

CURE 3378: Fieldwork in Islamic Culture and Religion in Turkey

Second Term 2024-25

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Lecture/Tutorial: Wednesdays 2:30 –5:15 p.m., LSK 304

Assisted by the Centre for the Study of Islamic Culture

Course Description

This course aims to introduce students to the history, Islamic culture and religion of the Turkey. It offers students a lively and experiential learning experience on Islam through fieldwork in both Hong Kong and Turkey. We will be (1) visiting mosques and Islamic centers in Hong Kong on one Saturday and (2) going on a weeklong visit to Turkey in March that will include visiting religious, cultural, and historical sites. Students will learn through first-hand exposure to religious sites, material culture, and observation of the daily life of and personal interactions with practitioners of Islam. The visit of sites will be organized and led by the teaching staff. Students are required to attend seven lectures before our visit to Turkey.

Course Content and Schedule

There will be seven class meetings for lectures and discussions conducted on campus prior to the fieldwork. The lectures and discussions will offer students an overview of the geographical, philosophical, religious, socio-political and historical background of the sites that will be visited and the traditions we will interact with. All students should, as a course requirement, join the weeklong trip to Turkey during the Reading Week (3-8 March, specific dates TBD). It should be noted that student must pay for their own expenses for the Turkey trip (about HK\$ 8,000) which is also subsidized courtesy of the Islamic Cultural Association in HK <http://www.ica.org.hk/> and the Department of Cultural and Religious Studies. Class enrolment is limited to 25.

Course Requirements

To register in this course, students must be able to join all fieldtrips in Hong Kong and the trip to Turkey in March 2025. Students have to (1) hand in a literature review before the trip to Turkey, (2) perform a group presentation with PowerPoint. Failure to do so will result in losing all the credits for the course or in losing substantial marks from the final grade.

Term Calendar

I. Class Schedule:

- (1) 8/1 Class Introduction; Brief History of Islam
Tutorial: Literature Review
- (2) 15/1 Muslim Life & Practice
- (3) 22/1 Women and Gender in Islam
- (4) **(NO CLASS) Lunar New Year Break (27 January – 2 February)**
- (5) 5/2 Turkish History
Tutorial: Fieldwork – Observation and Interview
- (6) TBD ~~ Mosques Field Trip ~~
- (7) 19/2 Islam, Modernity, and Secularism
- (8) 26/2 Modern Turkey
~~ First Draft of Paper: Literature Review, Due 1 March ~~
- (9) **READING WEEK (3-8 March)**
FIELD TRIP IN TURKEY (TBD)
- (10) 12/3 (NO CLASS)
- (11) 19/3 Tutorial on Data from the Field and Presentations
- (12) 26/3 (NO CLASS)
- (13) 2/4 (NO CLASS)
~~ Final Draft of Paper, Due 6 April ~~
- (14) 9/4 Group Presentations (in class)
- (15) 16/4 Group Presentations (in class)

Guest Speakers: TBA

II. Fieldwork in Hong Kong on Sunday, (TBD)

We will visit the Shelley Street Mosque at Mid-levels, the oldest mosque in Hong Kong., and the Kowloon Mosque at 105 Nathan Road, TST, Kowloon at

III. Field Trip to Turkey

(Specific dates and times TBA)

Learning Outcomes

Knowledge Outcomes:

- (1) To be able to understand religion in its historical settings and contemporary contexts of modern living.
- (2) To be able to understand religion in its many facets.

- (3) To be able to engage in a critical analysis of religions by the methods of the humanities and social sciences especially through fieldwork studies.
- (4) To have basic knowledge of central themes and issues in Turkey, especially with respect to cultural and religious dimensions.

Skills Outcomes:

- (1) Communication and presentational (oral and written) skill.
- (2) Ability to gather, organize, deploy, synthesize and evaluate different types of evidence and information.
- (3) Language skill: English proficiency in reading and writing with accurate referencing and clarity of expression.
- (4) Skills in cross-cultural understanding and intercultural literacy.

