

# History of the Turks

EUS3112 Section 17EH (Class 25933)  
EUH3931 Section 8ES5 (Class 25041)  
MWF Period 5 (11:45-12:35pm)  
UF Anderson Hall 013

## Instructor

[Emrah Sahin, Ph.D.](#)

[emrahsahin@ufl.edu](mailto:emrahsahin@ufl.edu)

(352) 294-7143; Turlington 3326

[Zoom room here](#)

Office hours: MW 3-5pm  
& by appointment

## Course Description

This is a course about modern Turkey that moves away from Western stereotypes about Turks and offers an informed and critical review of the Turkish nation. It explores early Turkish history and examines the Republic of Turkey since 1923. Throughout the course, you will study significant topics in Turkish and Islamic civilization – including but not limited to the origin and image of the Turk in Western imagination, the Ottoman Empire, the Young Turks, and various coups and upheavals of the modern period, while at the same time paying close attention to the cultural and social life of the nation by addressing gender, daily life, workers, migrations, and the role of Islamic culture and religion.

## Course Objectives

At the end of the course, you should be able to:

- Understand major themes related to Turkey and reflect on these themes,
- Discuss the cumulative effect of politics and culture on European and Middle Eastern collective memory,
- Reconsider the place of the Turkish nation in the Western and Islamic Worlds, and,
- Acquire essential skills for advanced studies in European and Turkish studies.

## Required Materials and Supplies Fees

Readings and recommended materials will be posted on the e-learning website. There is no required textbook for this course. There are no additional fees for the course.

## Evaluation of Grades

This course includes the following assignments along with lecture and discussion sections. Be willing, engaged, and punctual – that is, *attend* the lectures, *participate* in discussions, and *complete* your reading/writing assignments on time.

- **In-class mid-term examination** (30 points). The mid-term examination is scheduled on Week 6. Professor will address questions about this exam.

- **Take-home final examination** (35 points). The final examination will be drawn from lectures and select readings. A review class will provide guidelines and questions on Week 15, and the examination will be due on Week 16.
- **Participation and Quizzes** (20 points). You will write 3 quizzes (5 points each). The quizzes will include multiple choices and short paragraphs based on topical materials.
- **Book review** (5 points) You submit a 4-page, double-spaced abstract on a text of your choice (see readings below and consult the professor for ideas and samples). Original abstracts capture the core of a book's arguments and its themes, and thus will take full credit. This assignment is open to submission until the last meeting.
- **Attendance** will register 10 points toward your final grade.

Worth noting is that the readings, assignments, and examinations must be completed by the date and time recorded on this syllabus. Though Professor Sahin reserves the right to make changes to this syllabus (with an in-advance warning if deemed necessary), the assignment schedules and UF regulations will stand at all times.

### Grading Policy

Letter Grade	A	A-	B+	B	B-	C+	C	C-	D+	D	D-	F
Numerical Value (% rank)	+94	90 93	87 89	84 86	80 83	77 79	74 76	70 73	67 69	64 66	60 63	-60
GPA Equivalent	4.0	3.67	3.33	3.0	2.67	2.33	2.0	1.67	1.33	1.0	0.67	0

More information on grades and grading policies is here:

<https://catalog.ufl.edu/ugrad/current/regulations/info/grades.aspx>

### Class Attendance and Make-Up Policy

Attendance and participation are required for success. They not only constitute 15% of your grade. Repeated absences also affect your performance on exams and quizzes since they will be based on lectures and discussions. Missing class likewise means missing participation and falling behind in other assignments.

According to the Office of the University Registrar, “acceptable reasons for absence from class include illness, serious family emergencies, special curricular requirements (e.g., judging trips, field trips, and professional conferences), military obligation, severe weather conditions, religious holidays and participation in official university activities such as music performances, athletic competition or debate. Absences from class for court-imposed legal obligations (e.g., jury duty or subpoena) must be excused.”

For further information about the University of Florida’s attendance policy, please see the current Undergraduate Catalogue

(<https://catalog.ufl.edu/ugrad/current/regulations/info/attendance.aspx>)

### Students Requiring Accommodations

Students with disabilities requesting accommodations should first register with the Disability Resource Center (352-392-8565, [www.dso.ufl.edu/drc/](http://www.dso.ufl.edu/drc/)) by providing appropriate documentation. Once registered, students will receive an accommodation letter which must be

presented to the instructor when requesting accommodation. Students with disabilities should follow this procedure as early as possible in the semester.

