

THE UNIVERSITY OF TEXAS-RIO GRANDE VALLEY
HIST 3374-90L-71120-HISTORY OF THE OTTOMAN EMPIRE
SUMMER II 2018 (JULY 12-AUGUST 17)

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Office Hours: On Blackboard or by appointment

Course Time: Online

Classroom: Blackboard Learn

Office: ELABS 346 B

Course Description & Objectives

This is an advanced course concentrating on the history and civilization of the Ottoman Empire from its origins in the medieval period to its collapse in the wake of World War I. The Ottoman dynasty was the longest ruling dynasty in world history. At its height, its borders stretched from Hungary and the Ukraine in the north, to Algeria in the West, to the Caucasus and Iraq in the east, and Yemen and the Sudan in the south. The course will focus on the history and historiography of the Ottoman Empire, along with a chronological narrative of key economic, political and social developments. We will examine the political, social and economic structures of the empire, as well as Ottoman cultural and political influence on Europe.

What was the impact of the Ottoman Empire on major European developments, such as geographical discoveries, the Renaissance and Reformation, the Wars of Religion, and the rise of nationalism? What kind of cultural influences did Ottoman Empire exercise over Europe? Was the Ottoman Empire a continuation of the Eastern Roman (Byzantine) Empire under another name? How did the Ottoman Empire function, so that it could facilitate the coexistence of a multi-religious, multi-linguistic and multi-ethnic society for centuries? How did the Ottoman Empire approach conflicts that continue to haunt people in the Balkans, Middle East and Caucasus region? These are some of the questions that will be examined during this course. *Hist 3300 is prerequisite for this course for History and Social Studies majors.*

Course Objectives

- Students who successfully complete this course will be able to describe in written form main systems, events and people that shaped Ottoman history.
- Students who successfully complete this course will be able to improve their ability to examine current issues critically from a historical perspective and argue effectively about major issues in Ottoman history.
- Students who successfully complete this course will be able to identify and critique historical interpretations and analyze issues in their historical context.
- Students who successfully complete this course will be able to analyze primary and secondary sources and develop written arguments critically about the reciprocal influence of world civilizations, values, and ideas.
- Students who successfully complete this course will be able to demonstrate knowledge of (TEKS) Texas Essential Knowledge and Skills for 7th – 12th grade (Social Studies).

Required Texts:

Caroline Finkel. *Osman's Dream: History of the Ottoman Empire 1300-1923*. Basic Books, 2007. ISBN-10: 0465023975

Kemal Karpat and Yetkin Yildirim. *The Ottoman Mosaic*. Seattle: Cune Press, 2010. ISBN-10: 9781885942272

Recommended Text

Donald Quataert. *The Ottoman Empire 1700-1922*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 2005.

UTRGV Library E-Book. Available through library web site.

Note: As the course must cover a number of issues that cannot be examined solely from the perspective of a few works, some shorter works, articles and translation of primary documents will be available on Blackboard.

Assignments

5 Short Assignments: You will receive a total of 5 assignments. Your 1 worst grade will be dropped from the final calculation. Every week I will post questions from the assigned reading of that week. You will complete the assigned reading, answer the questions and submit them on Blackboard. Every assignment will be graded based on its focus, content, accuracy adequacy and interpretation. You may receive up to 50 points for each assignment. Incomplete, inaccurate or unsatisfactory assignments will get lower points. Assignments will make up total 200 points toward your final grade.

Primary Document Analysis: Most of the assignments will require reading and analyzing primary documents. You will read the document and answer the questions. Analyzing primary documents requires background knowledge of the historical period. You are advised to read history of the period from your textbook or the course notes.

1 Analytical Writing: During the semester you will write one analytical essay. Essay-writing guidelines and all related handouts will be posted on Blackboard.

2 Quizzes: There will be 2 short online quizzes. You will take them on Blackboard. No email submission will be accepted unless authorized by the instructor.

1 Midterm Examination: The midterm exam will include essay questions. The exam will cover all material presented during the first half of the course, including readings and notes. You will take the exam on Blackboard. No email submission will be accepted unless authorized by the instructor.

1 Final Examination: The final exam will also include essay questions. The exam will cover all material presented during the second half of the course, including readings and notes. You will take the exam on Blackboard. No email submission will be accepted unless authorized by the instructor.