Attitude Outcomes:

- (1) Awareness of plurality within religious traditions, multi-faceted complexity of religions and of the issues of multiple and conflicting interpretations of language and symbols, texts and traditions.
- (2) Recognition of the contested and provisional nature of knowledge and understanding.
- (3) Tolerance of diverse positions and have respect for others' views.
- (4) Ability to have a critical and yet sympathetic understanding and appreciation of religious traditions especially those one does not belong.

Learning Activities

Lecture (hr) in/out class	Discussion of case (hr) in/out class	Field trip to Mosques (hr) in/out class	Projects (hr) in/out class	Web-based teaching (hr) in/out class	Other Turkey trip (hr) in/out class
14	2	3	2	2	72
M,O,NA	M,O,NA	M,O,NA	M,O,NA	M,O,NA	M,O,NA

M: Mandatory activity in the course O: Optional activity

NA: Not applicable

Assessment Scheme

Fieldwork will add up to approximately 75 hours of off-campus learning which will include on-site lectures, on-the-spot investigations, and discussions during the trip.

Paper 50%

Each student must choose at least three (3) books from and/or relevant academic journal articles, and produce an essay summarizing the contents and analyzing the key arguments of the books in relation to a particular research topic. The **first draft** of the paper (“Literature Review”, 1,000-1,250 words) is to be submitted by **5:00 p.m. 2 March**. The **final draft** of the paper, fully edited with a conclusion based on fieldwork, approx.. 2,000 words) is due by **11:59, 6 April**.

Papers must be typed, double-spaced (Times New Roman, 12 pt. font). Grammar, punctuation, style, and content will be factored in the grading of the essay, so be sure to proofread before submitting the paper. Papers should be sent by e-mail, attached as a MS Word Doc with your name on the file. E-mail to the professor and your tutor, along with the **VeriGuide receipt**. The paper must be submitted by **6 April 2025, 11:59 p.m.** Unless a deadline extension is granted with prior permission from the professor, late submissions will be penalized.

Students must submit their papers via VeriGuide at the link:

<http://veriguide1.cse.cuhk.edu.hk/portal/page/index.jsp> ; and email a copy separately to the professor (jamesfrankel@cuhk.edu.hk) and CC (), with a scanned receipt and signed Academic Honesty Declaration Statement from VeriGuide (received via e-mail after you have submitted your assignment) attached to your report.

Presentation (& Response) 30%

Students will break into groups with each group consisting of 5 students. Each group will present for 40 minutes. Presentation topics may be chosen from the list below, or may be proposed by the group with the professor’s approval.

- (1) Islam, Charity, and Finance
- (2) Gender and Women’s Issues
- (3) Islamic Arts and Architecture
- (4) Islam, Politics, and Secularism
- (5) Ethnic and Religious Pluralism in Turkey
- (6) Turkish International Relations: East and West

The presentation will be after we return from the trip to Turkey. Each group should also submit via email one **narrative written summary** to go with the PowerPoint and will be asked to give a **response to a presentation** of another group.

Participation 20%

Your attendance, participation in class, tutorials, presentations and the fieldtrip will count as 20% of the course grade.

Essay test or exam (%)	Short answer test or exam (%)	Selected response test or exam (%)	Essays (%)	Presentation (%)	Lab reports (%)	Other participation (%)
			50	30		20

Grade Descriptors:

A Outstanding performance on all learning outcomes.

B Substantial performance on all learning outcomes, OR high performance on some learning outcomes which compensates for less satisfactory performance on others, resulting in overall substantial performance.

C Satisfactory performance on most learning outcomes, possibly with a few weaknesses.

D Barely satisfactory performance on a number of learning outcomes

F Unsatisfactory performance on a number of learning outcomes, OR failure to meet specified assessment requirements.