### University Honesty Policy

UF students are bound by The Honor Pledge which states, “We, the members of the University of Florida community, pledge to hold ourselves and our peers to the highest standards of honor and integrity by abiding by the Honor Code. On all work submitted for credit by students at the University of Florida, the following pledge is either required or implied: “On my honor, I have neither given nor received unauthorized aid in doing this assignment.” The Honor Code (<https://www.dso.ufl.edu/sccr/process/student-conduct-honor-code/>) specifies a number of behaviors that are in violation of this code and the possible sanctions. Furthermore, you are obligated to report any condition that facilitates academic misconduct to appropriate personnel. If you have any questions or concerns, please consult with the instructor.

### Class Demeanor

Students are expected to arrive to class on time and behave in a manner that is respectful to the instructor and to fellow students. Please avoid the use of cell phones and restrict eating to outside of the classroom. Opinions held by other students should be respected in discussion, and conversations that do not contribute to the discussion should be held at minimum, if at all.

### In-Class Recording

Students are allowed to record video or audio of class lectures. However, the purposes for which these recordings may be used are strictly controlled. The only allowable purposes are (1) for personal educational use, (2) in connection with a complaint to the university, or (3) as evidence in, or in preparation for, a criminal or civil proceeding. All other purposes are prohibited. Specifically, students may not publish recorded lectures without the written consent of the instructor.

A “class lecture” is an educational presentation intended to inform or teach enrolled students about a particular subject, including any instructor-led discussions that form part of the presentation, and delivered by any instructor hired or appointed by the University, or by a guest instructor, as part of a University of Florida course. A class lecture does not include lab sessions, student presentations, clinical presentations such as patient history, academic exercises involving solely student participation, assessments (quizzes, tests, exams), field trips, private conversations between students in the class or between a student and the faculty or lecturer during a class session.

Publication without permission of the instructor is prohibited. To “publish” means to share, transmit, circulate, distribute, or provide access to a recording, regardless of format or medium, to another person (or persons), including but not limited to another student within the same class section. Additionally, a recording, or transcript of a recording, is considered published if it is posted on or uploaded to, in whole or in part, any media platform, including but not limited to social media, book, magazine, newspaper, leaflet, or third party note/tutoring services. A student who publishes a recording without written consent may be subject to a civil cause of action instituted by a person injured by the publication and/or discipline under UF Regulation 4.040 Student Honor Code and Student Conduct Code.

## Course Evaluation

Students are expected to provide feedback on the quality of instruction in this course by completing online evaluations at <https://evaluations.ufl.edu>. Evaluations are typically open during the last two or three weeks of the semester, but students will be given specific times when they are open. Summary results of these assessments are available to students at <https://evaluations.ufl.edu/results/>.

## Counseling and Wellness Center

Contact information for the Counseling and Wellness Center:

<http://www.counseling.ufl.edu/cwc/Default.aspx>, 392-1575; and the University Police Department: 392-1111 or 9-1-1 for emergencies.

## Additional UF Policies and Resources

### Safety and Society

Dean of Students Office [Dean of Students Office](#) (352-392-1261) provides a variety of services to students and families, including [Field and Fork](#) (UF's food pantry) and [New Student and Family programs](#)

Multicultural and Diversity Affairs [Multicultural and Diversity Affairs](#) (352-294-7850) celebrates and empowers diverse communities and advocates for an inclusive campus.

Office of Student Veteran Services [Office of Student Veteran Services](#) (352-294-2948 | [vacounselor@ufl.edu](mailto:vacounselor@ufl.edu)) assists student military veterans with access to benefits.

University Police The UF police are together for a safe campus. 392-1111 (or 9-1-1 for emergencies) <http://www.police.ufl.edu/>.

### Health and Wellbeing

Counseling and Wellness Center [Counseling and Wellness Center](#) (352-392-1575) provides counseling and support as well as crisis and wellness services including a [variety of workshops](#) throughout the semester (e.g., Yappy Hour, Relaxation and Resilience).

Disability Resource Center [Disability Resource Center](#) ([DRCaccessUF@ufsa.ufl.edu](mailto:DRCaccessUF@ufsa.ufl.edu) | 352-392-8565) helps to provide an accessible learning environment for all by providing support services and facilitating accommodations, which may vary from course to course. Once registered with DRC, students will receive an accommodation letter that must be presented to the instructor when requesting accommodations. Students should follow this procedure as early as possible in the semester.

