LAS 199: Global Studies—Diversity & Integration in Istanbul

Instructor: Ercan Balci

Istanbul, the only city in the world which lies on two continents, is a bridge between the West and the East. Throughout its history, it has been influenced by the interaction of cultures in a multi-ethnic society. This course is not only a historical survey of Istanbul, but also a modern look at current issues in Istanbul from a global perspective.

The course will look at the shift of the Roman empire to the east, the establishment of the Byzantine Empire, the interactions among the Catholic and Greek Orthodox churches, Islam and Judaism, and the cultural contact between Constantinople/Istanbul and states such as Venice, Genoa, and England, the place of the Balkans in the history of the empires, and the impact of the Mongol invasions and the encroachments of other Turkic peoples. Finally, the class will discuss the issues surrounding the proposal to allow Turkey to enter the European Union, including the legacy of Turkish nationalism as promoted by Kemal Ataturk and Turkey's current uneasy role in the conflicts in the Middle East. Turkey is a modern secular, democratic and western country, while also celebrating its huge historical and architectural importance.

We will explore the impact of change and globalization on the life of the city by reading texts and visiting various sites in and around Istanbul. Students will have the chance to see traditional bazaars like the Grand Bazaar and neighborhood bazaars as well as museums. There will be a side trip to the earlier Ottoman capital Edirne.
A Tentative Syllabus

Required Reading:
John Freely, *Istanbul: The Imperial City*
Laurence Kelly, *A Traveller's Companion to Istanbul*

On-Campus Meetings:
Meeting One: Introduction to the course, expectations, explanation of assignments, viewing and discussion of Fatih Akin’s "Crossing the Bridge-Sound of Istanbul".

Meeting Two: Selected articles about Istanbul and current events in Turkey “Turkish Daily News”

Meeting Three: Orhan Pamuk’s Istanbul Chapters 5,6,7

Meeting Four: Lecture on Turkish culture and traditions, final pre-departure orientation. Paper due on a modern issue related to Turkey.

On-site Syllabus:
Dec. 27: travel to Istanbul
Dec. 28: arrival and organization (welcome dinner)
Dec. 29: Freely, 3-57, lecture on negotiating life in polylingual societies; MiniaTurk, Hagia Sofia, Baslica Cistern, Grand Bazaar
Dec. 30: Tunel, Galata Tower, Pera Palace Hotel, Whirling Dervishes
Dec. 31: Freely, 58-128, lecture on Byzantine chant; Church of the Patriarch
Jan. 1: Freely, 129-152; Kariye Cami’i, Theodosian walls
Jan. 2: Mosaics Museum, Museum of Turkish and Islamic Arts
Jan. 3: Bosphorus trip Eyup, Pierre Loti
Jan. 4: Freely, 181-252; Archeological Museum and Modern Art Museum
Jan. 5: trip to Edirne
Jan. 6: Free Day
Jan. 7: Freely, 153-180, lecture on Turkish music Topkapi
Jan. 8: Freely, 253-298; mosques, Anatolian Side(Kadikoy, Uskudar, Bagdat Street)
Jan. 9: Freely, 299-316, lecture on Turkish language reform); Dolmabahce, Ortakoy
Jan. 10: Newspaper articles on modern Turkey; tour of early National architecture (farewell dinner)
Jan. 11: Travel home

Assignments:
Journal tying readings with exploration of material culture in Istanbul and Edirne (should have 8 daily entries approximately one page each)

Grading:
Students will be graded on journal entries (80%) and class discussion (20%)