

# The Age of Sultan Süleyman the Magnificent: Art, Architecture, and Ceremonial at the Ottoman Court

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Office with appointment sign-up sheet: Sackler Museum Room 413

Literature & Arts B-35

Spring 2010

Tu., Th., at 11, and a weekly section to be arranged

Sackler 318

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## Course Requirements

- Participation in sections (15%)
- Midterm examination: March 18 (20%)
- Two papers, due March 6 and April 22
  - First paper: Critical review of a primary source on architecture (3-5 pages: 10%).
  - Second paper: List of suggested topics will be provided (10 pages: 25%).
- Final examination (30%)
- **Important Notification: To the Attention of Senior Thesis Writers:** The midterm examination shall be waived for senior thesis writers.

## Required books

- Necipoğlu, Gülru. *The Age of Sinan: Architectural Culture in the Ottoman Empire* (London and Princeton, 2005), available at the Coop.
- OPTIONAL: Necipoğlu, Gülru. *Architecture, Ceremonial, and Power: The Topkapi Palace in the Fifteenth and Sixteenth Centuries* (MIT, 1991).
- Sourcebook

## Reserve Readings

- Multiple copies of the books included in the syllabus readings (*The Age of Sultan Süleyman the Magnificent* by Esin Atıl, *The Age of Sinan and Architecture, Ceremonial, and Power* by Gülru Necipoğlu) are on reserve at the Lamont and the Fine Arts Libraries.
- Other books that will be used for the paper assignments (Bibliography to be distributed) are on reserve at the Lamont and Fine Arts Libraries.
- If you wish to do further reading on the historical background of the Ottoman Empire, the following books are recommended: *Ottoman Empire and Islamic Tradition* by Norman Itzkowitz; *Süleyman The Magnificent and His Age*, edited by Metin Kunt and Christine Woodhead. These are also on reserve.

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## Lectures

### Week 1

Jan. 26 The Age of Süleyman: An Introduction to Artistic Orientations

Jan. 28 Formation of an Islamic Capital and a New Imperial Image:  
Byzantium/Constantinople/Istanbul

#### READINGS:

- Kafadar, Cemal. “The Ottomans and Europe” (sourcebook)
- Çelik, Zeynep. *The Remaking of Istanbul* (sourcebook)

- Vryonis, Jr., Speros. “Byzantine Constantinople and Ottoman Istanbul: Evolution in a Millennial Imperial Iconography” (sourcebook)

### Week 2

Feb. 2 Court Ceremonial and Architectural Design: Public Spaces in the Topkapı Palace

Feb. 4 The Sultan’s Private Residence in the Topkapı Palace

NO SECTIONS

READINGS:

- Necipoğlu, Gülru. *Architecture, Ceremonial and Power*, pp. 1-258

### Week 3

Feb. 9 Ottoman Gardens and Garden Pavilions

Feb. 11 Early Ottoman Mosque Complexes Prior to Sinan

SECTIONS: Introduction to Islamic Art at the Boston Museum of Fine Arts

READINGS:

- Necipoğlu, Gülru. “The Suburban Landscape of Sixteenth-Century Istanbul as a Mirror of Classical Ottoman Garden Culture” (sourcebook)
- Crane, Howard. “The Ottoman Sultan’s Mosques: Icons of Imperial Legitimacy” (sourcebook)

### Week 4

Feb. 16 Sinan and the Ottoman Institution of Royal Architects

Feb. 18 Sinan and the Classical Style: the Süleymaniye Complexes in Istanbul and Damascus

SECTIONS: Sinan’s Mosques: architectural drawings, terminology, and social hierarchies (discuss reading: Tietze, Andreas. “Mustafa Ali on Luxury and the Status Symbols of Ottoman Gentlemen” (sourcebook)

READINGS:

- Necipoğlu, Gülru. *The Age of Sinan* (reserve), pp. 13-115.
- \_\_\_\_\_. “The Süleymaniye Complex in Istanbul” (sourcebook)

### Week 5

Feb. 23 The Selimiye Mosque in Edirne

Feb. 25 Expression of Social and Geographical Hierarchy: Mosque Complexes of the Ruling Elite

**FIRST PAPER DUE (Feb. 25)**

SECTIONS: Review session for midterm

READINGS:

Necipoglu, Gülru. *The Age of Sinan* (reserve), pp. 127-86, 189-230.

