

ATA 685

ANTHROPOLOGY of TURKEY SPRING 2025

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This course focuses on selected anthropological analyses of Turkey. Given the time limitations of an academic semester, the course does not offer a comprehensive, complete review of the proliferating anthropological literature on Turkey. Rather the aim is to introduce students to a range of ethnographic studies on Turkey and spark a general interest in learning about anthropological theory and methods.

Our readings include both village and urban studies and classical and recent works. We will explore the shifting theoretical frameworks, units and topics of analysis that have guided these studies. At the same time, we will discuss what, how, and to what extent these studies reveal different aspects of the changing dynamics of social life, politics and culture in/of Turkey. It is hoped that after the course, students will keep an interest in reading new anthropological studies on topics not covered in this course such as the new media, violence, affect etc.

Course Requirements

1. You are expected to do all assigned readings before the scheduled date of discussion. During each class, you are expected to engage actively in the discussion as it proceeds. This is a vital responsibility of each class member.
2. You are required to write two (4-5) page-long papers on the weekly readings. These are not intended to be brief reaction papers. The aim is to focus closely on the primary/assigned reading and discuss the central argument of the theorist(s) through a close reading of the assigned material. More guidelines will be offered. The papers will be due the date of that week's class. At least one paper is to be submitted before the end of the 7th week.
3. You are required to attend the class for which you submit your weekly paper.
- 4.. Final Paper.

WEEK ONE

Introduction

Recommended Reading:

Thomas. H. Eriksen [1995] 2001. “*Small Places, Large Issues: An Introduction to Social and Cultural Anthropology*. London: Pluto Press. (Selection)

Ayfer Bartu Candan ve Cenk Özbay. 2018. *Kültür Denen Şey: Antropolojik Yaklaşımlar*. Metis (Selection)

Martin Hammersley and Paul Atkinson. 2007. *Ethnography: Principles in Practice*. Routledge. (Selection).

WEEK TWO

The Establishment of Anthropology in Turkey

Anthropology and Debates on Nation, Race and History: Past and Present

Afet İnan. 1947. *Türkiye Halkının Antropolojik Karakterleri ve Türkiye Tarihi*. (1-11, 67-79)

Suavi Aydın. 2001. “Cumhuriyet’in İdeolojik Şekillenmesinde Antropolojinin Rolü: Irkçı Paradigmanın Yükselişi ve Düşüşü.” *Modern Türkiye’de Siyasi Düşünce*. Cilt II: Kemalizm (der. T.Bora, M. Gülteginil, Ahmet İnel). İstanbul: İletişim Yayınları. Ss. 344-369.

Zafer Toprak. 2012. *Darwin’den Dersim’e Cumhuriyet ve Antropoloji*. İstanbul: Doğan Kitap. (selection)

Sibel Özbudun-Demirer. 2011. “Anthropology as a Nation-Building Rhetoric: The Shaping of Turkish Anthropology (from 1850s to 1940s)”. *Dialectical Anthropology*. 35:111-129.

Recommended Reading

Nazan Maksudyan. *Türklüğü Ölçmek: Bilimkurgusal Antropoloji ve Türk Milliyetçiliğinin Irkçı Çehresi*. (Selection)

Suavi Aydın. 2005. “Nazan Maksudyan’ın Kitabı Türklüğü Ölçmek Üzerine.” *Tarih ve Toplum Yeni Yaklaşımlar*. 2: 155-184.

WEEK THREE

The Establishment of the Fieldwork Tradition in Turkey: Village and Town Ethnographies and Reviews of “Anthropology in/of Turkey”

Magnarella, Paul and Orhan Türkdoğan. 1976. “The Development of Turkish Social Anthropology.” *Current Anthropology*. 17 (2): 263-274.

Bozkurt Güvenç. 1971. “Etnolojik ve Sosyal (Kültürel) Antropolojik Araştırmalar.” *Türkiye’de Sosyal Araştırmaların Gelişmesi*. Ankara: Hacettepe Üniversitesi Yayınları.

