

Central Eurasian Studies

Contemporary Turkey: State, Society, and Culture

Catalog number CEUS-U 520

[Cigdem Balim-Harding](#)

The course is structured around in depth reading about and discussion of major issues in Turkey from 1970s to date. These issues concern domestic politics and foreign policy; European Union and Turkey; international relations; social structure; culture (language, religion, education and communications; gender issues); migration and transnational Turkish communities.

Students will read about and have a chance to discuss in class major issues concerning contemporary Turkey, including:

Historical background, with emphasis on late 19th and 20th centuries, especially on issues of modernization; wars and migrations; development of nation state

Economy: from state control to liberalization

Religion and state

Islam and economy

Status of women

Education

Political parties

Armed Forces

Minorities and minority rights

Politics of Language

Media

Health, Social Security and Environment

Issues in Foreign Policy (including relations with USA)

Turkic speaking peoples of the world (after 1990) and their relations with Turkey

European Union and Turkey

Turkish transnational communities

Assessment:

Undergraduate

Contribution to discussions in class and course work: 25%

One 5,000 word essay : 75% (due on the final day of classes)

Graduate

One oral presentation with bibliography and outline: 15%

One (minimum) 7,000 word essay: 85% (due on the final day of classes)

On completion of the course the students should

* have an understanding of the main trends and arguments in contemporary Turkish politics, international relations, culture and society

* be able to identify, collect, reflect on and use information on Turkey from a variety of sources

Reading List

Books/ Texts, and Films will be in the Reserve section of the WHW Library. Students will be sent significant news items and journalistic articles in English on ONCOURSE on a weekly basis; as well as significant research articles on Turkey, which concern Turkey-EU relations and cultural issues.

Main Texts

Harun Arikian. *Turkey and the EU: an awkward candidate for EU membership?*. Aldershot: Ashgate, 2002.

Deniz Kandiyoti. *Fragments of Culture*. New Brunswick: Rutgers UP, 2002.

Erik Jan Zürcher. *Turkey: A Modern History*. London: IB Tauris, 2004.

Additional materials are in the WHW Library reserve section and materials such as research journal articles/ daily newspaper items will be distributed through ONCOURSE.