

TUR 277 Turkish Language and Culture (Summer)

6 credits

Instructors:

Turkish Language: Brooks Emerson, M.A.

History, Culture and Society: Carl Holtman, M.A.

Turkish Language module

The language module is designed for students who have no or little experience in the language. In this course, Turkish is taught with an emphasis on two the four important aspects of language: listening and speaking. Reading and Writing will play a secondary role. A multi-skill approach will be adopted in teaching.

The course will place equal emphasis on the training of standard pronunciation, listening comprehension, grammar, and vocabulary development. For speaking purposes, functional and communicative features are adopted in teaching. Grammar will gradually move from simple to more complex elements. Students in this class will learn the Turkish language through understanding the cultural aspects of its use in daily life.

Texts will be provided for students:

Oztopcu, K. (2006). Elementary Turkish. Istanbul: Kitap Matbaasi.

Halman, T.S. (1981). 201 Turkish Verbs fully conjugated in all the tenses. New York: Barron's.

Turkish Language Syllabus

This course will be 1/3 theoretical and 2/3 practical. A third of the course will focus on the post positions and other necessary structures to be able to manipulate the language as well as direct instruction in intonation and accent and the other 2/3 will be dialogues, controlled immersion, and real-life immersion. At the beginning, each student will be interviewed to gain insight into their personalities, hobbies, likes and dislikes, allergies, etc. Individual learning styles and learning strategies will also be ascertained. With this information, customized dialogues will be created, reflecting conversations that they are likely to have out in the Turkish-speaking world. Coursework is designed to reflect their personal learning styles and strategies.

A trained, native-speaking Turkish will aid in the controlled immersion part of the course and to help improve the students' listening abilities.

As the students gain fluency in the course, semi-controlled immersion and scavenger hunts will be used to measure progression.

Assessment

- Weekly quizzes to make sure that students are keeping up on the theoretical (grammatical) aspect of the course. (20%)
- Attendance will be factored into the final grade. More than 3 unexcused absences will result in dropping one letter grade.
- Classroom Participation (20%)
- Homework- the students will have weekly assignments (10%)
- Vocabulary notebook - students will keep a vocabulary notebook in which they will note new words and their uses in phrases and expressions. (5%)

f. Midterm exam (15%)

g. Final exam (25%)

h. Final presentation. Students will choose to read a selection of Turkish literature or poetry to the class and provide an oral translation. You will be evaluated on pronunciation and ability to convey the subject matter to the rest of the class. (5%)

The students will be required to write 1 essay detailing their experience with the language as apart of their final examination. This essay will not be graded, but used to assess the success of this course and the appropriateness of lessons in the daily life of the students. Students will be asked to evaluate the course throughout the semester to ensure that their learning needs are being met.

Learning Goals

Basic Conversations with Native Speakers

Basic Grammar Rules and sentence structure

Proper Accents

Basic Vocabulary

Turkish Culture, History and Society module

This module aims to combine intensive Turkish Language (45 hours) with an introduction into Turkish Culture, History and Society (45 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, 2 final exams (one for language, one for History, Culture and Society) 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 and Activities

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.