Suggested Readings

Abadan-Unat, Nermin, Deniz Kandiyoti and Mübeccel B. Kiray, eds. *Women in Turkish Society*. Leiden: E. J. Brill, 1981.

Abazov, Rafis. *Culture and Customs of Turkey*. Westport, CT: Greenwood Publishing Group, 2009.

Ahmed, Akbar. *Discovering Islam: Making Sense of Muslim History and Society*. New York: Routledge, 2002.

Alam, Sarwar, ed. *Cultural Fusion of Sufi Islam: Alternative Paths to Mystical Faith*. Abingdon, UK: Routledge, 2016.

Alaranta, Toni. *Turkey's Foreign Policy Narratives: Implications of Global Power Shifts*. New York: Springer, 2022.

- Algar, Ayla Esen. *The Dervish Lodge: Architecture, Art, and Sufism in Ottoman Turkey*. Berkeley; University of California Press, 1992.
- Anas, Omair, ed. *Turkey's Asia Relations*. New York: Palgrave MacMillan, 2022.
- Arat, Yeşim and Şevket Pamuk. *Turkey between Democracy and Authoritarianism*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 2019
- Atil, Esin. *The Age of Sultan Süleyman the Magnificent*. New York: Abrams, 1987.
- Axiarlis, Evangelia. *Political Islam and the Secular State in Turkey: Democracy, Reform and the Justice and Development Party*. I.B. Tauris, 2014.
- Azat, Umut. *Islam and Secularism in Turkey: Kemalism, Religion and the Nation State*. London: Bloomsbury Academic, 2010.
- Baldick, Julian. *Mystical Islam: An Introduction to Sufism*. New York: New York University Press, 1989.
- Baran, Zeyno. *Torn Country: Turkey between Secularism and Islamism*. Stanford, CA: Hoover Institute, 2010.
- Bechev, Dimitar. *Turkey Under Erdoğan: How a Country Turned from Democracy and the West*. New Haven: Yale University Press, 2022.
- Blann, Gregory. *The Garden of Mystic Love: Volume I: The Origin and Formation of the Great Sufi Orders*. Boulder, CO: Albion-Andalus Books, 2014.
- Blann, Gregory. *The Garden of Mystic Love: Volume II: Turkish Sufism and the Halveti-Jerrahi Lineage*. Boulder, CO: Albion-Andalus Books, 2022.
- Çavdar, Gamze and Yavuz Yaşar. *Women in Turkey: Silent Consensus in the Age of Neoliberalism and Islamic Conservatism*. Abingdon, UK: Routledge, 2019.
- Celiker, Anna Grabolle. *Kurdish Life in Contemporary Turkey: Migration, Gender and Ethnic Identity*. London: I. B. Tauris, 2013.
- Christofis, Nikos, ed. *The Kurds in Erdogan's "New" Turkey: Domestic and International Implications*. Abingdon, UK: Routledge, 2022.
- Çiçek, Cuma. *The Kurds of Turkey: National, Religious and Economic Identities*. London: London: Bloomsbury, 2016.
- Çolakoglu, Selcuk. *Turkey and China: Political, Economic, and Strategic Aspects of the Relationship*. Singapore: World Scientific, 2020.
- Curatola, Giovanni. *Turkish Art and Architecture: From the Seljuks to the Ottomans*. Washington, DC: National Geographic Books, 2 Nov 2010.
- Drechselová, Lucie and Adnan Çelik. *Kurds in Turkey: Ethnographies of Heterogeneous Experiences*. London: Rowman & Littlefield, 2019.
- Dursun-Özkanca, Ova. *Turkey–West Relations: The Politics of Intra-alliance Opposition*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 2019.
- Eligür, Banu. *The Mobilization of Political Islam in Turkey*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 2010.

