

**New Jersey Institute of Technology**

**HIST 93403**

**Ottoman Afterlives  
The (De) Construction of the Balkans and the Modern Middle East**

**Fall 2024  
CULM 111  
TR: 11:30 am-12:50 pm**

**Professor Elektra Kostopoulou  
Email [ik74@njit.edu](mailto:ik74@njit.edu)**

*Please email me via Canvas if you have any questions directly relevant to this class. I will be answering your class-related emails before each meeting.*

**Office**

#323 Cullimore Hall

**Office Hours**

TR 1:15-2:45 pm

**Zoom**

For zoom meetings we will be using the link provided via Canvas

**Academic Calendar**

September 3<sup>rd</sup>: First Day of Classes  
November 28<sup>th</sup>-December 1<sup>st</sup>: Thanksgiving Recess  
December 11<sup>th</sup>: Last day of Classes

**Course Description**

This course explores the historical construction of two regions by reference to the twilight and controversial legacies of empire. It traces the emergence of “the Balkans,” and the “Middle East” as two internally contested and externally imposed regional concepts that entail a multitude of diverse historical experiences. Our goal this semester is to examine them together by reference to the violent final chapter and eventual collapse of the Ottoman Empire after WWI (1914-1918).

Over the course of the semester, we will read selected secondary (academic) literature and some indicative primary sources in search of the cohesive points that stem from the at times merging and at times clashing,

micro/macro histories that have shaped these two regions. Our discussions will revolve around the late empire, colonialism, and nationalism; migration to the US and the modern birth of international law; religion, secularization, and modernity; conflict and coexistence in the late Ottoman and post-Ottoman worlds.

Although the course focuses on the recent past, one of the main goals is to contextualize and make sense of the present. Specifically with regard to violence and regional conflict, our discussions will touch on historical realities, but also on the stigma that stems from fallacious interpretations of regional conflict. Emphasis will be placed both on the complexity of internal dynamics and on the intrusive character of international involvement throughout the 20<sup>th</sup> century and beyond. Moreover, we will discuss damaging external stereotypes that, deliberately or not, contribute significantly to the perpetuation of disastrous political and socioeconomic trajectories in the areas under scrutiny.



### **Course Objectives**

By taking this course, you will be able to:

Contextualize pressing contemporary developments in Southeast Europe (the Balkans) and the Middle East by reference to complex historical trajectories.

Get an introduction to the field of critical theory and thinking, as it applies to regional studies in the US.

Familiarize yourselves with academic writing, secondary/ primary source analysis.

Explore and apply the interdisciplinary potential of historical methodology to enhance the study and understanding of STEM-based fields.

Think about how to create and apply digital tools to humanistic questions; engage with the humanistic dilemmas that drive and perplex digital innovation.



### Course Requirements

1. Attend all classes prepared for a critical discussion and do the weekly readings.
  2. Complete the weekly assignments.
  3. Submit a research paper on a topic of your choice. Your topic needs to be relevant to themes/ regions discussed by the course.
  4. Complete a 5 min long oral presentation based on your paper.
- The paper should be 10 pages in length (not including a cover page and references).
  - You should use at least 5 peer-reviewed academic publications (secondary literature) and 2 primary sources (Chicago style for review articles).

### Grading

1. Attendance/Class participation: 10%\*
2. Weekly Assignments: 40%
3. Oral Presentation: 10%
4. Research Paper: 40%

90-100%: Excellent Work (A)  
85-89%: Very Good (B+)  
80-84%: Good (B)

75-79%: Satisfactory Plus (C+)

70-74%: Satisfactory (C)

### **Academic Integrity:**

Plagiarism is passing off someone else's work as your own and will not be tolerated. Students are expected to write their own original work and to give credit in the form of footnotes (i.e. citations) for any material that is not their own. Plagiarized papers will be given an automatic "F" with no possibility of a rewrite. This may result in a failing grade for the entire course. Violations will be brought to the immediate attention of the Dean of Students and adjudicated in accordance with the NJIT Honor Code. A copy of the Honor Code is available at [www.njit.edu/academics/honorcode.php](http://www.njit.edu/academics/honorcode.php)[Links to an external site.](#)

*\*As we are trying to make this course relevant to your interests and unfolding developments that may resonate with the main topic, some of the readings and assignments might change accordingly.*

## **Course Schedule Empire and Nationalism**

### **Week One (September 3<sup>rd</sup>/5<sup>th</sup>)**

Barkey, Karen. *Empire of Difference: The Ottomans in Comparative Perspective*. Cambridge University Press, 2008.

Hanioğlu, M. Ş. *A brief history of the late Ottoman Empire*. Princeton University Press. 2008.