COURSE POLICIES

Grading Policy: I will grade all assignments and exams within 5 BUSINESS days. Essays will be graded within 7 BUSINESS days. You can access your grades through My Grades link on Blackboard.

Total: 1000 Points

Assignments	(4x50=200 points)	2 Quizzes (2x50=100 points)
Midterm Examination	(200 points)	
Final Examination	(200 points)	Analytical Essay (300 points)

A: 900 points or more

B: 800 to 899 points

C: 700 to 799 points

D: 600 to 699 points

F: Below 600 points

Technical Requirements: By taking an online course you accept that you will take the necessary online training, posted on Blackboard, to fulfill course requirements. You are advised to contact directly to Center for Online Learning Teaching and Technology (COLT) for difficulties. I will not provide any technical guidance about how to use Blackboard. **COLT Contact Info:** coltthelp@utrgv.edu or through <http://utrgv.edu/online>. Phone **Brownsville:** (956) 882-6792, **Edinburg:** (956) 665-5327.

Computer Hardware: To participate in this online course, you should have easy access to a computer less than 3-years old with high-speed internet connection via cable modem, LAN or DSL. To ensure you are using a supported browser and have required plug-ins please refer to Supported Browsers, Plugins & Operating Systems for Blackboard Learn from Blackboards resource page.

Student Technical Skills: You are expected to be proficient with installing and using basic computer applications and have the ability to send and receive email attachments.

Software: Microsoft Office's Internet Explorer (latest version), Mozilla's Firefox (latest version; Macintosh or Windows), Adobe's Flash Player & Reader plug-in (latest version), Apple's QuickTime plug-in (latest version), Virus protection, Microsoft Office.

Attendance and Participation: This is an online course. There will not be regular scheduled meetings. Online courses require your active participation. Here are some tips for success:

- In discussion forums, you learn from one another by posing questions, justifying your comments, and providing multiple perspectives. When you prepare for discussions through thoughtful reflection, you contribute to your own successful learning experience as well as to the experience of your peers.
- Log in to the course frequently (at least several times per week for long semesters and daily for summer sessions) and check the announcements. This will keep you apprised of any course updates, progress in discussions, assignment information, and messages requiring immediate attention.
- Failure to access Blackboard may cause you to miss an assignment or an exam.
- Be aware of and keep up with the Course Schedule in the Syllabus.

Course Drops: If you miss two consecutive assignments in a row, you may be dropped from the course. According to UTRGV policy, students may drop any class without penalty earning a grade of DR until the official drop date. Following that date, students must be assigned a letter grade and can no longer drop

the class. Students considering dropping the class should be aware of the “3-peat rule” and the “6-drop” rule so they can recognize how dropped classes may affect their academic success. The 6-drop rule refers to Texas law that dictates that undergraduate students may not drop more than six courses during their undergraduate career. Courses dropped at other Texas public higher education institutions will count toward the six-course drop limit. The 3-peat rule refers to additional fees charged to students who take the same class for the third time.

Communication and Netiquette: Students in online courses should use the email system in Blackboard Learn. I will answer all emails within TWO BUSINESS days. Per UTRGV policy, all email communication between the UTRGV faculty and staff and students must be conducted through the students' official University supplied UTRGV email account. Therefore, please use your UTRGV assigned email for any correspondence with UTRGV faculty and staff. Other emails may be blocked by the spam filter. You are responsible for the consequences of an undelivered or delayed email that are blocked by the spam filter. For online courses students should use the email system in Blackboard.

All students must have adequate writing skills to communicate content in a professional and concise manner. Students must be proficient in their written presentations including strategies for developing ideas, citing scholarly references, writing style, wording, phrasing, and using language conventions. Students must follow Chicago Manual of Style guidelines, use non-racist and non-sexist language, and include sufficient references to support their thesis and ideas in the assignments.

Late Work and Make Ups: Quizzes, Midterm and Final Exam will remain on Blackboard until their due date. Once they are removed from Blackboard you will not have access to exams. Make-up exams will be given only if you provide a documented emergency situation that had prevented you from completing the exam. No make-up exam will be given online. If you miss an exam, you must come to my office to take your exam. There is no make up for missed group discussions and assignments. No extensions are allowed for late essays except in extreme circumstances, which MUST be documented.

