

“Ottoman Modernity”
(Seminar on the Nineteenth Century Middle East)
HIST 542-01
Fall semester 2005

Dr Mark Sedgwick

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Seminar description

The nineteenth century was the century in which the Middle East first confronted the full force of modernity. The political story of this confrontation is reasonably well known, but its social, economic and intellectual aspects are less well known. Taking the case of Turkey, this seminar examines all these aspects of Ottoman modernity.

The seminar will be divided into five parts, generally taking three weeks each. During the first part of the seminar, we will establish our starting point: the pre-modern Ottoman political, social and intellectual worlds. During the second part of the seminar, we will look at the coming of modernity in international relations, government and economics. We will then look at the consequences of this, both politically (part three) and socially (part four). During the final part of the seminar, we will spend one week examining possible overall interpretations of the processes we have been considering, and two weeks on presentations of individual research projects.

Assessment

Final grades will be calculated as follows:

- Participation: 15%
- Reading responses: 55%
- Research paper: 30%

Participation means more than just sitting in class: if you have not done the reading, there is little point in coming to class just to sit there. Note, however, that more than three weeks of absence for any reason (including illness etc.) may result in an F.

Reading responses are required for all weeks' reading. Each reading response must be

- about two pages long, and properly typed, documented and proof-read. Do *not* write ten pages.
- analytical. Mere summary of the readings is not acceptable, and will receive a very low grade.
- handed in at the start of each class. No late papers will be accepted under any circumstances whatsoever, but your worst response paper will be ignored when calculating the final grade.

The *Research paper* should deal with a topic related to our readings and be about ten pages long. Before starting your paper, you must discuss your topic with me, and obtain my *written* agreement to a 300-400 word abstract and proposed bibliography. The *latest* date for abstracts / bibliographies is Monday, October 31. Incomprehensibility or sloppy presentation of the paper will be penalized.

Notes

1. The university policy on cheating and plagiarism applies in this class. I always report cases of either to the Academic Integrity Committee.
2. Changes to assignments, times, dates, etc. will be announced in class. It is your responsibility to make sure that you learn of any such announcement which might have been made during a class you miss.

Sections of the course

Note: Where a text is flagged as “available on the internet,” the URL is given on the on-line version of this outline, at <http://www.aucegypt.edu/faculty/sedgwick/courses/arbs542053.html>.

I: Pre-modernity

Week 1, September 5: Introduction

No reading

Week 2, Sept 12: State and society

- Gábor Ágoston, “Ottoman Warfare in Europe 1453– 1826,” in *European Warfare 1453–1815*, ed Jeremy Black (New York: Palgrave Publishers, 1999), pp 118-39. Available on the internet.
- Carter V. Findley, *Bureaucratic Reform in the Ottoman Empire: The Sublime Porte, 1789-1922* (Princeton: Princeton University Press 1980), pp. 3-43. Available on the internet.
- Madeleine C. Zilfi, “Women and Society in the Tulip Era, 1718-1730,” in *Women, the Family, and Divorce Laws in Islamic History*, ed. Amira El Azhary Sonbol (Syracuse: Syracuse University Press, 1996), pp. 290-303. HQ1726.7 .W64 1997.

II: Modernity

Week 3, Sept 19: International relations

- Gábor Ágoston, “Ottoman Warfare in Europe 1453– 1826,” in *European Warfare 1453–1815*, ed Jeremy Black (New York: Palgrave Publishers, 1999), pp 139-44. Available on the internet.
- M. E. Yapp, *The Making of the Modern Near East, 1792-1923* (London: Longman, 1987), chapter 2. DS 62.4 Y35 1987.

Week 4, Sept 26: Government

- Carter V. Findley, *Bureaucratic Reform in the Ottoman Empire: The Sublime Porte, 1789-1922* (Princeton: Princeton University Press 1980), pp. 69-220. Available on the internet.

Week 5, Oct 3: Economics

Possibly Ramadan schedule, i.e. 7 p.m. to 9 p.m.

- Donald Quataert, “The Age of Reform, 1812-1914” in *An Economic and Social History of the Ottoman Empire, 1300-1914*, ed Halil Inalcik and Donald Quataert (Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 1994), pp. 777-946. HC492 .E295 1994.