- Kuban, Doğan. “Sinan’s Architecture” (sourcebook)
- Tietze, Andreas. “Mustafa Ali on Luxury and the Status Symbols of Ottoman Gentlemen” (sourcebook)

### Week 6

Mar. 2 Architecture of the Ottoman Provinces

Mar. 4 **MIDTERM EXAMINATION**

SECTIONS: Non-Religious Architecture and Urbanism

READINGS:

- Necipoglu, Gülru. *The Age of Sinan* (reserve), pp. 115-24, 230-376.

### Week 7

Mar. 9 Imperial Architecture in Early Modern Islamic Courts:  
Comparing the Ottoman and Safavid Empires

Mar. 11 Imperial Architecture in Early Modern Islamic Courts:  
Comparing the Ottoman and Mughal Empires

SECTIONS: Safavid and Mughal Ornament

READINGS:

- Blair, Sheila, Jonathan Bloom. “Architecture in Iran under the Safavids and Zands” (sourcebook)
- \_\_\_\_\_. “Architecture in India under the Mughals and their contemporaries in the Deccan” (sourcebook)
- Necipoglu, G., “Challenging the Past: Sinan and the Competitive Discourse of Early Modern Islamic Architecture” (sourcebook)

Mar. 15-19 **SPRING RECESS**

### Week 8

Mar. 23 Film: The Age of Süleyman

Mar. 25 The Ottoman Court Workshops: Invention of a Distinctive Decorative  
Idiom

SECTIONS: Critique of film

READINGS:

- Necipoglu, Gülru. “From International Timurid to Ottoman: A Change of Taste in 16<sup>th</sup>-Century Ceramic Tiles” (sourcebook)

Week 9

Mar. 30 Tiles and Textiles at the Ottoman Court

Apr. 1 The Imperial Treasury and Ceremonial Objects

SECTIONS: Viewing Ottoman tiles and textiles at the Harvard University Sackler Museum

READINGS:

- Atıl, Esin. *The Age of Sultan Süleyman the Magnificent*, pp. 29-65, 99-109, 113-285 (reserve)

Week 10

Apr. 6 Ottoman Imperial Propaganda in Europe: A Helmet-Crown made for Süleyman in Venice and other European artifacts

Apr. 8 The Birth of Orientalism: European Depictions of the Ottoman World

SECTIONS: Europe and the Islamic World: Rare illustrated books and travelogues at the Houghton Library

READINGS:

- Necipoğlu, Gülru. "Süleyman the Magnificent and the Representation of Power in a Context of Ottoman-Hapsburg-Papal Rivalry" (sourcebook)
- Raby, Julian. "The European Vision of the Muslim Orient in the Sixteenth Century" (sourcebook)
- \_\_\_\_\_. "Venice, Durer and the Oriental Mode" (sourcebook)

Week 11

Apr. 13 Official Portraiture: Synthesis of Eastern and Western Models

Apr. 15 Film: "Shahnama," narrated by Professor Oleg Grabar

SECTIONS: Ottoman Miniature Painting Genres

READINGS:

- Necipoğlu, Gülru. "The Serial Portraits of Ottoman Sultans in Comparative Perspective" (sourcebook)
- Raby, Julian. "A Sultan of Paradox, Mehmed the Conqueror as a Patron of the Arts" (sourcebook)
- \_\_\_\_\_. "Pride and Prejudice: Mehmed the Conqueror and the Italian Portrait Medal" (sourcebook)

Week 12

Apr. 20 Comparison of Ottoman and Safavid Shahnamas

**SECOND PAPER DUE (Apr. 20)**

Apr. 22 The Ottoman Self-Image in Historical Manuscript Painting: the *Süleymanname* and *Hünernâme*

SECTIONS: Viewing miniature paintings at the Harvard University Sackler Museum collection

READINGS:

- Atıl, Esin. *The Age of Sultan Süleyman the Magnificent*, pp. 78-97 (reserve)
- Blair, S. and J. Bloom. "The Arts in Iran under the Safavids and Zands" (sourcebook)

Week 13

Apr. 27 Formation of a "Classical" Ottoman Style in Manuscript Painting, the Decorative Arts, and Architecture

SECTIONS: Review for final exam

READINGS:

- Woodhead, Christine. "An Experiment in Official Historiography: The Post of Şehnameci in the Ottoman Empire, 1555-1605" (sourcebook)
- Necipoğlu, Gülru "A Kanun for the State, A Canon for the Arts" (sourcebook)

Apr. 29-  
May 7 READING PERIOD

May 7-15 EXAM PERIOD