Incomplete Policy: Under emergency/special circumstances, students may petition for an incomplete grade. An incomplete will only be assigned if you have a documented emergency. All incomplete course assignments must be completed within 30 days.

Grading Assignments and Exams: I will grade and give feedback on all assignments, Quizzes, Midterm and Final exams within 10 BUSINESS days. Essays will be graded within 20 BUSINESS days.

Plagiarism and Academic Integrity: As members of a community dedicated to Honesty, Integrity and Respect, students are reminded that those who engage in scholastic dishonesty are subject to disciplinary penalties, including the possibility of failure in the course and expulsion from the University. Scholastic dishonesty includes but is not limited to: cheating, plagiarism, and collusion; submission for credit of any work or materials that are attributable in whole or in part to another person; taking an examination for another person; any act designed to give unfair advantage to a student; or the attempt to commit such acts. Since scholastic dishonesty harms the individual, all students and the integrity of the University, policies on scholastic dishonesty will be strictly enforced (Board of Regents Rules and Regulations and UTRGV Academic Integrity Guidelines). All scholastic dishonesty incidents will be reported to the Dean of Students.

Students with Disabilities: If you have a documented disability (physical, psychological, learning, or other disability which affects your academic performance) and would like to receive academic accommodations, please inform your instructor and contact Student Accessibility Services to schedule an appointment to initiate services. It is recommended that you schedule an appointment with Student Accessibility Services before classes start. However, accommodations can be provided at any time.

Brownsville Campus: Student Accessibility Services is located in Cortez Hall Room 129 and can be contacted by phone at (956) 882-7374 (Voice) or via email at ability@utrgv.edu. **Edinburg Campus:** Student Accessibility Services is located in 108 University Center and can be contacted by phone at (956) 665-7005 (Voice), (956) 665-3840 (Fax), or via email at ability@utrgv.edu.

Sexual Harassment, Discrimination, and Violence: In accordance with UT System regulations, your instructor is a “responsible employee” for reporting purposes under Title IX regulations and so must report any instance, occurring during a student’s time in college, of sexual assault, stalking, dating violence, domestic violence, or sexual harassment about which she/he becomes aware during this course through writing, discussion, or personal disclosure. More information can be found at www.utrgv.edu/equity, including confidential resources available on campus. The faculty and staff of UTRGV actively strive to provide a learning, working, and living environment that promotes personal integrity, civility, and mutual respect in an environment free from sexual misconduct and discrimination.

Student Services: Students who demonstrate financial need have a variety of options when it comes to paying for college costs, such as scholarships, grants, loans and work-study. Students should visit the Students Services Center (U Central) for additional information. U Central is located in BMAIN 1.100 (Brownsville) or ESSBL 1.145 (Edinburg) or can be reached by email (ucentral@utrgv.edu) or telephone: (888) 882-4026. In addition to financial aid, U Central can assist students with registration and admissions.

Students seeking academic help in their studies can use university resources in addition to an instructor’s office hours. University Resources include the Learning Center, Writing Center, Advising Center and Career Center. The centers provide services such as tutoring, writing help, critical thinking, study skills, degree planning, and student employment. Locations are:

- Learning center: BSTUN 2.10 (Brownsville) or ELCTR 100 (Edinburg)
- Writing center: BLIBR 3.206 (Brownsville) or ESTAC 3.119 (Edinburg)
- Advising center: BMAIN 1.400 (Brownsville) or ESWKH 101 (Edinburg)
- Career center: BCRTZ 129 (Brownsville) or ESSBL 2.101 (Edinburg)

Mandatory Course Evaluation Period: Students are required to complete an ONLINE evaluation of this course, accessed through your UTRGV account (<http://my.utrgv.edu>); you will be contacted through email with further instructions. Students who complete their evaluations will have priority access to their grades.

Course policies are subject to change: It is the student’s responsibility to check Blackboard for corrections or updates to the syllabus. Any changes will be posted in Blackboard.

Topics & Schedule

Thursday, July 12: Introduction to the course; Central Asian Turks, the Crusades and the Mongol invasions. Social, economic and political situation in Anatolia in the twelfth and the thirteenth centuries. **Reading:** Finkel, p. 1-21. Quataert, p. 1-12.