Suavi Aydın. 1998. “Ekşigil’in Yazısı Vesilesiyle Türkiye’de Antropolojinin Eni-Boyu Üzerine.” *Toplum ve Bilim*. 77: 196-201

Tayfun Atay. 2000. “Erken bir Doğumdan Gecikmiş Büyümeye..Türkiye’deAntropoloji.” *Folklor/Edebiyat*. 6 (22):135-162.

Jenny White. 2003. “Anthropology of Turkey: A Retrospective.” In *Turkish Studies in the United States*. Donald Quarter and Sabri Sayarı eds. Bloomington: Indiana University Ottoman and Modern Turkish Studies Publications.

Hande Birkalan Gedik. 2005. “Özgün ve Özgür bir Antropolojiye Doğru.” *Gelenekten Geleceğe Antropoloji. Gelenekten Geleceğe Antropoloji*. Belkıs Kümbetoğlu ve Hande Birkalan Gedik, der. İstanbul: Epsilon.

“Niyazi Berkes” ve “Behice Boran.” *60 Yıllık Gelenek: DTCF’de Uygulamalı Sosyoloji*. (der: Aytül Kasapoğlu). Ankara: Ümit Ofset Matbaacılık.

Behice Boran. 1945. *Toplumsal Yapı Araştırmaları*. Ankara Üniversitesi Dil ve Tarih-Coğrafya Fakültesi Enstitüsü Sosyoloji Serisi 3. (Giriş).

Table of Contents and Introduction from the Following:

Niyazi Berkes. *Bazı Ankara Köyleri Üzerine Bir Araştırma*. 1942.

Behice Boran. *Toplumsal Yapı Araştırmaları*. 1945.

İbrahim Yasa. 1957. *Hasanoğlan: Socio-Economic Structure of a Turkish Village*.

Paul Stirling. *The Turkish Village*.

Evans-Pritchard. *The Nuer*.

Mübeccel Kıray. 1964. *Ereğli: Ağır Sanayiden Önce Bir sahil Kasabası*. Ankara:

DPT

Peter Benedict. 1974. *Ula: an Anatolian Town*. Leiden.

WEEK FOUR

Village Ethnographies:

Gender, religion, ethnicity, kinship and the state

Lale Yalçın-Heckmann. 1990. "Kurdish Tribal Organization and Local Political Processes." In *Turkish State, Turkish Society*. Eds. Nükhet Sirman and Andrew Finkel. Pp: 289-310.

Lale Yalçın-Heckmann. 2002. *Kürtlerde Aşiret ve Akrabalık İlişkileri*. İstanbul: İletişim. (Selection).

Carol Delaney. 1991. *The Seed and the Soil: Gender and Cosmology in Turkish Society*. (Selection).

Nükhet Sirman. 1990. "State, Village and Gender in Western Turkey." In *Turkish State, Turkish Society*. Eds. Nükhet Sirman and Andrew Finkel. Pp: 21-51.

Recommended:

Kimberly Hart. 2011. *Modernliği Dokumak: Bir Batı Anadolu Köyünde Hayat, Aşk ve Emek*. Koç Üniversitesi Yayınları.

WEEK FIVE

Town Ethnographies:

Connecting the Past and Present, the Town and the State, History and Anthropology:

Michael Meeker. 2002. *A Nation of Empire: The Ottoman Legacy of Turkish Modernity*. (Selection)

Ali Sipahi. 2021 "In pursuit of intellectual discovery: An interview with Micheal E. Meeker." *New Perspectives on Turkey*. 65: 100-119.

WEEK SIX:

Urban Ethnographies:

Urban Encounters/Urban Segregation

Gül Özyeğin. 2002. "The doorkeeper, the maid and the tenant: troubling encounters in the Turkish urban landscape." In *Fragments of Culture: The Everyday of Modern Turkey*. Eds. Deniz Kandiyoti and Ayşe Saktanber.