III: Political consequences

Week 6, Oct 10: Young Ottomans

Ramadan schedule, i.e. 7 p.m. to 9 p.m.

- Serif Mardin, *The Genesis of Young Ottoman Thought: A Study in the Modernization of Turkish Political Ideas* (Syracuse University Press, 2000). Available on the internet.

Week 7, Oct 17 (to reschedule): Abd al-Hamid

- Carter V. Findley, *Bureaucratic Reform in the Ottoman Empire: The Sublime Porte, 1789-1922* (Princeton: Princeton University Press 1980), pp. 221-290. Available on the internet.
- Selim Deringil. *The Well-Protected Domains: Ideology and the Legitimation of Power in the Ottoman Empire, 1876-1909* (London: I. B. Tauris, 1998). DR572 .D47 1998.

Week 8, Oct 24: CUP

Ramadan schedule, i.e. 7 p.m. to 9 p.m.

- M. Şükrü Hanioglu. *The Young Turks in Opposition* (New York: Oxford University Press, 1995). DR 572.5 H37 1995.
- Stanford J. Shaw, *History of the Ottoman Empire and Modern Turkey* (Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 1977), chapter 4. Available on the internet.

IV: Social consequences

Week 9, Oct 31: Education

Ramadan schedule, i.e. 7 p.m. to 9 p.m.

- Benjamin C. Fortna, *Imperial Classroom: Islam, the State, and Education in the Late Ottoman Empire* (New York: Oxford University Press, 2002). LA941.7 .F67 2002.

Week 10, Nov 7: Culture

- Wendy M. K. Shaw, *Possessors and Possessed: Museums, Archaeology, and the Visualization of History in the Late Ottoman Empire* (Ewing, NJ: University of California Press, 2003), chapter 3, "The Rise of the Imperial Museum." Available on the internet.
- Palmira Brummett, "Dogs, Women, Cholera, and Other Menaces in the Streets: Cartoon Satire in the Ottoman Revolutionary Press, 1908-11." *International Journal of Middle East Studies* 27 (1995), pp. 433-460. Available on the internet.
- François Georgeon, "Ottomans and Drinkers: The Consumption of Alcohol in Istanbul in the Nineteenth Century," in *Outside In: On the Margins of the Modern Middle East*, ed. Eugene Rogan (London: I.B. Tauris, 2002). HN656.Z9 O98 2002

Week 11, Nov 14: Lower classes

- Donald Quataert, *Social Disintegration and Popular Resistance in the Ottoman Empire, 1881-1908: Reactions to European Economic Penetration* (New York: New York University Press, 1983). HC492 .Q37 1983.
- Optional

- Yavuz Selim Karakisla, “The Emergence of the Ottoman Industrial Working Class, 1839-1923,” in *Workers and the Working Class in the Ottoman Empire and the Turkish Republic, 1839-1950*, Donald Quataert and Erik Jan Zürcher, eds (London: Tauris Academic Studies), 1995. HD8656.5 .W67 1995.
- Donald Quataert, “The Workers of Salonica, 1850-1812,” in *Workers and the Working Class in the Ottoman Empire*.

Week 12, Nov 21 (to reschedule): Islam

- Kemal H. Karpat, *The Politicization of Islam: Reconstructing Identity, State, Faith, and Community in the Late Ottoman State* (New York: Oxford University Press, 2000), pp. 68-154. DR572. K28 2000.
- Optional
 - Reina Lewis, *Rethinking Orientalism: Women, Travel and the Ottoman Harem* (London: I.B. Tauris, 2004). HQ1726.7 .L49 2004.

IV: Interpretation and presentations

Week 13, Nov 28: Conclusions

- Marshall G. S. Hodgson, *The Venture of Islam: Conscience and History in a World Civilization* (Chicago: University of Chicago Press, 1974), vol. 3, chapter 3, “Modernism in Turkey: Westernization.” Available on the internet.

Week 14, December 5: Presentations I

To be arranged

Week 15, December 12: Presentations II

To be arranged