

Money and Bible: Middle East and Turkey

EUS3930 Section 12ES – ASH3931 Section 6ES1 – EUH3931 Section 6ES1 – REL3938 Section
4962 – SYA4930 Section ESC5
MWF Period 5 (11:45-12:35pm)
Spring 2026 @ tba

Course Information

This course explores the history of interactions between foreigners and locals in the Middle East and Turkey by focusing on diplomatic and religious contacts and conflicts since the late 18th century. Major themes of the course include: the roots of diplomacy and commercial treaties, the treatment of foreign merchants and missionaries by the host government and society, and the mass migration from this region to Europe and the United States as a prism to study the broader implications of Western influence upon local communities.

You will also explore the interconnectedness of European and American merchants and missionaries by emphasizing common objectives in their relations with the host agency. The course is designed as a general introductory survey with no prerequisites and will provide readings, materials, and primary sources in English. Therefore, all Arts and Sciences students are welcome. The instructor will accommodate Science students coming to their first Arts course and can provide original sources in other languages if interested.

Course Objectives

This course transcends the boundaries of political science, sociology, history, and international relations by addressing the interactions between authorities, communities, and movements. It provides instruction in the history, concepts, themes, principles, and some informed perspectives in Western involvement in Turkey and the larger Middle East.

Students will learn to identify, describe, and explain specific encounters between American and Arab/Turkish-Muslim interactions in the field of diplomacy, commerce, and religion. To accomplish these objectives, students will critically examine: 1- How do individual, political, and social identities affect the larger relations? 2- Why do images, ideologies, and population movements affect the relations the way they do? And, 3- To what extent did early encounters reflect and shaped contemporary US-Middle East relations?

At the end of the course, students will be expected to have achieved the following outcomes in content, analysis, and critical thinking:

1. **Content:** Students demonstrate working knowledge and competence in the history, contours, and discourses of US-Middle East encounters.
2. **Analysis:** Students analyze and present ideas, views, and facts in written and oral forms from an interdisciplinary perspective.

3. **Critical Thinking:** Students study the existing materials and produce their own perspectives carefully and logically by way of developing context-based interpretations of specific themes and events.

Basic Course Communication Information

Instructor

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

emrahsahin@ufl.edu

[Turlington Hall # 3326B](#)

Class meetings: (MWF 11:45am)
TBA

Phone (352) 294-7143

Office hours: MWF period 2 and 6
& by appointment

Sign up [here at calendly](#)

For a f2f or [zoom](#) meeting

Office Hours and Communication

Office hours are 8:30 and 12:50pm on meeting days. Please sign up for a meeting in advance [here at calendly](#) for an *in-person*, *virtual*, or additional appointments. Students are also welcome to contact the instructor [by email](#) and on the GroupMe group any time after the first week of classes. For virtual office hours, the link is here ([zoom room](#); id 943 8605 6195).

Additionally, consider joining the class's [GroupMe account here](#) by scanning the code on the right-hand side.



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.

Grading Policies and Grade Scale

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.

Grading in this course takes place within the following parameters.

- Student work will be graded based on quality and within the point range given below. There will be no curving practices; extra credit may be available for those interested.
 - Grading in this class is consistent with UF policies available [here](#).
- [Assignment Values:](#)
 - **In-class mid-term examination** (25 points). The mid-term examination is scheduled by the end of Week 7. 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; and the examination will be due on the last week of classes.
- **Participation, Attendance, and Quizzes** (25 points). Including attendance taken randomly in 8 class meetings, you will participate our lecture and team discussions, and write 3 quizzes (5 points each). The quizzes will include multiple choices and short paragraphs based on topical materials.
- **Team project** (15 points). In this interesting and interactive project, the teams will study specific countries by focusing on foreign affairs. The instructor will gladly mentor each team on given assignments.
- **Bonus work-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.
- Please note that all assignments must be completed by the date indicated on the syllabus and will not be rescheduled, or, accepted late. Requests of any special accommodations must be made to the instructor in writing and in advance. Feel free to discuss any of your requirements or assignments with your professor.
- *Additionally, the instructor reserves the right to make changes to this syllabus as needed during the course of the semester. As much advance warning as possible will be provided to students. Changes can be made to the schedule, assigned reading or other aspects as deemed necessary. No changes will be made to grading scale or core UF policies as noted above.*
- Policy on Late and Make-up Work: Students should contact the instructor for late and make-up work. In case of emergency, instructor must be notified as soon as possible.
- Grade Return Timing: Instructor will evaluate assigned work in a timely manner; likewise, students can expect to receive grades on mid-term within 10 days and final examination in one week.
- Point Range for this Class is as follows.

