

**HIST 431**  
**HISTORY OF EDUCATION IN THE OTTOMAN EMPIRE**  
**SYLLABUS / SPRING 2024**



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İstanbul 29 Mayıs University, Department of History  
Spring 2024

**Class Hours: Wednesday 14:00-17:00**

Instructor: Dr. Mehmet Yılmaz Akbulut

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**COURSE DESCRIPTION**

This is a survey course about the history of education in the Ottoman Empire which presents an introductory reading to attain a general view. The survey begins with the pre-Ottoman higher educational issues of Medieval Islam. Following that, students will be introduced to the issue of "Ottoman madrasa" as an institution, with its political and academic functions. The sixteenth, seventeenth, and eighteenth centuries will be discussed particularly with a focus on the cultural-educational history in development. Politics and education, social and economic crises and education, and the radical changes in the intellectual horizons will be topics of these weeks. Education, from the perspective of this course, is taken a bit broader. It encompasses the socio-cultural aspects of education in the Empire but together with that the scholarly aspects together with religion-politics will be included. Therefore, throughout the course, you will have readings in a wide spectrum stretching from the discussion about the Ottoman madrasa curriculum to the structures of patronage among the scholars.

**REQUIREMENTS**

- **A. Quizzes (20 pts):** There will be 2 quizzes, (For better performance in the quizzes you should complete your readings before the class hour. **Quizzes are composed of multiple-choice questions.**
- **B. Midterm Exam (20 pts):** There are two parts of this exam: 15 pts for one essay question, 10 pts for multiple-choice questions.
- **C. Final Exam (40 pts):** There are two parts of this exam: 25 pts two essay questions, 20 pts test questions.
- **D. Papers (20 pts): (1) Reaction Paper:**  
**(2) Review Article:** From the bibliographies of the books and articles given as compulsory reading, students choose a set of articles/chapters/books and write a review article for about 2000-3000 words. The paper will be submitted on the first week after the midterm.

**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 *lecture*, attendance is mandatory. Unexcused absences will take 10 pts from your total.

## SCHEDULE

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

<p><b>Week 1: (21/02)</b> General Introduction to the course and the presentation of the Syllabus</p>
<p><b>Week 2: (28/02): Medieval Education in Muslim World</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- J. Berkey, "The transmission of religious knowledge", <i>The Formation of Islam</i>, Cambridge 2003, 224-233.</li> <li>- G. Makdisi, "Scholasticism and Humanism in Classical Islam and the Christian West", <i>Journal of the American Oriental Society</i>, 175-182.</li> <li>- Arjomand, Said Amir. "The Law, Agency, and Policy in Medieval Islamic Society: Development of the Institutions of Learning from the Tenth to the Fifteenth Century." <i>Comparative Studies in Society and History</i> 41, no. 2 (1999): 263–93.</li> </ul>
<p><b>Week 3: (06/03) Emergence of the Ottoman Madrasa (14-15<sup>th</sup> Centuries)</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- E. İhsanoğlu, "Osmanlı Medrese Geleneğinin Doğuşu", 849-883.</li> <li>- Francis Robinson, "Ottomans-Safavids-Mughals: Shared Knowledge and Connective Systems," <i>Journal of Islamic Studies</i> 8, no. 2 (1997): 151-184, at 174-177.</li> <li>- Hızlı, Mefail, "Osmanlılarda ilk Medreseler, ilk Müderrisler", <i>Milli Kültür</i>, 1991, sy. 88, s. 27-31.</li> </ul>
<p><b>Week 4: (13/03) Curriculum</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- İ. H. Uzunçarşılı, <i>İlmiye Teşkilatı</i>, pp. 1-44.</li> <li>- Aydın Bilgin and Ekrem Tak, "XVII. Yüzyılda İstanbul Medreselerinde Okutulan Kitaplar (Tereke Kayıtları Üzerine Bir Değerlendirme)," <i>Dil ve Edebiyat Araştırmaları/Journal of Language and Literature Studies</i> vol. 19, no. 19 (2019): 183-236.</li> <li>- Aydın, Bilgin; Erünsal İsmail, "Tereke Kayıtlarına Göre Osmanlı Medrese Talebelerinin Okuduğu Kitaplar (XVII-XX. Yüzyıllar), <i>Osmanlı Medreseleri Eğitim Yönetim ve Finans</i>, 2019, s. 93-121.</li> </ul> <p><b>Discussion of the articles:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- S. Ahmed and N. Filipovic, "The Sultan's Syllabus: A Curriculum for the Ottoman Imperial medreses Prescribed in a fermān of Qānūnī I Süleymān, Dated 973 (1565)", pp. 183-218.</li> <li>- A. T. Şen, "The Sultan's Syllabus Revisited: Sixteenth-Century Ottoman Madrasa Libraries and the Question of Canonization", <i>Studia Islamica</i>, nr. 116, (2021), pp. 198-235.</li> </ul>
<p><b>Week 5: (20/03): <u>Paper Writing (Reaction Paper)</u></b></p>
<p><b>Week 6: (27/03) The Sixteenth Century: Scholars and the State</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Akarlı, E. D., "The Ruler and Law Making in the Ottoman Empire", in <i>Law and Empire</i>, 2013, pp. 87-109</li> <li>- A. Atçıl, <i>Scholars and Sultans in the Early Modern Ottoman Empire</i>, pp. 134-169. C.</li> <li>- Fleischer, <i>Bureaucrat and Intellectual in the Ottoman Empire: The Historian Mustafa Ali, 1541–1600</i>, Chapter 1 (pp. 13-40); Chapter 7 (pp. 201-213).</li> </ul>
<p><b>Week 7: (03/04): Sunnitization and Confessionalization</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- D. Terzioğlu. "How to conceptualize Ottoman Sunnitization: A historiographical discussion." <i>Turcica</i> 44 (2013): 301-338.</li> <li>- Burak, Guy. "Faith, law and empire in the Ottoman 'Age of Confessionalization' (fifteenth–seventeenth centuries): the case of 'Renewal of Faith'." <i>Mediterranean historical review</i> 28.1 (2013): 1-23.</li> </ul>

