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 bring 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. 8  Introduction.


Febr. 15  Theoretical and Methodological Questions.


Feb. 22  European Women and Modernity, a Historical Overview:

“Women in Industrializing, Liberalizing, and Imperializing Europe, Overview 1750-1890”, 113-163.

Feb 29 Women, Empire and the Orient


March 7 Colonialism, Nationalism and Citizenship: the Ottoman Empire and the Middle East:


March 14 The New Women in the Ottoman Empire/ the Middle East


March 21 Women’s Labor in the Ottoman Empire:


Emine Tutku Vardagli, “Searching for Women’s Agency in the Tobacco Workshops: Female Tobacco Workers of the Province of Selanik, ” in Köksal and Falierou (eds.), A Social History of Late Ottoman Empire, Brill, 2013, 47-64.

March 28 Women in the Arts and Writing:
Burcu Pelvanoglu, “Painting the Late Ottoman Women: Portraits of Mihri Müşfik Hanım,” in Köksal and Falierou (eds.), A Social History of Late Ottoman Empire, Brill, 2013, 155-172.

Apr. 4 From Empire to Republic:


Apr. 11 From Girlhood to Womanhood

April 18 No Class (Spring Break)

Apr. 25 The State and the Women’s Movement in Turkey


May 2 Citizenship and the Women’s Movement


May 9  Continued.


May 16  Recent Debates


Recommended Reading:


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