Grading Policy

Letter Grade	A	A-	B+	B	B-	C+	C	C-	D+	D	D-	F
Numerical Value	+94	90	87	84	80	77	74	70	67	64	60	-60
(% rank)		93	89	86	83	79	76	73	69	66	63	
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>

UF Policies Shaping This Course

This course is aligned with the UF policies below.

- Contact Hours: "Contact Hours" refers to the hours per week in which students are in contact with the instructor, excluding office hours or other voluntary contact. The number of contact hours in this course equals the number of credits the course offers.
- Workload: As a Carnegie I research-intensive university, UF is required by federal law to assign at least 2 hours of work outside of class for every contact hour. Work done in these hours may include reading/viewing assigned material and doing explicitly assigned individual or group work, as well as reviewing notes from class, synthesizing information in advance of exams or papers, and other self-determined study tasks.
- Accommodation for Student with Disabilities: Students with disabilities who experience learning barriers and would like to request academic accommodations should connect with the disability Resource Center by visiting <https://disability.ufl.edu/students/get-started/>. This class supports the needs of different learners; it is important for students to share their accommodation letter with their instructor and discuss their access needs as early as possible in the semester.
- Statement Regarding Evaluations: Students are expected to provide professional and respectful feedback on the quality of instruction in this course by completing course evaluations online via GatorEvals. Guidance on how to give feedback in a professional and respectful manner is available from [the Gatorevals website](#). Students will be notified when the evaluation period opens, and can complete evaluations through the email they receive from GatorEvals, in their Canvas course menu under GatorEvals, or via [the evaluation system](#). Summaries of course evaluation results are available to students at [the public results website](#).
- Statement Regarding Course Recording: Our class sessions may be audio visually recorded for students in the class to refer back to, and for use of enrolled students who are unable to attend live. Students who participate with their camera engaged or utilize a profile image are agreeing to have their video or image recorded. If you are unwilling to consent to have your profile or video image recorded, keep your camera off and do not use a profile image. Likewise, students who un-mute during class and participate verbally are agreeing to have their voices recorded. If you are unwilling to consent to have your voice recorded during class, you will need to keep your mute button activated and communicate exclusively using the "chat" feature, which allows students to type questions and comments live. The chat will not be recorded or shared. As in all courses, unauthorized recording and unauthorized sharing of recorded materials is prohibited.

Additional Course Policies and Information

The following are additional policies that shape the administration of this course.

Class Attendance and Make-Up Policy

Attendance and participation are required for success. They not only factor into your grades. Repeated absences also affect your performance on team projects, 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](#)

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](#) 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 join 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 during meetings. 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 [here](#). 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 [here](#).

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) 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 | 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, 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) 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.

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

Part I: Diplomacy

Week 1 of January 12: American Traditions

- Course mechanics and introduction
- Lecture: Western World and perceptions
- First week readings:
 - McCarthy, *Turk in America*, pp. 1-18.
 - Mead, *Special Providence*, pp. xv-29.

Week 2: Middle East Traditions

- Monday (January 19) – MLK Day
- Wednesday (January 21) – Ottoman world; history, contours, legacy
- Friday Discussion (January 23) based on readings; study teams forming
 - Quataert, “Why Study Ottoman History?”
 - Sahin, “Ottoman World.”
 - Yurdusev, *Ottoman Diplomacy*, 5-35.

Week 3: Rapprochement

- Monday (January 26) - Lecture: Reconsidering Middle East foreign affairs
- Wednesday (January 28) - First Encounters: Middle East, Turkey, and the World
- Friday Discussion (January 30) based on readings + project teams in contact + book review ideas
 - Eren, “The Middle East and Turkey in World Affairs.”
 - Gerges, “The Study of Middle Eastern Relations: A Critique.”
 - Sha’ban, *Islam and Arabs in Early American Thought*, 65-81.

Week 4: Diplomacy and Agents

- Monday (February 2) - Lecture: Uncle Sam and Missions
- Wednesday (February 4) - Team Talk 1: “US and Our Country pre-WWI”
- Friday (February 6) - Discussion on Rihbany’s essay
 - Bryson, “Admiral Mark Bristol.”
 - Godfried, “Economic Development and Regionalism.”
 - Rihbany, *America Save the Near East*.

Part II: Money

Week 5: American Expansion

- Monday (February 9) - Lecture: Muslim Economy, Orientalism, US MET Policy
- Wednesday Discussion (February 11) based on readings
- Friday (February 13) - Quiz 1 Map Quiz (in-advance instructions)
 - Makdisi, “Ottoman Orientalism.”
 - Polyzoides, “The Need of an American Policy.”
 - Thayer, “The Capitulations.”

