

TURK 4300-680 ADVANCE TURKISH CULTURE AND MEDIA II
Spring 2025

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Office Hours: By appointment
Class Sessions: T 5:15pm-6:30pm

Turkish Culture and Media course students will explore Turkish cinema from its early years to the contemporary Turkish cinema through historical, cultural, political, and social perspectives. These perspectives will be illustrated with the iconic examples from Turkish cinema

Course Content: In this course we will cover Early Years of Turkish Cinema, Yeşilçam (From the beginning to the end), Political Cinema (Yilmaz Guney), Women in Turkish Cinema and Women's film, New Turkish Cinema, Turkish Cinema into the World Cinema. Movies and articles related to this content will be on Canvas for students to watch and read articles and literary texts related to these movies. Text and movies have been designated and uploaded in Canvas for discussions of the historical, social, cultural, and biographical contexts in which those movies were produced. Historical contexts and literary movements in various periods will be analyzed. Critical analyses and interpretation will take place in discussions of the relevance of course readings to the understanding of contemporary global issues.

Course Description:

This course offers students the opportunity to improve significantly written and spoken discourse strategies and raise language competence to an academic register. Students work across Turkish Language, literary genres, and media as they interpret and analyze cultural, political, and historical moments in Turkish movies. Special attention will be given to the development of an academic discourse style response papers, threaded discussions on movies. Films for this class are available to stream via Canvas. Course concludes with a collaborative project final paper.

Course Objectives:

To provide students with a broad perspective of approaches to world humanities and an understanding of the various ways in which they manifest themselves and assess students' ability to express their perspectives through response papers and essays. Course also aims to provide students with a deeper understanding of diverse traditions in the humanities by focusing this understanding in written homework, critical essays and a final paper. It is also targeted to provide an overview of textual analysis and interpretation methods at a graduate level and help students apply these skills in writing essay exams and critical essays.

Weekly Overview:

Week 1 – A Turkish TV series of your choice

Reading:

Article: <http://www.tandfonline.com/doi/abs/10.1080/00263200601079682>

Week 2-3-4-5-6-Yesilcam

Eskiya (The Bandit, Yavuz Turgul) in 1996

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=asA8bwJgndg>

Degirmen, Atif Yilmaz: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=d7HBuxJYGbg&t=38s>

Reading: Arslan, S. (2010). Cinema in Turkey: a new critical history. New York: Oxford University Press. Pp. 63-97

Erdogan, N. & Kaya, D. (2002). Institutional Intervention in the Distribution and Exhibition of Hollywood Films in Turkey. Historical Journal of Film, Radio and Television, 22:1, Pp. 47-59.

Week 7 Political Cinema:

Ac Kurtlar, Yilmaz Guney:

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=KFbcRztg7fQ&t=23s&ab_channel=G%C3%9CNEYF%C4%B0LMC%C4%B0L%C4%B0K

Reading: Donmez-Colin, G. (2008). Turkish Cinema: Identity, Distance and Belonging. London: Reaktion Books. Pp. 116-141 Akser, M. (2009). "Yilmaz Guney's Beatiful Losers: Idiom And Performance In Turkish Political Film" in Cinema and Politics: Turkish Cinema and New Europe. D. Bayrakdar (ed.). UK: Cambridge Scholars Publishing.

Week 8-9 Women in Turkish Cinema and Women's Film.

Cici Babam, Meltem Bozoflu

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Gf36hf8Jfl8&ab_channel=Be%C5%9Fikta%C5%9FK%C3%BClt%C3%BCrMerkezi%28BKM%29

Delikan, Atif Yilmaz, 1991: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=F9EPjdxylj8>

Reading: New York: Oxford University Press. Pp. 201-236 Donmez-Colin, G. (2008). Turkish Cinema: Identity, Distance and Belonging. London: Reaction Books. Pp. 142-179.

Week 10-11 1990's: Break from the past

Selvi Boylum Al yazmalim, Arif Keskiner

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=aDX9EwhZ8Xo&ab_channel=%C3%87i%C3%A7ekFilm%2F%C5%9EerefFilm

Reading: Suner, A. (2010). New Turkish Cinema: Belonging, Identity and Memory. London: I.B. Tauris. Pp. 1-23. Donmez-Colin, G. (2008). Turkish Cinema: Identity, Distance and Belonging. London: Reaktion Books. Pp. 180-223

Week 12-13 New Turkish Cinema

İki Dil Bir Bavul, Orhan Eskikoy, Ozgur Dogan

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=sJbCl8F2HS4&t=3s&ab_channel=MehmetAKG%C3%9CN

Derviş Zaim drew attention with his first film Tabutta Rovesata/ Somersault in a Coffin (1996).