**Student Health Care Center:** Call 352-392-1161 for 24/7 information to help you find the care you need, or [visit the Student Health Care Center website](#).

**U Matter, We Care:** If you or someone you know is in distress, please contact [umatter@ufl.edu](mailto:umatter@ufl.edu), 352-392-1575, or visit [U Matter, We Care website](#) to refer or report a concern and a team member will reach out to the student in distress.

UF Health Shands Emergency Room / Trauma Center: For immediate medical care call 352-733-0111 or go to the emergency room at 1515 SW Archer Road, Gainesville, FL 32608; [Visit the UF Health Emergency Room and Trauma Center website.](#)

## Academic/Professional

Career Connections Center [Career Connections Center](#) (352-392-1601 | [CareerCenterMarketing@ufsa.ufl.edu](mailto:CareerCenterMarketing@ufsa.ufl.edu)) connects job seekers with employers and offers guidance to enrich your collegiate experience and prepare you for life after graduation.

**Official Sources of Rules and Regulations:** The official source of rules and regulations for UF students is the [Undergraduate Catalog](#) and [Graduate Catalog](#). Quick links to other information have also been provided below.

- [Student Handbook](#)
- [Student Responsibilities](#), including academic honesty and student conduct code
- [e-Learning Supported Services Policies](#) includes links to relevant policies including Acceptable Use, Privacy, and many more
- [Accessibility](#), including the Electronic Information Technology Accessibility Policy and ADA Compliance
- [Student Computing Requirements](#), including minimum and recommended technology requirements and competencies

ONE.UF [ONE.UF](#) is the home of all the student self-service applications, including access to:

- [Advising](#)
- [Bursar](#) (352-392-0181)
- [Financial Aid](#) (352-392-1275)
- [Registrar](#) (352-392-1374)

## Learning and Technology

*E-learning technical support:* Contact the [UF Computing Help Desk](#) at 352-392-4357 or via e-mail at [helpdesk@ufl.edu](mailto:helpdesk@ufl.edu).

*Career Connections Center:* Reitz Union Suite 1300, 352-392-1601. Career assistance and counseling services.

*Library Support:* Various ways to receive assistance with respect to using the libraries or finding resources.

*Teaching Center:* Broward Hall, 352-392-2010 or to make an appointment 352- 392-6420. General study skills and tutoring.

*Writing Studio:* 2215 Turlington Hall, 352-846-1138. Help brainstorming, formatting, and writing papers.

*Student Complaints On-Campus:* [Visit the Student Honor Code and Student Conduct Code webpage for more information.](#)

*On-Line Students Complaints:* [View the Distance Learning Student Complaint Process.](#)

Course Schedule follows.

## Course Schedule

### WEEK 1 (AUGUST 23-27)

Lectures. 1) Course mechanics, 2) Turkish Origins

Discussion based on readings.

- Carter Findley. “The Pre-Islamic Turks and Their Precursors”
- Primary source. *The Orkhon Inscriptions*
- Documentary. Barbarians: The Huns <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=SQYigCUcZjg>

### WEEK 2 (AUGUST 30-SEPTEMBER 3)

Lectures. The Making of a New Order: Social Dynamics of the Ottoman Empire

Discussion

- Emrah Sahin. “Ottoman Society”
- Donald Quataert. “Why Study Ottoman History?”
- Documentary. The History of the Turkish and Ottoman Empire  
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=uIBO-meEtC8>
- Stephen Colbert, Obama’s Ottoman Empire <http://www.popscreen.com/v/7isYB/Colbert-Report-Obama039s-Ottoman-Empire>

### WEEK 3 (SEPTEMBER 8-10)

Lectures. Running an Empire: Diplomacy and Bureaucracy

Discussion

- Nuri Yurdusev. “Ottoman Attitude toward Diplomacy”
- Suraiyya Faroqhi. Introduction, in *Ottoman Empire and the World around It*
- Seminar, Istanbul: A Multi-perspectival City <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=KwSrCuSlIGo>

