

# History 597: Themes in Ottoman and Islamic Studies



## Spring Semester 2020

**Time:** Thursday, 5:30-8:10

**Location:** Ferguson Social Sciences #150

3 Credit Hours

## Dr. Sanja Kadrić

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**Office location:** Ferguson Social Sciences #105

**Office hours:** Tuesdays and Thursdays, 12:30-1:30, 3:30-5:00

Mary Neuburger once wrote that Ottoman History is frequently read as a eulogy of an ill-fated and doomed dinosaur. This reading seminar will help you unpack and challenge that. We will delve into the political, cultural, social, and economic history of the Ottoman Empire. We will focus on the Ottoman state and how it functioned, on Ottoman society and everyday life, on issues of gender and sexuality, on how the Ottomans interacted with their neighbors, on slavery in the empire, and a variety of other themes. You will come away with a solid knowledge of the historiography that undergirds Ottoman Studies and Islamic Studies at large and have an opportunity to work on a theme that interests you and complements your fields of study.

**Student Learning Outcome:** By the end of this course, you should be able to demonstrate proficiency in historical bibliographic research by locating sources appropriate to researching a given historical topic.

## **ACCESS AND NAVIGATION:**

You will need your campus-wide ID (CWID) and password to log into the course. If you do not know your CWID or have forgotten your password, contact the Center for IT Excellence (CITE) at 903.468.6000 or [helpdesk@tamuc.edu](mailto:helpdesk@tamuc.edu). Personal computer and internet connection problems do not excuse the requirement to complete all course work in a timely and satisfactory manner. Each student needs to have a backup method to deal with these problems. These methods might include the availability of a backup PC at home or work, the temporary use of a computer at a friend's home, the local library, office service companies, Starbucks, a TAMUC campus open computer lab, etc.

## **Readings:**

- We will read and discuss one book per week. You will need to obtain *some* of the books listed on the reading schedule. I have highlighted those that you need to obtain yourself. I would recommend purchasing them online, getting them from your local library, or searching for them at the university library.
- I also use D2L to post supplementary readings, class materials, and assignment instructions, so please check it regularly. If you foresee issues with doing so (lack of technology and/or regular internet access), please let me know immediately so that we can discuss alternative arrangements.
  - I reserve the right to make changes to the class schedule and assigned readings. If I do so, I will notify you ahead of time, either in class or via e-mail.
  - Please check to make sure that you can access the readings on D2L the day before any scheduled class. If an article or a link is malfunctioning, get in touch with me immediately. Unless you contact me about an issue accessing a reading in a timely manner, I will not grant an excuse nor an extension on work.

## **GENERAL EXPECTATIONS:**

- ❖ **Reading** – Whether you are a discussant or a participant, you are responsible for doing all the readings assigned. I would recommend taking thorough notes as you read, because these will help you in our discussion and onwards.
  - Please bring the assigned readings to class in whatever format you prefer, because we will refer to them throughout our discussion.
- ❖ **Participation** – Our seminar revolves around robust weekly discussions. Whether you are a discussant or a participant, I expect you to engage in discussion actively.
  - **If you are a discussant**, you will do the readings for the week and write a position paper on them. You will also prepare a short presentation on and a guided discussion of the readings for the seminar.
    - Your presentation should include the professional background of the author, a summary of the book and its contents, and discussion questions.

- **If you are a participant**, you will do all the readings for the week. You will also prepare one discussion question for the seminar and come to class ready to discuss.

## **ASSIGNMENTS & GRADE BREAKDOWN:**

### **Book Presentations (2, 30% of your final grade)**

#### **Position Papers (2, 30% of your final grade)**

- ❖ You will write a brief (2- to 3-page) position paper on the week's reading, reacting to its strengths and weaknesses and how it helps you understand Ottoman and Islamic History.
- ❖ You must submit your position paper to the dropbox on D2L before class.

#### **Discussion (12, 10% of your final grade)**

- ❖ You must be present and engaged in class. I expect you to come in with the readings completed and a discussion question prepared.

#### **Final Paper (30% of your final grade)**

- ❖ At the end of the semester, you will submit a 10- to 12-page historiographical essay on a topic related to Ottoman history and historiography. You may address one of the issues raised in the course or a different issue. You will provide an overview of this topic, a review of the key literature on this top, and an overview of problems and desiderata.
- ❖ **Due date: Thursday, May 7<sup>th</sup> by 8:10 pm** - Your final paper must be submitted to D2L by this date.

