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

- Sourcebook

Reserve Readings

- Multiple copies of the books included in the syllabus readings (*The Age of Sultan Süleyman the Magnificent* by Esin Atil, *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.

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:  
•  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:  

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)
•  Necipoğlu, 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:  
•  Necipoğlu, Gülru. “From International Timurid to Ottoman: A Change of Taste in 16th-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:**  

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 
Süleymannname and Hünername

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