### WEEK 4 (SEPTEMBER 13-17)

Lectures. Challenges of an Imperial Past: The Making of Europe and Turkey

Discussion

- Kemal Karpat. “Ottoman Rule in Europe from the Perspective of 1994”
- Selim Deringil. “The Turks and ‘Europe’: The Argument from History”
- Eugene Rogan on Why the Ottoman Empire Failed  
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=m4UXwXhn9ME>

### WEEK 5 (SEPTEMBER 20-24)

Lectures. Tragedies: A Case of Minorities

Discussion

- Donald Quataert. “The Massacres of Ottoman Armenians”
- Doğu Ergil. “The Kurdish Question in Turkey”
- On Armenian Genocide: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=HGHBbaShIhU> (by John Oliver)  
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=FbIImba-hJU> (A political perspective)  
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=548lD5SvERk> (Survivor testimonies)
- For Kurdish Question: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Y5glk8pza6Q> (Nicholas Glastonbury)  
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=F07TovjmFcl> (via Al-Jazeera)

### WEEK 6 (SEPTEMBER 27-OCTOBER 1)

Lectures. Becoming a Nation: The Republic of Turkey

No discussion – mid-term examination in class

- Timothy Roberts and Emrah Sahin. “Construction of National Identities in Early Republics: A Comparison of the American and Turkish Cases”
- Mattei Dogan. “Comparing Two Charismatic Leaders: Ataturk and de Gaulle”
- Walter Cronkite. The Incredible Turk at <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=UnRWKyCW0yE>

#### WEEK 7 (OCTOBER 4-6)

##### Lectures. Limits of Democracy: Politics and Coups

##### Discussion

- Tanel Demirel. “Soldiers and Civilians: The Dilemma of Turkish Democracy”
- Murat Belge. “Nationalism, Democracy, and the New Left in Turkey”

#### WEEK 8 (OCTOBER 11-15)

##### Lectures. An Existential Crisis: Islam and Secularism

##### Discussion

- Hakan Yavuz. “Tempering of the Kemalist Revolution”
- Llyod Fallers. “Turkish Islam”
- Hakan Yavuz. “The National Outlook Movement and the Rise of the Refah Party”
- Prime Minister at 2009 Davos Summit <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=oY83lsO5VrM>

#### WEEK 9 (OCTOBER 18-22)

##### Lectures. Economy and Society

##### Discussion

- Utku Utkulu. “The Turkish Economy,” in *Turkey since 1970: Politics, Economics, and Society*
- Ibrahim Kaya. “State, Society, and Economy: Tensions between Liberty and Discipline”
- Movie, Cars of the Revolution [https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=l9zp\\_xRkiLA](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=l9zp_xRkiLA)

#### WEEK 10 (OCTOBER 25-27)

##### Lectures. Modernity and Gender: A Case of Republican Women

##### Discussion

- Yeşim Arat. “The Project of Modernity and Women in Turkey”
- Deniz Kandiyoti. “On Missing Dimensions in the Study of Turkish Modernity”
- New York Times take on the Kavakci Case, “the Day Turkey Stood Still”  
<http://www.nytimes.com/1999/05/16/world/turkish-president-strips-a-muslim-parliamentarian-of-citizenship.html>
- Worst and best scenarios, Turkish Parliament condemns Merve Kavakci and praises her sister  
[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ZK\\_3Lb4UOpk](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ZK_3Lb4UOpk) <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=fHsC8pxlD50>
- No meeting on Friday, October 29 (professor is lecturing at [MESA Conference](#))

#### WEEK 11 (NOVEMBER 1-5)

##### Lectures. Daily Life and Gender: Careers and Shadow Theaters

##### Discussion

- Memoirs of Halide Edip and Emine Tugay
- Serdar Öztürk. “Karagöz Co-opted: Turkish Shadow Theater of the Early Republic”
- Documentary, The Sound of Istanbul  
[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=jTLjL\\_BdOs&feature=youtu.be](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=jTLjL_BdOs&feature=youtu.be)
- Justin Bieber in Turkey <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=q-YkklZsdsM>

#### WEEK 12 (NOVEMBER 8-12)

##### Lectures. Turks in Europe: A Case of Germany and Netherlands



## Discussion

- Critical Review of Localising Islam in Europe by Ahmet Yükleven
- Colin Jerolmack. “Animal Practices, Ethnicity, and Community: The Turkish Pigeon Handlers of Berlin”
- Documentary, 39 Boys (Turkish Gangs in Germany) <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=fhTlt6oVysY>