- Erşen, Emre and Seçkin Köstem, eds. *Turkey's Pivot to Eurasia: Geopolitics and Foreign Policy in a Changing World Order*. Abingdon, UK: Routledge, 2019.
- Faroqhi, Suraiya N. and Kate Fleet. *The Cambridge History of Turkey*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 2012.
- Findley, Carter V. *The Turks in World History*. Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2005.
- Friedlander, Shems. *Rumi and the Whirling Dervishes*. New York: Parabola Books, 2003.
- Gourlay, William. *Kurds in Erdogan's Turkey: Balancing Identity, Resistance and Citizenship*. Edinburgh, University of Edinburgh Press, 2020.
- Gunes, Cengiz. *The Political Representation of Kurds in Turkey: New Actors and Modes of Participation in a Changing Society*. London: Bloomsbury, 2021.
- Gunter, Michael M. *The Kurds in Turkey: A Political Dilemma*. London: Taylor & Francis Group, 2021.
- Hammarlund, Anders, Tord Olsson and Elisabeth Ozdalga, eds. *Sufism, Music and Society in Turkey and the Middle East*. Istanbul: Swedish Research Institute, 2005.
- Hecker, Pierre. *Turkish Metal: Music, Meaning, and Morality in a Muslim Society*. Abingdon, UK: Routledge, 2016.
- Hulagu, Funda. *Police Reform in Turkey: Human Security, Gender and State Violence Under Erdogan*. London: Bloomsbury, 2021.
- Kalin, Ibrahim. *Islam in Turkey: Oxford Bibliographies Online Research Guide*. Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2010.
- Kandiyoti, Deniz and Ayşe Saktanber. *Fragments of Culture: The Everyday of Modern Turkey*. New Brunswick, NJ: Rutgers University Press, 2002.
- Keysan, Asuman Özgür. *Activism and Women's NGOs in Turkey: Civil Society, Feminism and Politics*. London: I.B. Tauris, 2019.
- Khan, Shabeer. *The Informal Economy and Islamic Finance: The Case of Organisation of Islamic Cooperation Countries*. Abingdon, UK: Routledge, 2022.
- Knysh, Alexander. *Islamic Mysticism: A Short History*. Leiden: E.J. Brill, 2000.
- Kösebalaban, H. *Turkish Foreign Policy: Islam, Nationalism, and Globalization*. New York: Palgrave MacMillan, 2011.
- Kuru, Ahmet T. and Alfred Stepan, eds. *Democracy, Islam, and Secularism in Turkey*. New York: Columbia University Press, 2012.
- Kuzu, Durukan. *Multiculturalism in Turkey: The Kurds and the State*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 2018.
- Lord, Ceren. *Religious Politics in Turkey: From the Birth of the Republic to the AKP*. Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2018.
- Madi-Sisman, Özlem. *Muslims, Money, and Democracy in Turkey: Reluctant Capitalists*. New York: Palgrave MacMillan, 2017.
- Maritato, Chiara. *Women, Religion, and the State in Contemporary Turkey*. Oxford: Oxford