Aksu Bora. 2005. *Kadınların Sınıfı*. İstanbul: İletişim.(21-37, 113-129, 183-190)

Deniz Yüksek. 2004. "Trust and Gender in a Transnational Marketplace: The Public Culture of Laleli, İstanbul." *Public Culture*, volume 16, no. 1, pp. 47-65.

Öykü Pötüoğlu-Cook. 2006. "Beyond the Glitter: Belly Dance and Neoliberal Gentrification in Istanbul." *Cultural Anthropology*. 21 (4): 633-660.

Ayfer Candan-Bartu and Biray Kolluoğlu. 2008. "Emerging Spaces of Neoliberalism: A Gated Town and a Public Housing Project." *New Perspectives on Turkey*. 39: 5-46.

Berna Yazıcı. 2013. "Towards an Anthropology of Traffic: a Ride through Class Hierarchies on Istanbul's Roadways." *Ethnos: Journal of Anthropology*. 78 (4): 515-542.

Yağmur Nuhurat. 2020 "Moralities in Mobility: Negotiating Moral Subjectivities in Istanbul's Traffic." *Mobilities*. 15(3): 325-340.

WEEK SEVEN:

State-Making, Militarism, Gender

Aysegul Altınay. 2006. *The Myth of the Military Nation: Militarism, Gender and Education in Turkey*. (Selection).

Can Salih Açıksöz. 2012. "Sacrificial limbs of sovereignty: Disabled veterans, masculinity and national politics in Turkey." *Medical Anthropology Quarterly*, 26(1) 4-25.

WEEK EIGHT

City Life, Secularism, Piety, National Intimacy

Yael Navaro-Yashin. 2002. *Faces of the State. Secularism and Public Life in Turkey*. (Selection)

Recommended:

Martin Stokes. 2010. *The Republic of Love: Cultural Intimacy in Turkish Popular Music*. (Selection)

Alan Duben. 2011. "Music, cultural authenticity and civility." *New Perspectives on Turkey*. 45:237-245

WEEK NINE

The Past as a Site of Social Analysis and Political Struggle

Esra Özyürek. 2006. *Nostalgia for the Modern: State Secularism and Everyday Politics in Turkey*. (Selection).

Ayfer Bartu Candan. 2001. "Rethinking Heritage Politics in a Global Context: A View from Istanbul." In N. AlSayyad (ed.) *Hybrid Urbanism: On Identity Discourse and the Built Environment*. Praeger Publishers/Greenwood Press.

Leyla Neyzi. 2004. "Ben Kimim?" *Türkiye'de Sözlü Tarih, Kimlik ve Öznellik*. İstanbul: İletişim. (7-16, 195-210)

Arzu Öztürkmen. 2003. Remembering Through Material Culture: Local Knowledge of Past Communities in a Turkish Black Sea Town. *Middle Eastern Studies*. 39 (2): 179-193.

Recommended:

Amy Mills. 2014. *Hafızanın Sokakları: İstanbul'da Peyzaj, Hoşgörü, ve Ulusal Kimlik*. İstanbul: Koç Üniversitesi Yayınları.

Zerrin Özlem Biner. 2007. "Retrieving the Dignity of a Cosmopolitan city: Contested Perspectives on Rights, Culture and Ethnicity in Mardin." *New Perspectives on Turkey* 37: 31-58

Berna Yazıcı. 2001. "Discovering Our Past": Are "We" Breaking Taboos? Reconstructing Atatürkism and the Past in Contemporary Turkey." *New Perspectives on Turkey*. 25: 1-30.

WEEK TEN

Islam and Politics

Jenny White. 2002. *Islamist Mobilization in Turkey: A Study in Vernacular Politics*. (selection)

Recommended:

Cihan Tugal. 2009. *The Passive Revolution: Absorbing the Islamic Challenge to Capitalism*. Stanford University Press. (selection)

WEEK ELEVEN

State, Bureaucracy, Policy

Catherine Alexander. 2002. *Personal States: Making Connections between People and Bureaucracy in Turkey*. New York: Oxford University Press. (Selection)

Dicle Koğacıoğlu. 2008. "Conduct, meaning and Inequality in an Istanbul Courthouse." *New Perspectives on Turkey* (39):97-127.

