrak. "Hygienic beauty: discussing Ottoman-Muslim female beauty, health and hygiene in the Hamidian Era." *Middle Eastern Studies*, 54:3, 2018. 343-360, DOI: 10.1080/00263206.2018.1427073

Zachs, Fruma and Ben-Bassat, Yuval. "Women’s Visibility in Petitions from Greater Syria during the Late Ottoman Period," *International Journal of Middle East Studies* 47 (2015), pp. 765-781.

Berrak Burçak (2021): "The question of the corset’: fashion, health and identity in late Ottoman history." *British Journal of Middle Eastern Studies*, DOI:10.1080/13530194.2021.1959297

(optional)

Shakry, Omnia, "Schooled Mothers and Structured Play: Child Rearing in Turn-of-the-Century Egypt," in Lila Abu-Lughod, ed. *Remaking Women: Feminism and Modernity in the Middle East* (Princeton University Press, 1998), 126-170.

Topic 9: Global Intellectual networks

Aydın, Cemil, “The Emergence of Transnational Muslim Thought,” in *Arabic Thought Beyond the Liberal Age: Towards an Intellectual History of the Nahda, 1774-1914*, eds. Jens Hanssen and Max Weiss, (Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 2016), 121-141.

Khuri-Makdisi, İlham. *The Eastern Mediterranean and the Making of Global Radicalism, 1860-1914*. Berkeley: University of California Press, 2010, introduction and chapter 5.

Topic 10: Popular Protests in the long 19th century

Chalcraft, John. 2016. «Millenarianism, renewal, justice, rights and reform, 1798–1914». Chapter in. *Popular Politics in the Making of the Modern Middle East*, 54–197. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press. doi:10.1017/CBO9780511843952.003

Topic 11: WWI and Nationalism

Erik J. Zürcher, *Turkey. A Modern History*, pp. 109-120.

Hock, Stefan. “To Bring about a ‘Moral Renewal’: The Deportation of Sex Workers in the Ottoman Empire during the First World War.” *Journal of the History of Sexuality* 28.3 (September 2019), pp. 457-482.

Deringil, Selim. “The Study of the Armenian Crisis of the Late Ottoman Empire, or ‘Seizing the Document by the Throat.’” *New Perspectives on Turkey* 27 (Fall 2002), pp. 35-59.

Topic 12: Student presentations