

DRAFT

Islam and Turkey

University of Florida Spring 2021

<u>Class meetings</u>	<u>Online sections</u>
MWF 5 (11:45am)	European Studies
@Flint Hall 0109	History Department
ASH 3931-1ES1	ASH 3931-VES1
EUH 3931-29278	EUH 3931-29293
EUS 3142-25061	EUS 3142-2OTK

Instructor

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Office hours: TR1pm-3pm

Course Description

This is a course about what Islam is and what Turks believe that it is. Particular topics include: a) Islamic message, sources, and theological conflicts; b) Turkish encounters with Islam, the Ottoman legacy, and interactions between secularism and Islam; c) intellectual and mystic movements; and d) Islamist politics and the discord between political and social activists. The course explores these topics through the prism of original sources such as Quran and Islamist literature, and emphasizes ways cultural forces contribute to the making of modern Islam. There is no prerequisite for the course and all the materials will be provided in English on the e-learning site.

Course Objectives

At the end of the course, students should be able to identify major themes in Islam and Turkey; demonstrate an understanding of Turkish and Muslim identities; analyze complex religious issues with empirical evidence; and develop skills for advanced focus on European, Middle Eastern, 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.

- *Participation and quizzes* (5/15 points). Students will write three short quizzes including multiple choices and brief explanations.

- *Mid-Term* (30 points). The mid-term examination is scheduled on Week 8. Professor will provide guidelines and address questions about this exam.
- *Take-home Final* (30 points). The final examination will draw from lectures and select readings, and will be due on the last meeting of class. A review class will provide guidelines and address questions about this exam.
- *Book review* (15 points). By Week 4, students will submit a 4-page abstract on a text of their choice, or, from the readings recommended below. Original abstracts capture the core of a book's arguments and its themes. Examples will be provided.
- *Attendance* (5 points). Students are expected to attend all the classes.

Please note that all the readings and written assignments must be completed by the date indicated on the syllabus and cannot be rescheduled. Requests of any special accommodations must be made to the professor in writing and in advance. You are welcome to discuss any of these assignments with the professor. Though the instructor 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 5% 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/) 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.

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.

Course Schedule

Week 1

Lectures. 1) Course Mechanics and Introduction, 2) The Messenger

Discussion based on readings.

- Muhammad. "Farewell Sermon"
- Bulaç. "The Medina Document"
- Movie. *Muhammad: The Messenger of God*

Week 2

Lectures. The Message: Quran and the Right Path

Discussion

- Verses on believers, family, human rights, and inheritance
- Khalil. "Saving/Damning non-Muslims through Translation"
- Documentary. *Decoding the Past: Secrets of the Koran*

Week 3

Lectures. Knowledge and Sunni Islam: Sources of Authority and the Ideological Drift

Discussion

- Shouaiaia. "On the Sources of Islamic Law and Practices"
- Kramer and Schmidtke. "Religious Authority and Religious Authorities"
- Hallaq. "Was the gate of Ijtihad Closed?"
- PBS Documentary. *Empires of Faith: The Awakening*
- Documentary. *Sunni Shia Split*

PART II: THE TURKISH PATH

Week 4

Lectures. Migrations to the Abode of Islam

Discussion

- Findley. "Islam and Empire from the Seljuks through the Mongols"
- Devereux. "Al-Kashgari and Early Turkish Islam"
- ** **Book-review Canvas-submission** **

Week 5

Lectures. Conversions: God's Unruly Friends

Discussion

- Karamustafa. "Renunciation, Deviant Individualism, and Sufism"; "Dervish Groups"

Week 6

Lectures. Manifestations: Ottoman Legacy of Islam

Discussion

- Quataert. "Why Study Ottoman History?"
- Inalcik. "Istanbul: An Islamic City"
- Documentary. *Empires of Faith: The Ottomans*

