

**HIST 425**  
**Comparative State Structures in Europe and the Islamic World**  
**SYLLABUS / Spring 2024**



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İstanbul 29 Mayıs University, Department of History  
Spring 2023

Class Hours: **Thursday 14:00-17:00 @ C220**

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Office Hours: **By appointment @ C308**

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**COURSE DESCRIPTION**

This course surveys the idea of state and the state structures in the early modern period in Europe and in the Islamic world. The survey begins from the 15<sup>th</sup> century when the ever-larger empire demised with the death of Tamerlane in 1405. The course argues that in the early modern Eurasian world there were roughly six types of empires/states. The first part was the post Romanic Empires which had the universalist ideology depending on the religious legitimization. The second type were the Islamic gunpowder empires which were making their power over the land-based armies. The third type of the empires in that period was the steppe empires which have been built in the larger frontier zones. The second period of the early modern world witnessed another three types of empire. At the beginning the of the enlightenment in Europe. The examples of these empires were the British empire after the glorious revolution, France after the French Revolution and the Prussian Kingdom based upon the bureaucratic power. In the same period the Islamic empires were in crisis and there was a transformation of these empire into larger decentralized structures. The eastern powers of the late 18<sup>th</sup> century, the Habsburg Empire, the Russian Tsardom, and the Central European power of the Habsburg Empire was another level of the state structures in Eurasia. Each week will be focusing on one or two different state/empire and will question the global history of the idea of state building in the early modern world. This course is an answer to the question how the modern world of empires and the modern state had emerged in the global perspective in Europe and in the Islamic world.

# HIST 425

## Comparative State Structures in Europe and the Islamic World

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### REQUIREMENTS



- **A. Weekly Class Discussion: (35 pts.)** The scheduled readings will be distributed evenly among the students. After the lecture, students will present their chapter. The students are expected to involve into discussion. Each presentation will be graded separately.
- **B. Presentation of a book:** Students will choose their book, selecting from the bibliographies of the assigned readings. (The book should not be about directly Ottoman Empire or Ottoman world!) Deadline to notify the book selected is the first week after midterm.
- **C. Paper (1) (10 pts.)**
- **D. Midterm Paper (2) (15 pts.)**
- **E. Final Exam: (40 pts.)** Three essay questions.

**Plagiarism: Unacknowledged use of other people’s ideas, words or research without proper credit constitutes plagiarism, and will result in an automatic “F” for both the assignment and the course. When unsure, consult the instructor.**

**ATTENDANCE:** As this course is a *seminar discussion*, attendance is mandatory. Unexcused absences for three times will automatically result in FF!

### READING AND LECTURE SCHEDULE

(All readings are uploaded on the virtual classroom of *MS TEAMS*.)

Calendar	Topic/Text	Discussant	Discussant	Discussant	Discussant	Discussant
Week 1: 22/02	Introduction					
Week 2: 29/02	<b>Global Perspective in Historiography</b> (Theories, Methods and Topics) Bentley, J., <i>OHB, World History</i> , Oxford UP, 2011, (10 Chapters)					



<b>Week 3: 07/03</b>	Continue: 10 Chapters					
<b>Week 4: 14/03</b>	Continue: 11 Chapters					
<b>Week 5: 21/03</b>	<b>Paper 1</b>					
<b>Week 6: 28/03</b>	<b>Eurasia after 1400</b> Darwin, J. <i>After Tamerlane</i> "The Global History of Empire since 1405, Chapters 1 and 2.					
<b>Week 7: 04/04</b>	<i>After Tamerlane</i> "The Global History of Empire since 1405, Chapters 3 and 4.					
<b>Midterm</b>	<b>Paper 2</b>					
<b>Week 9: 25/04</b>	<b>Empire in World History (Early Modern)</b> Burbank and Cooper, <i>Empires in World History</i> , Chapters 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7.					
<b>Week 10: 02/05</b>	Bang, Bayly, Scheidel, <i>The Oxford World History of</i>					



	<i>Empire</i> , Chapters, 18, 19, 20, 21, 22					
<b>Week 11: 09/05</b>	Continue: Chapters, 27, 28, 29, 30, 31, 32					
<b>Week 12: 16/05</b>	<b>Empire in Modernizing World</b> <i>The Ashgate Research Companion to Modern Imperial Histories</i> Chapters, 2, 3, 4, 5, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11					
<b>Week 13: 23/05</b>	Continue: Chapters, 12, 13, 14, 15, 16, 17, 18.					
<b>Week 14: 30/05</b>	Presentations					
<b>Week 15: 06/06</b>	Presentations					