

TUR 277 Turkish History, Culture and Society

3 credits

Instructor: Carl Holtman, M.A.

Description:

This course aims to combine classroom lectures (30 hours) with education field trips and professional visits to gain exposure to the themes taught in Turkish Culture, History and Society (15 hours). This course will utilize field trips, activities with local students and professional site visits to supplement classroom readings and discussions. Students will be educated in the discipline of cultural studies using a comprehensive, multi-disciplinary approach in topics such as Music, Cuisine, Arts, Entrepreneurship, Religion, History, Sports, Urban planning, Sociology, Gender studies. Visits will be organized and attended by a local expert in the relevant subject matter. All efforts will be made to provide multiple perspectives on each issue studied.

Students will be evaluated on attendance, participation, weekly quizzes, weekly response papers, a final exam and a final project.

Students will receive a reader compiled from various texts and articles detailing a wide range of subject matter.

Selections will be made from the following texts:

Althen, G. (1994). Learning Across Cultures. Washington, DC: NAFSA Publications.

Civitello, L. (2004). Cuisine and Culture, A History of Food and People. New Jersey: John Wiley & Sons, Inc.

Halman, T.S. (2011). A Millennium of Turkish Literature. Syracuse: University Press.

Kerper, B. (2009). Istanbul: The Collected Traveler: An Inspired Companion Guide. New York: Random House.

Kinross, L. (2002). The Ottoman Centuries. New York: Harper Collins.

Kottak, C.P. (2002). Cultural Anthropology. New York: McGraw Hill.

Kuru, A.T. & Stepan, A. (2012). Democracy, Islam & Secularism in Turkey. New York: Columbia University Press.

Pamuk, O. (2006). Istanbul: Memories and the City. New York: Alfred Knopf.

Sonyel, S.R. (1989). Ataturk – The Founder of Modern Turkey. Ankara: Turkish Historical Society Printing House

Schedule of Lectures (2 hours each) and Activities for Turkish History, Culture and Society (1 hour each)

1. Introduction to Turkey, The historical significance of Istanbul and tour Sultanahmet district including Blue Mosque, Hagia Sophia and the Cisterns.
2. Attend a Football Match, meet the team, discuss the importance of sport in the culture, discuss famous sportsmen(women), Discuss the history/origins of sports in Turkey.
3. Turkey's growing economy. Learn about import/export, projected growth. Areas of development. Visit to an educational service provider business.
4. Significant Archeological finds in Turkey/Anatolia region. Visit the Istanbul Archeological Museum
5. Past representation of Turkish culture abroad, stereotypes in Western Films and Literature. Focus on Hammans, Atturk, Secularism, Cuisine, carpet.
6. Tour of Turkish Cuisine. Learn about the geographic regions of Turkey and the food for which they are famous. Study the influences and origins of dishes. Sample select dishes at the Istanbul Culinary Institute.
7. Music and its Role in Ottoman and Turkish Culture. Attend a Turkish Musical Performance
8. Turkish Family Culture. Weekend homestay with a Turkish family. Discuss Superstitions, family dynamic, literature, traditions and ceremonies.
9. Philosophers of Turkey. Citizenship, Nationalism. Visit to Ataturk Museum.
10. The Arts: Ceramic, Fine, Fabric and Patterns. Visit the Grand Bazar.
11. Applied Arts: Metal, Lamps, Glass, Jewelry, Wood, Leather, Visit to a Jewelry Shop to discuss the problems and development of supply chain.

12. Tourism and the Economy. Visit to a Carpet Shop and visit with a government approved tour guide to learn the requirements and education involved in licensure.
13. Nature/Plants/Animals: Visit a Turkish Farm production facility.
14. Turkey and Diplomacy. Turkey's role in regional affairs, Arab Spring, Kurdish issue.
15. Final Project and Examination.

Learning Goals

Students are able to intelligently convey basic concepts in Turkish Religion and Society.

Students are able to detail significant events in the historical development of Istanbul.

Students are able to describe economic and political developments within the region.