- University Press, 2020.
- Mastny, Vojtech. *Turkey Between East and West: New Challenges for a Rising Regional Power*. London: Taylor & Francis Group, 2021.
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- Olimat, Muhammad. *China and the Middle East: From Silk Road to Arab Spring*. Abingdon and New York: Routledge, 2015.
- Orhan, Mehmet. *Political Violence and Kurds in Turkey: Fragmentations, Mobilizations, Participations & Repertoires*. Abingdon, UK: Routledge, 2016.
- Özcan, Esra. *Mainstreaming the Headscarf: Islamist Politics and Women in the Turkish Media*. London: Bloomsbury, 2019.
- Petersen, Marie Juul. *For Humanity or for the Umma?: Aid and Islam in Transnational Muslim NGOs*. Hurst, 2016.
- Price, Morgan Philips. *A History of Turkey: From Empire to Republic*. London: George Allen and Unwin Ltd. 1961; Reprint, Abingdon, UK: Routledge, 2022.
- Rizvi, Kishwar. *The Transnational Mosque: Architecture and Historical Memory in the Contemporary Middle East*. Chapel Hill: University of North Carolina Press, 2015.
- Ruthven, Malise. *Islam in the World*. London: Penguin, 1991/ New York: Oxford University Press, 1984.
- Sen, Abdulkemim and Hugh Starkey. *Citizenship Education in Turkey: From Militant-Secular to Islamic Nationalism*. London: Rowman & Littlefield, 2019.
- Şentürk, Recep and Muhammad Said Bilal. *Human Rights In The Ottoman Reform: Foundations, Motivations and Formations*. Istanbul: Ibn Haldun University Publications, 2020.
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- Shaw, Wendy M.K. *What is "Islamic" Art?: Between Religion and Perception*. Cambridge.: Cambridge University Press, 2019.
- Shively, Kim. *Islam in Modern Turkey*. Edinburgh, University of Edinburgh Press, 2021.
- Stokes, Martin. *The Arabesk Debate: Music and Musicians in Modern Turkey*. Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2020.
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- Ustaoglu, Murat et al, eds. *Islamic Finance Alternatives for Emerging Economies: Empirical Evidence from Turkey*. New York: Springer, 2014.
- Yavuz, M. Hakan. *Secularism and Muslim Democracy in Turkey*. Cambridge.: Cambridge University Press, 2009.
- Zürcher, Erik J. *Turkey: A Modern History*. London: Bloomsbury Academic, 2017.

Feedback for evaluation

An end-of-term faculty wide course evaluation will be conducted in class. Students' comments and feedback on the course through the Discussion Forum within *Blackboard* or personal meeting with instructor and/ or research assistant are always welcomed.

Professor's Contact Information

Professor Frankel's office is located at KKB 228. Appointments are welcome and should be made via email at: jamesfrankel@cuhk.edu.hk

Departmental Webpage:

<http://www2.crs.cuhk.edu.hk/faculty-staff/faculty-members/james-frankel>

Facility for Posting Course Announcements

Details for fieldtrips, assignment and feedback for written assignment will be given through the *Blackboard* in due course.

Academic Honesty and Plagiarism

The Chinese University of Hong Kong places very high importance on honesty in academic work submitted by students, and adopts a policy of zero tolerance on cheating and plagiarism. Any related offence will lead to disciplinary action including termination of studies at the University.

All students must submit their assignments via VeriGuide

(<http://veriguide1.cse.cuhk.edu.hk/portal/page/index.jsp>). The system will issue a receipt, which should be signed and submitted to the professor together with the assignment, as well as a signed Academic Honesty Declaration Statement.

Relevant information on academic honesty and plagiarism can be found at:

<http://www.cuhk.edu.hk/policy/academichonesty>

Things to Note for the Turkey Trip

Visas: For holders of a Hong Kong SAR no advance visa arrangements are required to visit Turkey. When you arrive at Istanbul Airport and proceed to Immigration, your passport will be stamped with a 30-days visit visa free of charge. Holders of a PRC passport must apply for an e-visa online (<https://turkey-e-visa.com/turkey-visa-for-china-citizens/>) before departure.

Holders of other nationalities' passports should consult the website: <https://turkey-e-visa.com/>

- Electric plugs and sockets for Turkey are European type with 2 round legs.
- Weather for Turkey in March is mostly sunny and dry, with an average daily temperature around 13-7 °C.
- Do **not** wear tight pants or mini-skirts; skirts & pants should be at least of knee length.
- Women have to wear *hijab* or headscarf while entering mosques.
- It is recommended to wear slip-on type of shoes as you need to take off your shoes when entering mosques and do not bring expensive footwear. Bring slippers as needed.
- No alcohol or smoking during the trip, please.
- Bring face masks, hand sanitizer and suntan lotion as needed.
- You will be covered by group insurance.
- You may want to bring Turkish Lira (TRY) equivalent to US\$400 for personal shopping.