

**SPRING 2010: NES 496B-004 | NES 596-004**

# **Cultural History, Comparative Methodology, and Language: Locating Ottoman/Turkey in a Larger Context**

**Dr. Asli İğsız, Turkish Studies Assistant Professor, NES**

Thursdays 6-8:30pm - Mrshall 451- igsiz@email.arizona.edu

How does one write cultural history? Of all the stories woven into the complex fabric of history and memory, which stories of art (e.g., shifting literary paradigms, music culture, and artistic and literary movements, etc), politics (e.g., censorship, state-sponsored institutions and their engagement with art, education, etc), and public sites of memory (e.g., ancient sites, such as Ancient Greek heritage, and the meanings it gains across time and space, or creating public sites of memory through traveling and music performance) and representation (e.g., world exhibitions) does one consider to tell the story of a dynamic era?

This course is designed to reconsider the nineteenth and twentieth century cultural history of Ottoman/Turkey comparatively within the Near Eastern, Balkan, and Western European contexts. We will explore a number of comparative methods (e.g., history as social memory; questions of “Western influence”; engagement with Ancient heritage in developing humanism; translation; cross-cultural interactions; representation, etc) and read literary and cultural theory and history to discuss our sources drawn from literature, philology, criticism, travelogues, music, architecture, and world exhibitions. Beginning with Peter Burke’s *Varieties of Cultural History*, our objective will be to develop comparative approaches to conceptualizing cultural history through multidisciplinary sources, while thinking about interconnections in shared cross-cultural zones in the Near East, the Balkans, and Western Europe, wherein we will attempt to locate Ottoman/Turkish cultural history.

Some authors we might read include: Peter Burke, William Sewell, Azade Seyhan, Natalie Zemon Davis, Lord Byron, Jean-Jacques Ampère, Orhan Pamuk, André Gide, Taha Husayn, Terry Eagleton, Sigmund Freud, Suraiya Faroqhi, Zeynep Çelik, Timothy Mitchell, Stuart Hall, Ann Stoler, Maria Todorova, Gregory Jusdanis, Dimitri Gondicas, Fuat Köprülü, and Walter Mignolo.