

Modern Turkey

Emory University HIST 385-015/MESAS 370-002

MWF 10:40-11:30, Tarbutton Hall 321

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Office hours: Wednesdays, 1:45-3:45pm, Bowden 121 (Prof. Stein's office), or by appointment

The foundation of the modern republic of Turkey in 1923 was accompanied by sweeping religious, political, social, and linguistic reforms. Initiated by the founder of the Republic Mustafa Kemal Atatürk, these changes were intended to create a new, modern society by breaking with past traditions. Atatürk's vision of a new Turkey was realized to a great extent. But it is impossible to understand the social and political predicaments Turkey faces today – the rise of political Islam, the aspirations to join the European Union, the Kurdish problem, Turkey's place among Middle Eastern nations, its strategic relationship with the US and Israel – without exploring Turkey's Ottoman heritage.

This class consists of two parts. The first tells the story of the Ottoman Empire, Modern Turkey's predecessor, with emphasis on its last century and the factors that brought about its demise, as well as the history of Modern Turkey to this day. The second part will discuss contemporary issues in Turkish politics, society, and international relations.

Previous knowledge about the history of Modern Turkey, the Ottoman Empire or the Middle East is helpful, but not required. Historical background will be provided in lectures, as well as in the readings for most weeks.

Requirements:

1. Attendance – you are expected to show up to all classes. I treat our classes as if they were a personal appointment with each one of you, and expect you to do the same. If you cannot come to class for whatever reason, please e-mail me *in advance* to let me know about it. You have 3 grace absences for whatever reason during the semester. Your grade will begin to suffer from the 4th absence, and you will automatically receive an F grade for the course once you have reached 8 absences. There are no exceptions to this policy and no “excused” absences that do not count toward the 3 allowed ones. You are advised to use your grace absences wisely, including for illness.
2. Participation – you are expected to read/watch all assigned texts/videos as elaborated in the schedule below, and participate in class discussions that will be integrated within lectures. Readings and videos are not only essential to the understanding of course material; they also complement the information provided in lectures. The more elaborate or analytic your arguments and ideas in class are, the higher your grade for participation will be.

3. Small exams – there will be 2 small take-home open-books exams during the semester, due on 9/30 and 11/11. Each exam will consist of 2 large questions of which you will need to answer 1 (up to 4 pages), and 4 small questions of which you will answer 2 (no more than 1 page per answer). The exams will be based on materials covered up to that point in class and in the readings. Each exam will be worth 75 points (45 for the large question, 15 for each small one). Exam questions will be distributed electronically 24 hours before the time they are due.
4. Take-home open-books final exam – you will need to answer 2 out of 4 questions in no more than 10 double-spaced pages total. The final will be worth 200 points. Exam questions will be distributed via e-mail on Friday, 12/9 and your answers will be due by 7pm on Monday, 12/12. You will lose 5 points for each hour or part thereof your exam is late. I will not read final exams that are more than 12 hours late, no matter the reason. You must earn at least 120pts on the final exam to pass the course.

More information will be distributed before each exam.

Grading:

The maximum number of points you may earn for this course is 500. Grading will be distributed in the following manner:

Attendance – 50pts

Participation – 100pts

First exam – 75pts

Second exam – 75pts

Final exam - 200pts

Your final grade will be determined by your points balance as of 12/12/11, according to the following key: above 470 points: A; 450-469: A-; 430-449: B+; 410-429: B; 390-409: B-; 375-389: C+; 355-374: C; 340-354: C-; 330-339: D+; 300-329: D; less than 300: F.

You will not receive a final grade lower than what your total number of points is worth according to the key above, but I may decide to give you a higher grade.

Miscellaneous things you should know:

1. I care a lot about how you write. In fact, how you write is more important to me than what you say. I have a website dedicated to improving college students' writing skills (<http://www.writingmaster.net>). The website has all the information you may need on grammar, style, punctuation, and citing sources. When grading your written work, I will assume you are familiar with the rules described on this website. If you use facebook, I suggest you “like” this site and follow it to receive occasional writing and academic tips.

If you find it useful, feel free to spread the word and share this resource with your friends. It is free to use.

