

İpek K. Yosmaoğlu

**HIST 600, Fall 2007
Late Ottoman State and Society**

The Ottoman Empire came into being as a diminutive political entity in western Anatolia at the dawn of the fourteenth century. By the sixteenth century it was a formidable power with territories extending from North Africa to Central Europe. The nineteenth century witnessed it branded as the “sick man of Europe,” and the twentieth, ushered in by WWI, placed the “sick man” to his final rest. The nature of this state was as complicated and changing as the peoples it ruled, and yet we tend to think of the Ottoman Empire as a monolith, usually associating it with the role it was accorded in the European balance of power that emerged in the nineteenth century. This seminar aims to examine the dynamics that shaped the Ottoman state and society after the period commonly known as “the decline.” Our particular focus will be on modernization: what we understand from it, what it meant in the Ottoman context, and what kind of forces determined its course. A parallel theme that we will follow is the transformation (or disintegration) of a multi-ethnic and multi-confessional polity into one better suited to the homogenizing imperative of the nation-state.

This seminar involves a substantial amount of reading, most of which contains terms and technical language that you may often find bewildering. I also have to note that the style, in which the scholarship you will be reading is delivered, is quite uneven and confusing at times. Fear not. You will be provided with a question set each week before you embark on the reading assignment. This is meant to serve as a road map and hint at the issues you should be paying attention to. And the Ottomans, despite what you may have heard about overstuffed sofas, rapacious sultans and voluptuous harem girls, were not any more exotic than other societies in and around Europe. While this may come as a disappointment to some of you, what you find out about the Ottomans through this seminar will certainly make up for that brief sense of loss.

The purpose of the weekly reading assignments is to familiarize you not only with the history but also the historiography of Ottoman state and society; the different ways in which scholars have approached sources and major themes in the field. You are required to complete the assigned reading each week, and complete it carefully. This is an advanced seminar that relies on the students’ consistent and constructive participation, and the course assignments are designed with the assumption that you will honor that requirement. If, however, your participation starts to falter at any point during the semester, I reserve the right to revise the assignments accordingly.

Grading:

Participation 30 %

Book report 20 %

Final Paper 50%

Format:

After the introductory session of the first week (Monday, Sept. 11), each student will come to class with two discussion topics/questions based on the reading. These questions will be circulated to the class list via email the day before the seminar meets (Sunday by noon).

Weeks 3 through 10 (September 24-November 12), two students (one student on week 10) will each prepare a three-page report on a monograph related with the week's theme; they will circulate these book reports the day before via email and make a short class presentation based on their reports. I strongly recommend that you start working on this report as soon as you can. A list of recommended books will be available for each week.

The final paper for this seminar is expected to be fifteen to twenty double-spaced pages in length, excluding bibliography and notes, and it has three deadlines: the first is October 29, when you are expected to turn in a paper topic as well as a bibliography of the sources you intend to use. This bibliography does not have to be an exhaustive list of the material you will ultimately use but demonstrate that you have done sufficient research and thinking in preparation. Your bibliography should be four to five pages, and annotated. Include not only the name of the book, article or primary source you will be using, but also a brief description thereof. There is no seminar meeting on November 19; this interlude is meant to give you some extra time to prepare a first draft of your papers. The second deadline is Friday, November 30, when you will circulate a first draft of your paper in preparation for class discussions. The last two weeks, December 3 and December 10 are reserved for paper discussions. The deadline for your final drafts is December 17. Note that none of these deadlines are subject to extension, and there are absolutely no exceptions to this rule.

Finally, *Birds Without Wings* is a novel by De Bernieres (of Corelli's Mandolin fame) included in the syllabus in order to help you visualize life in a small community of mixed confessional belonging; providing quality distraction from the less engaging stories you will be reading, but also in order to present you with an example of good writing. You are expected to read it entirely by November 26 in preparation for that session's discussion.

Required Texts:

Donald Quataert, *The Ottoman Empire, 1700-1922*, New York: Cambridge University Press, 2000.

Louis De Bernieres, *Birds Without Wings*, 2005.

Recommended:

Erik Jan Zürcher, *Turkey*, I. B Tauris, 2004.

Week 1, Sept. 10

Introductory Meeting

Week 2, Sept. 17

Basic Institutions of the Ottoman Empire and their Legacy

Donald Quataert, *The Ottoman Empire*, pp.1-51; 89-108.

Maria Todorova, "The Ottoman Legacy in the Balkans," in *Imperial Legacy: The Ottoman Imprint on the Balkans and the Middle East*, L. Carl Brown, ed. pp. 45-77.

Karl Barbir, "Memory, Heritage, and History: The Ottomans and the Arabs," in *Imperial Legacy*, pp. 100-114.

Rifa'at Abou-El-Haj, "Social Uses of the Past: Recent Arab Historiography of Ottoman Rule," *IJMES*, v. 14 no. 2 (1982) pp. 185-201.

Week 3, Sept. 24

Millets: The Ottoman Ethno-Religious "Order"

Quataert, *The Ottoman Empire*, pp.172-183.

Benjamin Braude, "Foundation Myths of the Millet System," in *Christians and Jews in the Ottoman Empire: The Functioning of a Plural Society*, pp. 69-88.