### **Week Two (September 10<sup>th</sup>/12<sup>th</sup>)**

Smiley, Will. "Rebellion, Sovereignty, and Islamic Law in the Ottoman Age of Revolutions." *Law and History Review*, vol. 40, no. 2, May 2022, pp. 229–59.

Eldem, Edhem. "Ottoman and Turkish Orientalism." *Architectural Design*, vol. 80, no. 1, Jan. 2010, pp. 26–31.

### **Week Three (September 17<sup>th</sup>/19<sup>th</sup>)**

Kostopoulou, Elektra. "Armed Negotiations: The Institutionalization of the Late Ottoman Locality." *Comparative Studies of South Asia, Africa and the Middle East*, vol. 33, no. 3, Jan. 2013, pp. 295–309.

Deringil, Selim. "On Conversion and Apostasy in the Late Ottoman Empire: 1839–1856." *Comparative Studies in Society and History*, vol. 42, no. 03, 2000, pp. 547–75.

### **Week Four (September 24<sup>th</sup>/26<sup>th</sup>)**

Methodieva, Milena B. *Between Empire and Nation: Muslim Reform in the Balkans*. Stanford University Press, 2021.

Campos, Michelle. *Ottoman Brothers: Muslims, Christians, and Jews in Early Twentieth-Century Palestine*. Stanford University Press, 2010.

## **WWI, Nationalism, and Internationalism**

### **Week Five (October 1<sup>st</sup>/3<sup>rd</sup>)**

Rogan, Eugene L. *The Fall of the Ottomans: The Great War in the Middle East, 1914-1920*. Allen Lane, 2015.

Üngör, Uğur Ümit. *The Making of Modern Turkey: Nation and State in Eastern Anatolia, 1913-1950*. Oxford University Press, 2011.

### **Week Six (October 8<sup>th</sup>/ 10<sup>th</sup>)**

Wolff, Larry. "The Western Representation of Eastern Europe on the Eve of World War I: Mediated Encounters and Intellectual Expertise in Dalmatia, Albania, and Macedonia." *Journal of Modern History*, vol. 86, no. 2, June 2014, pp. 381–407.

Simic, Predrag. "Balkans and Balkanisation: Western Perceptions of the Balkans in the Carnegie Commission's Reports on the Balkan Wars from 1914 to 1996." *Perceptions*, vol. 18, no. 2, July 2013, p. 13.

**Week Seven (October 15<sup>th</sup>/ 17<sup>th</sup>)**

Tamari, Salim. *The Great War and the Remaking of Palestine*. University of California Press, 2017.

Grehan, James. *Twilight of the Saints: Everyday Religion in Ottoman Syria and Palestine*. Oxford University Press, 2014.

**Week Eight (October 22<sup>nd</sup>/24<sup>th</sup>)**

Watenpaugh, Keith David. *Bread from Stones: The Middle East and the Making of Modern Humanitarianism*. Univ of California Press, 2015.

Tusan, Michelle Elizabeth. *Smyrna's Ashes: Humanitarianism, Genocide, and the Birth of the Middle East*. University of California Press, 2012.

**Migration and Environmental Crisis**

**Week Nine (October 29<sup>th</sup>/ 31<sup>st</sup>)**

Gualtieri, Sarah M. A. *Between Arab and White Race and Ethnicity in the Early Syrian American Diaspora*. University of California Press, 2009.

Lalotou, Ioanna. *Transatlantic Subjects: Acts of Migration and Cultures of Transnationalism between Greece and America*. University of Chicago Press, 2004.

<https://www.ottomanhistorypodcast.com/2023/05/blog-post.html>

<https://www.ottomanhistorypodcast.com/2020/07/family-reunification.html>

<https://www.ottomanhistorypodcast.com/2012/04/ottoman-migrations-from-eastern.html>

<https://www.ottomanhistorypodcast.com/2018/08/doap1.html>

<https://www.rferl.org/a/large-format-portraits-from-the-balkans-made-after-world-war-1/30661345.html>

**Week Ten (November 5<sup>th</sup>/7<sup>th</sup>)**

Gratien, C., *The unsettled plain: an environmental history of the late Ottoman frontier*. Stanford University Press, 2022.

**Week Eleven (November 12<sup>th</sup>/14<sup>th</sup>)**

Oral Presentations | Group A

Digital Humanities

**Week Twelve (November 19<sup>th</sup>/ 21<sup>st</sup>)**

Oral Presentations | Group B

Digital Humanities

**Week Thirteen (November 26<sup>th</sup>)**

Paper Review

**Week Fourteen (December 3<sup>rd</sup>/ 5<sup>th</sup>)**

Paper Review

**Week Fifteen (December 11<sup>th</sup>)**

Conclusion/ Summary