2. I have zero tolerance for academic integrity violations, and especially plagiarism. The rules of how to use sources properly are explained in the website I mentioned above. Not knowing the rules will not exempt you from the need to follow them. Even the slightest suspicion of plagiarism, cheating in the form of copying the work of another student or having someone write an exam for you, or any other violation of academic misconduct (see http://college.emory.edu/home/academic/policy/honor_code.html for more details) will result in an automatic F grade and a report being sent to the Honor Council.
3. Throughout the semester, we will watch a number of Turkish movies (with English subtitles). The movies will be available to you for viewing online (streaming). More details to follow.

Course Schedule:

There are two necessary purchases for this course, available from the Emory University Bookstore or amazon.com and other similar online stores:

Erik Zürcher, *Turkey: A Modern History* (London: I. B. Tauris, 2004) – use this edition only.

M. Hakan Yavuz, *Secularism and Muslim democracy in Turkey* (New York: Cambridge University Press, 2009).

In the schedule below, assignments from these two books appear as Zürcher or Yavuz.

Readings from other sources will be available via the course's website on Blackboard in PDF form. Most of the books mentioned in the schedule below are also available at the library (just look them up in the catalog). If you prefer to read from the books themselves instead of the PDFs, please do so in the library and do not check out the books, so others may have access to them as well.

Reading assignments/videos that appear under each week should be read/viewed *in preparation for* that week (with more precise per-class instructions given the week before). This preparation includes looking up information about the author of each text, and any other places, organizations, or people mentioned in the text that you have not heard of before. You may use the internet or any other credible source you like to dig out that information. Please note that a text or an argument is generally meaningless if we don't know anything about the author. Thus knowledge about the texts we read will be assumed when we discuss them in class.

Part I: Historical Survey

Week 1 – introduction, Turkey, the Ottomans, and the Middle East

Wednesday, 8/24 and Friday, 8/26

Week 2 – the Ottoman Empire until the late 18th century

Monday 8/29, Wednesday 8/31, and Friday 9/2

Kate Fleet, “The rise of the Ottomans” in: *The New Cambridge History of Islam* ed. Michael Cook (Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 2010), 2: 313-331.

Donald Quataert, *The Ottoman Empire, 1700-1922* (Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 2005), 13-53, 90-110, 142-173.

Week 3 – the reforms of the late 18th and early 19th centuries

Monday 9/5, Wednesday 9/7, and Friday, 9/9

Zürcher, 9-49.

P. J. Vatikiotis, *The History of Egypt from Muhammad Ali to Sadat* (London: Weidenfeld and Nicolson, 1969), 49-69.

Week 4 – Ottoman reforms in the 19th century (the Tanzimat and the reign of Sultan Abdülhamid II)

Monday 9/12, Wednesday 9/14, and Friday 9/16

Zürcher, 50-90.

Carter Findley, “The Tanzimat” and Benjamin Fortna, “The reign of Abdülhamid II” in: *The Cambridge History of Turkey* (Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 2008), 4: 11-61.

Week 5 – the final years of the Ottoman Empire and the rise of Atatürk

Monday 9/19, Wednesday 9/21, and Friday 9/23

Zürcher, 93-165.

Mustafa Kemal Atatürk, *A speech delivered by Mustafa Kemal Atatürk, 1927* (Istanbul: Ministry of Education, 1963), 587-599, 738-41.

Week 6 – the Republic of Turkey under Atatürk and his successors

Monday 9/26, Wednesday 9/28, and Friday 9/30

Zürcher, 166-240.

*** Friday 9/30 – first exam due***

Week 7 – Turkey from 1960 to the early 1990s

Monday 10/3, Wednesday 10/5, and Friday 10/7

Zürcher, 241-295.

Hugh and Nicole Pope, *Turkey Unveiled: A History of Modern Turkey* (New York: Overlook Press, 1997), 158-179.

Watch the movie: *Babam ve Oğlum* (My Father My Son), Turkey, 2005.

Week 8 – The rise of political Islam since the mid-1990s

Monday, 10/10 – no class, fall break.