Week 7

Lectures. Containment: Secularism vs. Islam

Discussion

- Yavuz. "The Tempering of the Kemalist Revolution"
- Smith. "Between Allah and Ataturk"
- Short piece by Fallers. "Turkish Islam"

Week 8 Review and mid-term

Week 9 - Spring Break

Week 10

Lectures. Sufism: The Nakshibandis

Discussion

- Hakan Yavuz, "Matrix of Turkish Islamic Movements: The Nakşibendi Sufi Order"

Week 11

Lectures. Sufism: Rumi and Whirling Dervishes

Discussion

- Documentary. *The Whirling Dervishes of Rumi*
- Selected texts from Mawlana's *Masnavi*
- Cyrus Masroori, "An Islamic Language of Toleration: Rumi's Criticism of Religious Persecution"

Week 12

Lectures. Activism: Said Nursi and the Islamist Utopia

Discussion

- Movie. *Free Man*
- Short chapters from Nursi's *The Words*
- Ahmet Kuru, "Apolitical Interpretation of Islam: Said Nursi's Faith Based Activism in Comparison with Political Islamism and Sufism"

Week 13

Lectures. Classroom to the Pulpit: Muslim Prayer Schools

Discussion

- Diren Cakmak, "Pro-Islamic Public Education in Turkey: the Imam-Hatip Schools"
- Dorian Jones, "In Turkey, Religious Schools Gain a Foothold" (VOA)

Week 14

Lectures. Activism: Fethullah Gulen and the Golden Generation

Discussion

- CSIS Conference. *Evolution of the Gulen Hizmet Movement*
- Sections from Gulen's *Emerald Hills of the Heart*
- Hakan Yavuz, "The Neo-Nur Movement and Fethullah Gülen"

Week 15

Lectures. Politicizing Islam: I Know What You Did Last Summer

Discussion on Erdogan, Hijab, and the Failed Coup

Take-home final instructions will be provided (due by the last classroom meeting)

- Angel Rabasa and S. Larrabee, "The AKP in Power"
- Hakan Yavuz, "The National Outlook Movement"

- Kim Shively, “The Merve Kavakci Affair”
- Interview with Kavakci. *My Life as a Muslim Woman Activist Scholar*
- Erdogan’s speech and interview with Gulen

Week 16 Will Islam Fail in Turkey? Review Lecture and Conclusion

Readings for Review and Further Study

Arat, Yesim. *Rethinking Islam and Liberal Democracy*
 Azak, Umut. *Islam and Secularism in Turkey*
 Cagaptay, Soner. *Islam, Secularism, and Nationalism in Modern Turkey*
 Dedeoglu, Saniye, and Adam Elveren. *Gender and Society in Turkey*
 Gole, Nilufer. *The Forbidden Modern: Civilization and Veiling*
 Gulen, Fethullah. *Key Concepts in the Practice of Sufism*
 Hart, Kimberly. *Then We Work for God*
 Karamustafa, Ahmet. *Sufism*
 Karpat, Kemal. *Politicization of Islam*
 Kaya, Ibrahim. *Social Theory and Later Modernities*
 Koprulu, Mehmed Fuad. *Early Mystics in Turkish Literature*
 Kuru, Ahmet and Alfred Stepan. *Democracy, Islam, and Secularism in Turkey*
 Ozdemir, Adil and Kenneth Frank. *Visible Islam in Modern Turkey*
 Pamuk, Orhan. *Snow*
 Peres, Richard. *Day Turkey Stood Still: Merve Kavakci’s Walk into the Turkish Parliament*
 Rogerson, Barnaby. *The Heirs of the Prophet Muhammad*
 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*
 Vahide, Sukran and Ibrahim Abu-Rabi. *Islam in Modern Turkey*
 White, Jenny. *Princeton Studies in Muslim Politics*
 Yavuz, Hakan. *Islamic Political Identity in Turkey*
 Zurcher, Eric. *The European Union, Turkey, and Islam*