This course will introduce the student to some major theoretical questions in women’s history writing such as public and private spheres, women’s emancipation, women’s agency, imperialism, nationalism, family, motherhood etc. It will provide a critical analysis of women and gender studies in late Ottoman and early Republican Turkey but will also focus on some contemporary theoretical developments such as the equality-difference debate, feminist citizenship and social citizenship.

**Course Requirements:** The course will be held in a discussion format where each week two students will be expected to lead the discussion while the instructor and the rest of the group brings up important questions and comments. The students are expected to write two take home essays and one term paper. All of these will make up the final grade. [Take Home Essays (20 %)+ Term Paper (40 %)+ Attendance, Participation/Presentations (20%)].

**OUTLINE**

**Feb. 17**  
*Introduction.*


**Feb. 24**  
*Theoretical and Methodological Questions.*

Belinda Davis, “Reconsidering Habermas, Gender and the Public Sphere: The Case of Wilhelmine Germany”, in G. Eley (ed.), *Society, Culture and the State in Germany 1870-1930*, University of Michigan Press, 1996.


**March 4**  
*European Women and Modernity, a Historical Overview:*

“Women in Industrializing, Liberalizing, and Imperializing Europe, Overview 1750-1890”, 113-163.
March 11  Women, Empire and the Orient


March 18  Colonialism, Nationalism and Citizenship: the Ottoman Empire and the Middle East:


Beth Baron, *Egypt as a Woman, Nationalism, Gender and Politics*, Univ. of California Press, 2005, 107-161.

March 25  Women in the Ottoman Empire


Apr. 1  Women’s Labor in the Ottoman Empire:

April 8  Ottoman Women in the Arts and Writing:


Burcu Pelvanoglu, “Painting the Late Ottoman Women: Portraits of Mihri Müşfik Hamm,” in , in Köksal and Falierou (eds.), A Social History of Late Ottoman Empire, Brill, 2013, 155-172.

Apr. 15  From Empire to Republic:


Apr. 22  No Class (Spring Break)

Apr. 29  From Empire to Republic


Holly Shissler, “Womanhood is not for Sale: Sabiha Zekeriya Sertel: Against Prostitution and for Women’s Employment,” J. of Middle East Women’s Studies, Vol.4, Number 3, Fall 2008, 12-30

May 6  Education and the Public Sphere


May 13  The Women’s Movement in Turkey


Recent Debates


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Recommended Reading:


Şehmus Güzel, “Tanzimat’tan Cumhuriyet’e, Toplumsal Değişim ve Kadın, Cumhuriyet Dönemi Türkiye Ansiklopedisi, İletişim Y., 858-875

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