Week 6: Buy and Sell

- Monday (February 16) - Lecture: Transatlantic trade in context + midterm instructions
- Wednesday (February 18) - Team Talk 2: "History of US Trade with Our Country"
- Friday Discussion (February 20) based on readings
 - Field, "Trade, Skills, and Sympathy."
 - Turgay, "Ottoman-American Trade."

Week 7: Balance-Sheet

- Monday (February 23) - Lecture: Outcome of transatlantic transactions
- Wednesday Discussion (February 25) based on Oren chapters + mid-term review
- Friday (February 27) - Midterm in Class
 - Howard, "Bicentennial in American-Turkish Relations."
 - Oren, "Manifest Middle Eastern Destiny"; and "Under American Eyes." In *Power, Faith, Fantasy*.

Part III: The Bible

Week 8: Spreading the Word in the World

- Monday (March 2) - Lecture: Civilizing Mission; Civilizing the Middle and Far East
- Wednesday (March 4) - Team Talk 3: "Religious Identity in Our Lands"
- Friday Reading Discussion (March 6) excluding Oren chapters
 - Sahin, *Faithful Encounters*, xvii-13.
 - Shaban, *Islam and Arabs*, 83-114.
 - Ellington, *Competing Kingdoms*, 1-42.
 - (Suggested) Oren, "Crucible of American Identity"; "Illuminating and Emancipating the World." In *Power, Faith, Fantasy*.

Week 9: Missionaries and Locals

- Monday (March 9) - Lecture: Missionaries and Communities
- Wednesday (March 11) - Team Talk 4: "Missionaries in Our Lands"
- Friday Reading Discussion (March 13); open submissions for bonus book-review project
 - North, "A Nursing Hospital in Turkey."
 - Reeves-Ellington, *Domestic Frontiers*, 78-107.
 - Sahin, *Faithful Encounters*, 37-71.

Spring Break - Week of March 16th

Week 10: Missionaries and the Marginal

- Monday (March 23) - Lecture: Nominal Christians and Heterodox Muslims

- Wednesday Reading Discussion (March 25)
- Friday (March 27) - Quiz 2 on Missionaries (in-advance instructions)
 - Kieser, "Muslim Heterodoxy and Protestant Utopia."
 - Reeves-Ellington, *Domestic Frontiers*, 108-139.
 - Saloutos, "American Missionaries in Greece."

Part IV: Mobility of Ideas and Peoples

Week 11: Travelers and Migrants

- Monday (March 30) - Lecture: Travelers and Emigrants I
- Wednesday (April 1) - Lecture: Travelers and Emigrants II
- Friday Discussion (April 3) based on Karpat and Shaban
 - Boosahda, *Arab-American Faces*, 1-16; 131-170.
 - Karpat, "Ottoman Emigration to America."
 - Sha'ban, *Islam and Arabs*, 115-140.

Week 12: Muslim & Turkish Immigrants in Focus

- Monday (April 6) - Lecture: Challenges of Early Migrations
- Wednesday (April 8) - Team Talk 5: "Our Immigrants in US" + panel preparation
- Friday Reading Discussion (April 10) + optional book-review submission reminder
 - Acehan, "Ottoman Street in America."
 - Grabowski, "Early Turkish Immigration to the United States."
 - Kaya, "Turkish-American Immigration History."

Debating Money and Bible: A Panel of Teams (TBA)

- Teams discuss US-country relations (instructions and preparations to be held in advance)

Week 14: Intellectual Currents

- Monday (April 13) - Lecture: Middle Eastern Intellectuals + take-home instructions
- Wednesday (April 15) - Quiz 3 on Migrations (in-advance instructions)
- Friday Reading Discussion (April 17)
 - Shissler, *Between Two Empires*, 1-40; 103-115.
 - Said and Robbins, "American Intellectuals and Middle East Politics."

Week 15: Closing with the Present

- Monday (April 20) - Guest Webinar: Oren on Power, Faith, and Fantasy
- Wednesday (April 22) - Concluding lecture the Future of US-Middle East Encounters
 - (Suggested) Oren, "In Search of Pax Americana" (Part Seven). In *Power, Faith, Fantasy*

Sources for Further Study and Book Review (Emrah has more)

Podcast: [Middle East/Ottoman History](#)

Adalet, Begüm. *Hotels and Highways*.

Fromkin, David. *A Peace to End All Peace*.

Grabill, Joseph. *Protestant Diplomacy and the Near East*.

Hansen, Suzy. *Notes on a Foreign Country*.

Jacobs, Matt. *Imagining the Middle East*.

Kinzer, Stephen. *All the Shah's Men*.

Lewis, Bernard. *What Went Wrong?*

Makdisi, Ussama. *Artillery of Heaven*.

Mamdani, Mahmood. *Good Muslim, Bad Muslim*.

Oren, Michael. *Power, Faith, Fantasy*.

Sahin, Emrah. *Faithful Encounters*.