Wednesday, 10/12 and Friday, 10/14.

Zürcher, 295-306.

Hugh and Nicole Pope, *Turkey Unveiled: A History of Modern Turkey* (New York: Overlook Press, 1997), 302-315.

Yavuz, 239-266.

Part II: Contemporary Turkish Politics, Society, and International Relations

Week 9 – Understanding the rise of the AKP, part I

Monday 10/17, Wednesday 10/19, and Friday 10/21

Yavuz, 1-78.

Nevval Sevindi (ed.), *Contemporary Islamic Conversations: M. Fethullah Gülen on Turkey, Islam, and the West* (Albany, NY: SUNY Press, 2008), 1-13, 79-92.

Interview with Fethullah Gülen, *Foreign Policy* 13 August 2008 (in PDF form).

Week 10 – Understanding the rise of the AKP, part II

Monday 10/24, Wednesday 10/26, and Friday 10/28

Yavuz, 79-170.

Week 11 – Turkey and the Kurdish problem

Monday 10/31, Wednesday 11/2, and Friday 11/4

Abdullah Öcalan, *Prison Writings: the Roots of Civilization* (London: Pluto Press, 2007), introduction + 1-2.

Henry Barkey and Graham Fuller, *Turkey's Kurdish Question* (Lanham, MD: Rowman & Littlefield Publishers, 1998), 5-19.

Michael Radu, “The Rise and Fall of the PKK,” in: *Dangerous Neighborhood: Contemporary Issues in Turkey's Foreign Relations* ed. Michael Radu (New Brunswick, NJ: Transaction Publishers, 2003), 143-164.

Yavuz, 171-201.

Watch movie: İki Dil Bir Bavul (on the way to school; literally: two languages, one suitcase), Turkey, 2009.

Week 12 – Turkey in Europe

Monday, 11/7 and Wednesday, 11/9

Levent Soysal, “The migration story of Turks in Germany: from the beginning to the end” in: *The Cambridge History of Turkey* (Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 2008), 4: 199-225.

Asa Lundgren, “The case of Turkey: are some candidates more ‘European’ than others?” in: *Questioning EU Enlargement* ed. Helene Sjursen (London: Routledge, 2006), 121-141.

Aslan Gündüz, “Turkey and Europe: the human rights conundrum” in: *Dangerous Neighborhood: Contemporary Issues in Turkey's Foreign Relations* ed. in: Michael Radu (New Brunswick, NJ: Transaction Publishers, 2003), 25-48.

*** Friday, 11/11 – second exam due ***

Week 13 – Turkey’s foreign relations

Monday 11/14, Wednesday 11/16, and Friday 11/18

Yavuz, 202-238.

A collection of essays from *Foreign Policy* in PDF form.

Watch the movie: *Osmanlı Cumhuriyeti* (The Ottoman Republic), Turkey, 2008.

Week 14 – women and human rights

Monday, 11/21 and Wednesday, 11/23

Merve Kavakcı, “Headscarf Heresy,” *Foreign Policy* 142 (2004), 66-67.

Emelie Olson, “Muslim identity and secularism in contemporary Turkey: the headscarf dispute” in: *Across the Boundaries of Belief* eds. Klass and Weisgrau (Boulder, CO: Westview, 1999), 291-302.

Yeşim Arat, “Feminists, Islamists, and Political Change in Turkey,” *Political Psychology* 19 (1998), 1: 117-131.

Human Rights Watch, “*We Need a Law for Liberation*”: *Gender, Sexuality, and Human Rights in a Changing Turkey* (New York: Human Rights Watch, 2008), 19-60.

Friday, 11/25 – no class, Thanksgiving

Week 15 – Istanbul and Turkish music

Monday 11/28, Wednesday 11/30, and Monday 12/5

Orhan Pamuk, *Istanbul: Memories and the City*, 3-16, 81-96, 121-132, 180-196, 202-210, 221-238, 251-257.

We will watch and discuss video clips of Turkish music in class.

Friday, 12/2 – no class, Middle East Studies Association annual conference.

Friday 12/9 – final exam questions distributed

Monday 12/12 – final exams due by 7pm.