## **SCALE:**

All grades will be computed on the following standard scale:

- A = 90%-100%
- B = 80%-89%
- C = 70%-79%
- D = 60%-69%
- F = 59% or below

## **UNIVERSITY & COURSE POLICIES:**

If you anticipate missing any portion of class for reasons beyond your control (e.g., court appearance, military duty, scheduled medical appointment), please notify me at least one day before the scheduled class period. It is in your best interest to let me know as soon as possible so we can work out an arrangement if one is possible.

If an emergency occurs, notify me within a day of the emergency (or as soon as possible, depending on the situation) to provide documentation and discuss the potential of make-up work. Make-up opportunities may be awarded at my discretion. The same goes for extensions for any assignments associated with this class.

Assignments that are received late without just cause or without a previously approved excuse will not be accepted. The due dates on the syllabus for any and all assignments will be enforced.

**E-mails:** One of your jobs as a student is professionalizing yourself in preparation for whatever employment you may seek after your university years. An important element of professionalism is communication, and one of the primary modes of communication in a class is e-mail. I want you to consider class-related e-mails to me and fellow students as an exercise in professionalism. Please use formal English in your e-mails, and do not forget to sign your message with your full name. Before you shoot off an e-mail, ask yourself, "Would I send this e-mail to my boss?" If not, take some time to think on why and revise. I will respond to your e-mails in a timely manner, no later than 24 hours after receiving them.

**Student conduct:** All students enrolled at the University shall follow the tenets of common decency and acceptable behavior conducive to a positive learning environment. The Code of Student Conduct can be found here:

<https://www.tamuc.edu/campuslife/campusServices/studentRights/documents/Code%20of%20conduct%20in%20english.pdf>

**TAMUC attendance policy:** For more information about the attendance policy please visit the Attendance webpage:

<http://www.tamuc.edu/admissions/registrar/generalInformation/attendance.aspx>

**Grades and grade complaints:** I will return all graded assignments to you no later than a week after they are submitted, but likely much earlier. One day after receiving any graded assignment, you have the option to make an appointment with me and discuss your grade. I do not guarantee that I will change your grade, but I would be happy to hear your case.

**Academic Integrity:** Students at Texas A&M University-Commerce are expected to maintain high standards of integrity and honesty in all of their scholastic work. For more details and the definition of academic dishonesty see the following procedures:

<http://www.tamuc.edu/aboutUs/policiesProceduresStandardsStatements/rulesProcedures/13students/graduate/13.99.99.R0.10.pdf>

**Disability Services:** The Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) is a federal anti-discrimination statute that provides comprehensive civil rights protection for persons with disabilities. Among other things, this legislation requires that all students with disabilities be guaranteed a learning environment that provides for reasonable accommodation of their disabilities. If you have a disability requiring an accommodation, please contact:

**Office of Student Disability Resources and Services**

Texas A&M University-Commerce

Gee Library- Room 162

Phone (903) 886-5150 or (903) 886-5835

Fax (903) 468-8148

Email: [studentdisabilityservices@tamuc.edu](mailto:studentdisabilityservices@tamuc.edu)

Website: [Office of Student Disability Resources and Services](http://www.tamuc.edu/campusLife/campusServices/studentDisabilityResourcesAndServices/)

<http://www.tamuc.edu/campusLife/campusServices/studentDisabilityResourcesAndServices/>

**Non-discrimination Policy:** Texas A&M University-Commerce will comply in the classroom, and in online courses, with all federal and state laws prohibiting discrimination and related retaliation on the basis of race, color, religion, sex, national origin, disability, age, genetic information or veteran status. Further, an environment free from discrimination on the basis of sexual orientation, gender identity, or gender expression will be maintained.

**Campus Concealed Carry Statements:** Texas Senate Bill - 11 (Government Code 411.2031, et al.) authorizes the carrying of a concealed handgun in Texas A&M University-Commerce buildings only by persons who have been issued and are in possession of a Texas License to Carry a Handgun. Qualified law enforcement officers or those who are otherwise authorized to carry a concealed handgun in the State of Texas are also permitted to do so. Pursuant to Penal Code (PC) 46.035 and A&M-Commerce Rule 34.06.02.R1, license holders may not carry a concealed handgun in restricted locations. For a list of locations, please refer to the [Carrying Concealed Handguns On Campus](#) document and/or consult your event organizer.