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=jJ65xLjP0h8&ab_channel=%C3%A7er%C3%A7evetv

Bir Zamanlar Anadolu'da (Once Upon a Time in Anatolia, 2011)

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=4jKgHqU1jrs&list=PLuw65Xaa80Z0Ly_yY8zW4aixmICU4om_1&index=2

Zeki Demirkubuz: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=z1XVjy7Tsg&ab_channel=PostArtem

Chose one movie from Zeki Demirkuz and compare it with Nuri Bilge Ceylan's movies

Reading: Suner, A. (2010). New Turkish Cinema: Belonging, Identity and Memory. London: I.B. Tauris. Pp. 77-141 Suner, A. (2011). A lonely and beautiful country: reflecting upon the state of oblivion in Turkey through Nuri Bilge Ceylan's Three Monkeys. Inter-Asia Cultural Studies, 12:1. Pp. 13-27

Week 14-15 Turkish Cinema into the World Cinema

Fatih Akin, The Cut: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=qA7j6zvApPI&ab_channel=TheMatchFactory

Ferzan Ozpetek: Hamam: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=RJaZ0F0II0c>

Tolga Ornek, Gelibolu

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=qA7j6zvApPI&ab_channel=TheMatchFactory

Ayla, Can Ulkay

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=NnAk7F2OEHo&ab_channel=CANAYDIN

Reading: Elsaesser, T. (2005). European Cinema: Face To Face With Hollywood. Amsterdam: Amsterdam University Press. Pp. 485-514 Arslan, S. (2010). Cinema in Turkey: a new critical history. New York: Oxford University Press. Pp. 237-274.

Additonal Movies:

Patron Mutlu Son istiyor, Kivanc Baruönü

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=BCHgX3pAwAs&ab_channel=PatronMutluSon%C4%B0stiyor

Mutluluk, Abdullah Oguz

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=yiUzMaSZ38&ab_channel=NeKavgamBittiNeSevdam

Kelebegin Ruyasi, Yilmaz Erdogan

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=uN5XnFaLAcw&ab_channel=Y%C4%B1lmazErdo%C4%9Fan

Son Umut, Yilmaz Erdogan

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=VizITLqQZWw&ab_channel=CemY%C4%B1lmaz

LANGUAGE SUPPORT

Student at Penn can request a Turkish tutor who will attend to her/his/their linguistic and learning needs patiently and with care. It is a free service provided through the [Language Direct program](#) at Penn Language Center. If you are interested, you may find more information about this program using the link above.

CLASSROOM RULES FOR TURKISH LANGUAGE CLASSES

The following is a list of classroom rules that was devised so that all students may experience a comfortable and productive learning environment. Many of these rules are self-evident and already observed by most students. However, it is helpful for everyone in the group to understand explicitly what type of behavior is expected in Turkish language classrooms. We expect all students to abide by these rules. Please let us know if you have any questions or concerns.

1. All students are expected to abide by the rules of [the University of Pennsylvania Code of Academic Integrity](#) and [Code of Student Conduct](#). Any violations of the Codes, including plagiarism (representing the work of others as your own) or dishonest practices during examinations will be reported to the university officials.
2. University of Pennsylvania provides reasonable accommodations to students with disabilities who have self-identified and been approved by the office of [Student Disabilities Services](#) (SDS). Please make an appointment to meet with me as soon as possible in order to discuss your accommodations and your needs. If you have not yet contacted SDS, and would like to request accommodations or have questions, you can make an appointment by calling SDS 215-573-9235. The office is located in the [Weingarten Learning Resources Center](#) at Stouffer Commons 3702 Spruce Street, Suite 300. All services are confidential.
3. In this course, you will be asked to express personal opinions and to talk and write about yourself, your family, and friends. If you prefer, you do not need to discuss or reveal any personal information; instead, you may provide fictitious information. When you are being creative, you are expected to keep in mind the general purpose of the activity by using relevant vocabulary and expressions.

4. The use of profanity in the classroom (in any language) will not be tolerated.
5. The use of any electronic devices is not permitted during class, except with permission of the instructor.
6. Your instructor may ask that you change your seat in order to work in pairs or small groups. You should be prepared to change your seat at your instructor's request.

