

Warriors, Concubines, and Converts: The Ottoman Empire in the Middle East & Europe

HIST 0310

Course Prospectus Fall 2022

(Subject to change)

Instructor: Prof. Oscar Aguirre-Mandujano

Course Description: For almost six hundred years, the Ottomans ruled most of the Balkans and the Middle East. From their bases in Anatolia, Ottoman armies advanced into the Balkans, Syria, Egypt, and Iraq, constantly challenging the borders of neighboring European and Islamic empires. By the end of the seventeenth century, Constantinople, Jerusalem, Cairo, Baghdad, Sarajevo, Budapest, and nearly Vienna came under Ottoman rule. As the empire expanded into Europe and the Middle East, the balance of imperial power shifted from warriors to converts, concubines, and intellectuals. This course examines the expansion of the Ottoman sultanate from a local principality into a sprawling empire with a sophisticated bureaucracy; it also investigates the social, cultural, and intellectual developments that accompanied the long arc of the empire's rise and fall. By the end of the course, students will be able to identify and discuss major currents of change in the Ottoman Empire and the Middle East. The student will have a better understanding of the roles of power, ideology, diplomacy, and gender in the construction of empire and a refined appreciation for diverse techniques of historical analysis.

The course is divided in four sections. The first section introduces the student to major debates about the Ottoman expansion across the Middle East and the Balkans. The second section focuses on the standardization of bureaucracy, military, law and artistic creation as the Ottoman Empire grew. The third section considers the cultural history of the empire at its height in the sixteenth and seventeenth centuries. The fourth and final section investigates the major intellectual and political reforms of the eighteenth and nineteenth centuries and the role of European colonial powers in the empire's demise.

Course Level: This is an introductory course with no prerequisites. No prior knowledge is expected. This course is a survey course of the history of the Ottoman Empire, from the fourteenth century to the end of the nineteenth century.

Class Structure for Fall 2022

- Meeting Schedule
 - Mondays and Wednesday from 12:00-1:30 PM EST.
- Schedule reflecting the workload for a typical week
 - Before Monday's session: Read and take notes of assigned texts.
 - Questions to guide your reading will be posted on Canvas a week in advance. (1-3 hours)

Monday: Lecture (1.5 hours)
 Tuesday: Annotate primary reading for the week based on Tuesday's discussion (2 hours)
 Wednesday: Lecture (1.5 hour)
 Thursday to Sunday: Reading days.

Outline of Assignments & Assessments

1. A) Exam Track

Three Response papers*	20% each	Weeks 5, 8, 15.
Midterm Exam	15%	Week 10
Final Exam	15%	Examination Week
Participation**	10%	Every Week (Discussion Board)

*Students can choose to re-submit one response paper by the end of the semester for re-grading.

**Participation is graded in a scale from 0 to 10. A minimum of 5 is required to pass the course. Participation will be based on engagement of asynchronous activities and discussion boards

1. B) Paper Track

Three Response papers*	20% each	Weeks 5, 8, 15.
Draft Final Paper	5%	Week 10 (Prerequisite to submit Final Paper)
Final Paper	25%	Examination Week
Participation**	10%	Every Week (Discussion Board)

*Students can choose to re-submit one response paper by the end of the semester for re-grading.

**Participation is graded in a scale from 0 to 10. A minimum of 5 is required to pass the course.

Assignments

1. a) Mid-term and final exams will be available on canvas on week 10 and Examination Week respectively at 4:30PM EST, and submissions will be accepted until the following Saturday by 11:59 PM EST.
2. b) Response Papers: 4-5 page response to the required books *Tell Them of Elephants*, *Prisoner of the Infidels*, *Felatu Bey* and *Rakim Efendi*.
3. c) The final paper must be an original contribution. Topic should be selected in consultation with the instructor. Paper should not exceed 10 pages, Times New Roman, 12 pts, double space, standard margins. Minimum length 9 pages. For the final paper, in addition to the sources read in class, the student should incorporate at least three new

sources. The student should connect the reviewed work with at least three readings done in class.

*All sources should be cited properly. See Reference and Citation guidelines in the Pages section of the course's Canvas website.

Essential Course Policies

- Required books
 - Mathias Énard. *Tell Them of Battles, Kings, and Elephants* (New York: New Directions, 2018)
 - Osman of Timsoara. *Prisoner of the Infidels* (Oakland: UC Press, 2021)
 - Ahmet Midhat Efendi. *Felâtun Bey and Râkim Efendi* (Syracuse: Syracuse University Press, 2016)
 - Hagan Karateke et al. (ed.) *The Ottoman World: A Cultural History Reader, 1450–1700* (Oakland: UC Press, 2021) Available in Kindle and online at the Library.
- All other readings will be available in Canvas or accessible online through the University Library