Kemal Karpat, "Millets and Nationality: The Roots of the Incongruity of Nation and State in the post-Ottoman Era," in *Christians and Jews*, pp. 141-170.

Mark Mazower, *Salonica, City of Ghosts: Christians, Muslims and Jews since 1430*, pp. 46-93.

Week 4, Oct. 1

Early Reforms: The "Impact of the West"?

Bernard Lewis, *The Emergence of Modern Turkey*, pp. 40-73.

Stanford Shaw, *History of the Ottoman Empire and Turkey*, v. 1, pp. 234-274.

Huri Islamoglu and Caglar Keyder, "Agenda for Ottoman History," in *The Ottoman Empire and the World Economy*, pp. 42-62.

Dror Ze'evi, "Back to Napoleon? Thoughts on the Beginning of the Modern Era in the Middle East" *Mediterranean Historical Review*, v. 19 (June 2004), pp. 73-94.

Week 5, Oct. 8

Young Ottomans, Constitutional Movement and Changes in the Periphery

Donald Quataert, *The Ottoman Empire*, pp. 54-72.

Zürcher, Turkey, pp. 52-74.

Niyazi Berkes, *The Development of Secularism in Turkey*, pp. 155-172.

Albert Hourani, "Ottoman Reform and the Politics of the Notables," in W. Polk and P. Chambers, eds., *The Beginnings of Modernization in the Middle East: The Nineteenth Century*, Chicago: Chicago University Press, 1968, pp. 41-68.

Week 6, Oct. 15

Independent Orientations in the Periphery and Alternative Identities

Stanford Shaw, *History of the Ottoman Empire and Modern Turkey, v. II*, pp. 133-152.

L. S. Stavrianos, *The Balkans since 1453*, pp. 230- 250; 269-296; 365-380.

Victor Roudometof, "From Rum Millet to Greek Nation: Enlightenment, Secularization, and National Identity in Ottoman Balkan Society, 1453-1821," *Journal of Modern Greek Studies*, v. 16 (1998), pp. 11-48.

Khaled Fahmy, *All the Pasha's Men*, pp. 38-75.

Week 7, Oct. 22

The Eastern Question and Abdülhamid II's Reign

Zürcher, Turkey, pp. 80-94.

Selim Deringil, *The Well-Protected Domains: Ideology and the Legitimation of Power in the Ottoman Empire, 1876-1909*, pp. 16-43; 135-149.

Kemal Karpat, *The Politicization of Islam*, pp. 155-182; 223-240.

Week 8, Oct. 29

Annotated bibliographies due

Economic Pressures and the Young Turk Revolution

Niyazi Berkes, *The Development of Secularism*, pp. 325-346.

Şükrü Hanioglu, *Young Turks in Opposition*, pp. 7-28; 200-216.

Şükrü Hanioglu, *Preparation for a Revolution: The Young Turks, 1902-1908*, pp. 210-288; 312-318.

Şevket Pamuk, "Commodity Production for World-Markets and Relations of Production in Ottoman Agriculture, 1840-1913," in *The Ottoman Empire and the World Economy*, pp. 178-202.

Donald Quataert, *Social Disintegration and Popular Resistance in the Ottoman Empire, 1881-1908*, pp. 1-6; 13-40.

Week 9, Nov. 5

Changes in the Urban Landscape and Popular Reactions to Westernization

Donald Quataert, *The Ottoman Empire*, pp. 140-168.

Palmira Brummet, "Dogs, Women, Cholera, and Other Menaces in the Streets: Cartoon Satire in the Ottoman Revolutionary Press, 1908-1911, *IJMES*, v. 27, no. 4 (1995), pp. 433-460.

Donald Quataert, "Clothing Laws, State and Society in the Ottoman Empire," *International Journal of Middle East Studies*, v. 29 (1997), pp. 403-425.

Şerif Mardin, "Super Westernization in Urban Life in the Ottoman Empire in the Last Quarter of the Nineteenth Century," in *Turkey, Geographical and Social Perspectives*, P. Benedict, E. Tümmertekin, F. Mansur, eds., pp. 403-446.

Mark Mazower, *Salonica, City of Ghosts*, pp. 224-238.

Week 10, Nov. 12

From a Multi-ethnic/ Multi Confessional Polity to National Homogeneity

Birds Without Wings

Mark Mazower, "The G-Word" (Review of *The Treatment of Armenians in the Ottoman Empire, 1915-1916*), *London Review of Books*, February 2001.

Renée Hirschon, *Heirs of the Greek Catastrophe*, pp. 1-27.

Anastassia Karakasidou, *Fields of Wheat, Hills of Blood*, 1997, pp. 10-53.

Ipek K. Yosmaoglu, "Counting Bodies, Shaping Souls" *International Journal of Middle East Studies*, v. 38 (2006), 55-77.

Week 11, Nov. 19

No reading, prepare first drafts of papers

Week 12, Nov. 26

No reading

Week 13, Dec. 3
Paper presentations and discussion

Week 14, Dec. 10
Paper Presentations and discussion

Geçmiş Olsun!