## WEEK 13 (NOVEMBER 15-19)

### Lectures. Turkey and the European Union

#### Discussion

- Ersin Kalaycıoğlu. “The Turkish-EU Odyssey and Political Regime Change in Turkey”
- Amie Kreppel and Sinan Ciddi. “Turkey and the EU’s Diplomatic Stalemate”
- Discussion. Turkey’s EU Membership Request <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=-tjG8r4pmMQ>

## WEEK 14 (NOVEMBER 22-26)

### Discussion and movie screening, *Devrim Arabalari* [Cars of the revolution]

#### Thanksgiving Days.

## WEEK 15 (NOVEMBER 29-DECEMBER 3)

### Lecture. New Turkey: Recep Tayyip Erdogan and AK Party

#### Discussion

Take-home final instructions will be provided (due on the last class meeting)

- Recep Tayyip Erdoğan and Abdullah Gül on Democracy and Freedom
- France24 Interview with Erdogan <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=zAynEfst0Y>

## WEEK 16 (DECEMBER 6-8)

### Lectures. Nothing Will Be the Same: The July 2016 Coup Attempt

#### No discussion – Conclusion and Review: History of Turks from the Past to the Present

- Recep Tayyip Erdoğan and Abdullah Gül on Democracy and Freedom
- Berk Esen and Sebnem Gumuscu. “Turkey: How the Coup Failed”
- The Coup Attempt <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=6Uu8DwF8Hm8>
- John Trevor, Like America, Turkey is Also Burning <http://www.cc.com/video-clips/wecesq/the-daily-show-with-trevor-noah-like-america-turkey-is-also-burning>

## Readings for Review and Further Study

Akcam, Taner. *A Shameful Act: the Armenian Genocide*

Arat, Yesim. *Rethinking Islam and Liberal Democracy*

Arslan, Senem. *Nation Building in Turkey and Morocco*

Aydin, Mustafa et al. *Turkish American Relations: Past, Present, and Future*

Brown, Carl. *Imperial Legacy: the Ottoman Imprint on the Balkans and the Middle East*

Cinar, Alev. *Modernity, Islam, and Secularism in Turkey: Bodies, Places, and Time*

Dedeoglu, Saniye, and Adam Elveren. *Gender and Society in Turkey*

Deringil, Selim. *Conversion and Apostasy in the Late Ottoman Empire*

Dündar, Can. *We Are Arrested: A Journalist’s Notes from a Turkish Prison*

Findley, Carter. *Turkey, Islam, Nationalism, and Modernity: A History, 1789-2007*



Finkel, Caroline. *Osman's Dream: The History of the Ottoman Empire*  
Fromkin, David. *A Peace to End All Peace: The Fall of the Ottoman Empire and the Creation of the Modern Middle East*  
Gole, Nilufer. *The Forbidden Modern: Civilization and Veiling*  
Hart, Kimberly. *Then We Work for God*  
Karpaz, Kemal. *Politicization of Islam: Reconstructing Identity, State, Faith, and Community in the Late Ottoman State*  
Levin, Paul. *Turkey and the European Union: Christian and Secular Images of Islam*  
Mango, Andrew. *Ataturk: The Biography of the Founder of Modern Turkey*  
Norwich, John Julius. *Four Princes: Henry VIII, Francis I, Charles V, Suleiman the Magnificent and the Obsessions that Forged Modern Europe*  
Pamuk, Orhan. *Snow*  
Peres, Richard. *Day Turkey Stood Still: Merve Kavakci's Walk into the Turkish Parliament*  
Saktanber, Ayse. *Living Islam: Women, Religion, and the Politicization of Culture in Turkey*  
Shafak, Elif. *The Forty Rules of Love (A Novel of Rumi)*  
Shankland, David. *The Alevis in Turkey: The Emergence of a Secular Islamic Tradition*  
Uyar, Mesut and Edward Erickson. *A Military History of the Ottomans: From Osman to Atatürk*  
White, Jenny. *Princeton Studies in Muslim Politics: Muslim Nationalism and the New Turks*  
Yavuz, Hakan. *Islamic Political Identity in Turkey*  
Yurdusev, A. Nuri. *Ottoman Diplomacy: Conventional or Unconventional?*  
Zurcher, Eric. *Turkey: A Modern History*