The course aims to familiarize students with the history of the Ottoman Empire. While political history of the period is also discussed, the emphasis is on social and economic history. The reading material has been chosen in order to highlight the class dynamics of the different periods of Ottoman history, whereas the last decades of the empire are stressed in order to help the students comprehend some of the dynamics of the transition from the Ottoman Empire to the Turkish Republic. In addition to significant historical events and key political figures, different perspectives offered to understand the historical trajectory in question are also discussed and analyzed throughout the semester.

Course Requirements

Because of the pandemic, and based on the decision of the university administration the course will be conducted online. The class hours are divided into three segments:

- Video lecture by the instructor, to be uploaded weekly on Wednesdays
- Audio-visual material: sound recording or video; to be listened or watched before weekly online sessions
- Q & A and discussion session: Every Thursday at 11:00 online and synchronous

The class grade will be based on the following:

- Short papers (2): 50 %
- Final Exam: 40 %
- Attendance and Participation: 10 %

Plagiarism Policy

The online education period due to the pandemic has unfortunately witnessed an increase in plagiarism cases. In this course, cases of plagiarism will not be tolerated. Those who plagiarize in any component of the course will not only fail that particular component but the entire course. Those who commit plagiarism will also be referred to the Dean’s Office for disciplinary proceedings.
COURSE OUTLINE

Week 1
Introduction to the course

Week 2
A Note on Historiography

The Background: Anatolia under Mongol Domination

“New Perspectives on Medieval Anatolia” by Sara Nur Yıldız, 42 min.
https://www.ottomanhistorypodcast.com/2015/03/medieval-anatolia-seljuk-mongol-ottoman.html

Week 3

From Tribal Chiefs into Emperors: Formation and Re-Formation of the Ottoman State

“The Mystical Turn in Ottoman Political Thought”, by Hüseyin Yılmaz, 31 min.

Week 4

The ‘Heyday’ of the Ottoman Empire

Alan Mikhail talks about his “God’s Shadow: Sultan Selim, His Ottoman Empire, and the Making of the Modern World”, 57 min.
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=RKy4by6LmdI
Week 5

Safevids, the Qizilbash, the Kurds: the Nomadic Question and its Resolution


“Alevis in Ottoman Anatolia” by Ayfer Karakaya-Stump, 52 min.

[https://www.ottomanhistorypodcast.com/2014/03/alevi-kizilbash-history.html](https://www.ottomanhistorypodcast.com/2014/03/alevi-kizilbash-history.html)

Week 6

The ‘General Crisis’, the Collapse of Ottoman Feudalism and the ‘Second Empire’


“Tedirgin Anadolu: Celali İsyanları ve Anadolu’da Büyük Kaçgun” talk by Taylan Akyıldırım, 43 min.

[https://www.ottomanhistorypodcast.com/2013/02/celali-rebellions-anatolia.html](https://www.ottomanhistorypodcast.com/2013/02/celali-rebellions-anatolia.html)

Week 7

The 18th Century: A Decentralized Empire?


“Chasing the Ottoman Early Modern” roundtable discussion organized by Ottoman and Turkish Studies Association, 99 min.

[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=gsUHrQ7ONGA](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=gsUHrQ7ONGA)

Week 8

The Emergence of a New Ruling Class and Its Discontents


“The Ottoman Empire in the Age of Revolutions”, by Ali Yaycioglu, 48 min.

**Week 9**

*Avenues and forms of capitalist accumulation*


"Ottoman Encounters with Global Capital", by Coşkun Tuncer, 42 min.


**Week 10**

*Agrarian Question reloaded: Ottoman Peasantry in the Nineteenth Century*


[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=wwMlksF6nA](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=wwMlksF6nA)

**Week 11**

*Liberals and Conservatives: The Struggle for Hegemony amid Reform*

Şiviloğlu, Murat R. 2018. *The Emergence of Public Opinion: State and Society in the Late Ottoman Empire*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, Ch. 5 and 6

"The Ottoman Tanzimat in Practice", by Cengiz Kırı, 43 min.


**Week 12**

*Hamidian Period and the rebirth of the liberal alternative*


"The Hamidian Quest for Tribal Origins", by Ahmet Ersoy & Deniz Türker, 54 min.

Week 13

*Accumulation by Dispossession: War, Demographic Engineering and Capital Accumulation*


“Osmanlı Kadınları ve Ekonomik Şiddet”, by Elif Mahir Metinsoy, 76 min.

[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Vi9h1RVawIE](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Vi9h1RVawIE)