<http://www.tamuc.edu/aboutUs/policiesProceduresStandardsStatements/rulesProcedures/34SafetyOfEmployeesAndStudents/34.06.02.R1.pdf>

Pursuant to PC 46.035, the open carrying of handguns is prohibited on all A&M-Commerce campuses. Report violations to the University Police Department at 903-886-5868 or 9-1-1.

**Cellphones and Laptops:** The use of a cell phone is strictly forbidden during class, and if I see you using one, your discussion grade will suffer. If you experience a pressing need to use your cell phone, you can either let me know before class or simply excuse yourself from the class briefly.

Laptops are allowed in class as long as they are completely silent and not disruptive to your fellow students and I. If an issue arises, I will bring it up with you individually. If your laptop is found to be excessively disruptive, I reserve the right to revoke your laptop privileges.

**Final Note:** I may modify the syllabus during the semester. Any changes will be announced in advance. It is your responsibility to keep track of these changes once they are announced.

## **Week 1**

### ***January 30***

Introduction to the course

**Book:** Imber, Colin. *The Ottoman Empire, 1300-1650: The Structure of Power*. 2nd ed. Houndmills, Basingstoke, Hampshire: Palgrave Macmillan, 2009.

## Week 2

**February 6**

**Book:** Kafadar, Cemal. *Between Two Worlds: The Construction of the Ottoman State*. Berkeley: University of California Press, 1995.

**Discussant:**

## Week 3

**February 13**

**Book:** Casale, Giancarlo. *The Ottoman Age of Exploration*. Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2010.

**Discussant:**

## Week 4

**February 20**

**Book:** Greene, Molly. *A Shared World: Christians and Muslims in the Early Modern Mediterranean*. Princeton, N.J.: Princeton University Press, 2000.

**Discussant:**

## Week 5

**February 27**

**Book:** Hathaway, Jane. *A Tale of Two Factions: Myth, Memory, and Identity in Ottoman Egypt and Yemen*. Suny Series in the Social and Economic History of the Middle East. Albany: State University of New York, 2003.

**Discussant:**

## Week 6

**March 5**

**Book:** Graf, Tobias P. *The Sultan's Renegades: Christian-European Converts to Islam and the Making of the Ottoman Elite, 1575-1610*. First ed. Oxford, United Kingdom: Oxford University Press, 2017.

**Discussant:**

## Week 7

**SPRING BREAK! NO CLASSES!**

## Week 8

**March 19**

**Book:** White, Sam. *The Climate of Rebellion in the Early Modern Ottoman Empire*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 2011.

**Discussant:**

### **Week 9**

**March 26**

**Book:** Le Gall, Dina. *A Culture of Sufism: Naqshbandīs in the Ottoman World, 1450-1700*. Suny Series in Medieval Middle East History. Albany: State University of New York Press, 2005.

**Discussant:**

### **Week 10**

**April 2**

**Book:** Faroqhi, Suraiya. *Subjects of the Sultan: Culture and Daily Life in the Ottoman Empire*. London: I.B. Tauris, 2000.

**Discussant:**

### **Week 11**

**April 9**

**Book:** Boyar, Ebru, and Kate Fleet. *A Social History of Ottoman Istanbul*. Leiden: Cambridge University Press, 2010.

**Discussant:**

### **Week 12**

**April 16**

**Book:** Toledano, Ehud R. *Slavery and Abolition in the Ottoman Middle East*. Publications on the Near East. Seattle, Washington: University of Washington Press, 1998.

**Discussant:**

### **Week 13**

**April 23**

**Book:** Zilfi, Madeline C. *Women and Slavery in the Late Ottoman Empire: The Design of Difference*. Cambridge Studies in Islamic Civilization. New York: Cambridge University Press, 2010.

**Discussant:**

### **Week 14**

**April 30**

**Book:** Peirce, Leslie P. *The Imperial Harem: Women and Sovereignty in the Ottoman Empire*. New York: Oxford University Press, 1993.

**Discussant:**

### **Week 15 – Finals Week**

Final paper meetings

**FINAL PAPER DUE: Thursday, May 7<sup>th</sup> by 8:10 pm**