Berna Yazıcı 2012. "The Return to the Family: Welfare, State and Politics of the Family in Turkey." *Anthropological Quarterly*. 85(1):103-140.

Elif Babül. 2015. "The paradox of protection. Human rights, the masculinist state, and the moral economy of gratitude in Turkey." *American Ethnologist* 42: (1):116–39.

(Recommended: *Babül's Bureaucratic Intimacies: Translating Human Rights in Turkey*. 2017. Stanford University Press)

Ebru Kayaalp. 2013. " 'If these Machines Could Talk...' Experts, Cigarettes and Policymaking in Turkey." *Social Anthropology*. 21 (4): 479-491.

(Recommended: *Kayaalp's Remaking Politics, Markets and Citizens in Turkey: Governing Through Smoke*. 2015. Bloomsbury)

Bilge Firat. 2014. The accession pedagogy: power, policy, and politics in Turkey's bid for EU membership. *Anthropological Journal of European Cultures* 23(1): 99-120.

(Recommended: *Firat's Diplomacy and Lobbying during Turkey's Europeanisation: The private life of politics*. 2019. Manchester University Press)

Brian Silverstein. 2018. "Commensuration, Performativity and the Reform of Statistics in Turkey." *American Ethnologist* 45(3): 330-340.

Hikmet Kocamaner. 2019. "Regulating the Family through Religion." *American Ethnologist*. 46(4): 495-508

Çağrı Yoltar. 2020. "Making the Indebted Citizen: An Inquiry into State Benevolence in Turkey." *Political and Legal Anthropology Review* 43(1): 153-171.

Hayal Akarsu. 2020. "Citizen Forces." *American Ethnologist* 47(1):27-

WEEK TWELVE

Immigration to/from Turkey or Rethinking Units/Objects of Anthropological Analysis the Age of “Globalization” and “Transnationalism”

Ayşe Çağlar. 2002. “A Table in Two Hands.” In *Fragments of Culture: The Everyday of Modern Turkey*. Eds. Deniz Kandiyoti and Ayşe Saktanber.

Yael-Navaro-Yashin. 2003. “‘Life is Dead Here’: Sensing the Political in No Man’s Land” *Anthropological Theory*. 3(1): 107-125.

Levent Soysal. 2001. “Diversity of Experience, Experience of Diversity: Turkish Migrant Youth Culture in Berlin” *Cultural Dynamics* Vol. 13, No. 1, 5-28

İlay Romain Örs. 2006. “Beyond the Greek and Turkish Dichotomy: The *Rum Polites* of Istanbul and Athens.” *South European Society and Politics*: 11: (1): 79-94.

(Recommended: Örs’s *Diaspora of the City: stories of cosmopolitanism from Istanbul and Athens*. 2018. Palgrave.)

Ayşe Parla. 2009. “Remembering across the border: Postsocialist nostalgia among Turkish immigrants from Bulgaria”. *American Ethnologist*. 36 (4): 750-767.

(Recommended: Parla’s *Precarious Hope: Migration and the Limits of Belonging in Turkey*. 2019. Stanford University Press).

Güldem Baykal Büyüksaraç. 2017. “Trans-border minority activism and Kin-state politics: The case of Iraqi Turkmen and Turkish Interventionism.” *Anthropological Quarterly*. 90(1): 17-54.

Ayşecan Terzioğlu. 2018. The banality of evil and the normalization of the discriminatory discourses against Syrians in Turkey.” *Anthropology of the Contemporary Middle East and Central Eurasia*. 4(2): 34-47

O. Biner and Z. Özlem Biner. 2021 “Syrian Refugees and the Politics of Waiting at the margins of the Turkish state.” *Social Anthropology* 29(3): 831-846