<b>Week 8: 17/04/2024: Midterm</b>
<b>Week 9: (24/04) Seventeenth Century: Crisis</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- M. Akdağ, <i>Türk halkının dirlik ve düzenlik kavgası</i>, YKY, 2009, pp. 145-193; 239-264.</li> <li>- M. Zilfi, "The Kadızadeli: Discordant Revivalism", pp. 251-269.</li> <li>- K. El-Rouayheb, "The Myth of "The Triumph of Fanaticism" in the Seventeenth-Century Ottoman Empire", pp. 196-221.</li> <li>- Terzioğlu, Derin. "Sunna-minded sufi preachers in service of the ottoman state: the naşihatnâme of Hasan addressed to Murad IV." <i>Archivum ottomanicum</i> 27 (2010): 241-312.</li> </ul>
<b>Week 10: (08/05): Age of self-educated polymaths</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Hagen, Gottfried. "Afterword Ottoman Understandings of the World in the Seventeenth Century." <i>An Ottoman Mentality</i>. Brill, 2006. 215-256.</li> <li>- S. Ahmad and N. Filipovic, "Two 17<sup>th</sup> century Ottoman Heretics (unpublished article)</li> </ul>
<b>Week 11: (15/05): Eighteenth Century: Tulip Age and Printing Press and the Ottoman Libraries</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- M. Nizri, <i>Ottoman High Politics and the Ulema Household</i>, <b>Chapter 1</b>, pp. 20-53.</li> <li>- S. Ayduz, "Lale Devrinde Yapılan İlmî Faaliyetler", s. 143-170.</li> <li>- O. Sabev, <i>İbrahim Müteferrika ya da İlk Osmanlı Matbaa Serüveni</i>, pp. 179-297.</li> <li>- Y. Sezer, "The Architecture of Bibliophilia Eighteenth Century Ottoman Libraries", PhD, Chapters 1-2, pp. 38-110.</li> <li>- İ. Erünsal, <i>Osmanlılarda Kütüphaneler ve Kütüphanecilik</i>, pp. 160-263.</li> </ul>
<b>Week 12: (22/05) Paper Writing (Review Article)</b>
<b>Week 13: (29/05): Mühendishane: Early Modernization (1773-1839)</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- K. Beydilli, "İstanbul'da Deniz ve Kara Mühendishanelerinin Kuruluşu ve Faaliyetleri (1775-1839)", <i>Büyük İstanbul Tarihi</i>.</li> <li>- M. Kaçar, <i>Tersane Hendesehanesinden Bahriye Mektebine Mühendisane-i Bahri Hümayun, Atilla Bir Armağanı</i>, s. 51-77.</li> <li>- L. Düzcü, "Tersane Mühendishanesi'nde Eğitim (Gemi İnşa, Coğrafya, Harita Ve Seyrüsefer) (1773-1838)", <i>Düzce Üniv. Sosyal Bilimler Dergisi, Özel Sayı</i>, 2019, 121-31.</li> </ul>
<b>Week 14: (05/06): Tanzimat Reforms and the Modern Education / Modernization in Education</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- N. Berkes, <i>Development of Secularism in Turkey</i>, pp. 89-136; 155-200.</li> <li>- E. İhsanoğlu, "Dârülfünûn Tarihçesine Giriş İlk İki Teşebbüs", <i>Belleten</i> 1990, pp. 699-738.</li> <li>- S. Kenan, "Türk Eğitim Düşüncesi ve Deneyiminin Dönüm Noktaları Üzerine Bir Çözümleme", s. 1-31.</li> <li>- Kenan, Seyfi. "Modern Üniversitenin Oluşum Süreci". <i>Osmanlı Araştırmaları</i> 45, sy. 45 (Mart 2015): 333-67.</li> </ul>