Friday, July 13: Foundation of the Ottoman Empire: major cultural and political developments until 1413. Finkel, p. 22-36. Karpat & Yildirim, Introduction.

Monday, July 16: Sources and Historiography of the early Ottoman Empire. **Reading:** Karpat & Yildirim, Chapter 5. **ASSIGNMENT 1 DUE!**

Note: Please note that your participation in this first assignment is also used for "Attendance Verification." If you do not participate in this assignment, you might be dropped from the course.

Tuesday, July 17: Early structure of the Ottoman Empire: the *millet* system, the *devşirme* system, the land grant system. Early Ottoman society: status of non-Muslims, women and slaves. **Reading:** Finkel, p. 22-47. Karpat & Yildirim, Chapter 2 & 3.

Wednesday, July 18: Restructuring the Ottoman state (1413-1451). **Reading:** Finkel, p. 22-47. **ASSIGNMENT 2!** "Various Early Ottoman Sources".

Thursday, July 19: From state to Empire (1451-1520). **Reading:** Finkel, p. 48-114. Karpat & Yildirim, Chapter 4, 7 & 9.

Friday, July 20: From state to Empire (1451-1520). **Reading:** Finkel, p. 48-114. Karpat & Yildirim, Chapter 4, 7 & 9. **QUIZ 1!!!**

Monday, July 23: The rule of Suleyman the Magnificent (1520-1566) and Ottoman interaction with Europe during the Reformation. The Ottoman struggle against the Safavid Empire. **Reading:** Finkel, p. 115-151.

Tuesday, July 24: Destabilization and Decentralization (1566-1648). **Reading:** Finkel, p.152-252.

Wednesday, July 25: **ASSIGNMENT 3!** "Mehmet II Letter to the Greek Archons".

Thursday, July 26: Changing state structure in the destabilization period. Domestic and External Struggles, 1648-1703. **Reading:** Finkel, p.253-328.

Friday, July 27: Domestic and External Struggles, 1648-1703. **Reading:** Finkel, p.253-328.

Monday, July 30: **MIDTERM EXAMINATION !!!**

Tuesday, July 31: The Tulip Period (1718-1730) and the rising power of notables. **Reading:** Finkel, p.329-412.

Wednesday, August 1: Ottoman foreign relations in the eighteenth century: Struggle against Russia, Austria and Wahhabism. **Reading:** Finkel, p.329-412. **ASSIGNMENT 4!** "Dancing Dervishes".

Thursday, August 2: Western Imperialism, nationalism and early Ottoman reforms. 1798-1839.
Reading: Finkel, p. 413-446.

Friday, August 3: The Tanzimat Period (1839-1876) and the restructuring of the empire.
Reading: Finkel, p. 447-488.

Monday, August 6: Primary source reading and analysis. **Reading:** Khater, p. 10-21.
ASSIGNMENT 5! Available on blackboard. *The Hatt-i Serif Decree Initiates the Tanzimat, or Reform, Period in the Ottoman Empire, Sultan Abdul Majid's Islahat Fermani Decree.*

Tuesday, August 7: Post-tanzimat Ottoman society: End of the millet system, changing society and challenges. Ottoman rule in the Balkans, Arab world and North Africa before and after the Tanzimat.
Reading: Quataert, p. 90-111 & 142-172.

Wednesday, August 8: The rise of Young Turk constitutionalism and the rule of Abdulhamid II.
Reading: Finkel, p. 488-525. **QUIZ 2!!!**

Thursday, August 9: Eastern Question and the Ottoman foreign relations. The Congress of Berlin, Balkan Wars and alliance with Germany. Finkel, p. 488-525.

Friday, August 10: WWI Fronts and the Collapse of the Ottoman Empire. **Reading:** Finkel, p. 526-554.

Monday, August 13: ANALYTICAL ESSAY DUE!!

Tuesday, August 14 & Wednesday, August 15: From the Ottoman Empire to Turkish Republic (1918-1923). Legacy of the Ottoman Empire. **Reading:** Quataert, p. 195-201.

Thursday, August 16: Study Day. No classes.

Friday, August 17: FINAL EXAM!