

A City of Two Tales: Reading Istanbul from Orhan Pamuk Novels

IDH 2930 Section 22HD

Time: Tuesday period 9

Location: Hume 0119

Instructor

Emrah Sahin, Ph.D.

emrahsahin@ufl.edu

(352) 294-7143

Office hours: R 10:30-1:30pm

Also by appointment

Course Description

The city of Istanbul linked Europe to the Middle East from the 16th century to the present. This honors course explores Istanbul through “My Name Is Red,” a classic book written by the 2006 Nobel Prize winning novelist Orhan Pamuk. The novel takes place in 1591 – when an Ottoman Turkish miniature artist gets killed in a mysterious incident. The characters narrate their stories, revealing the life of the victim and the intricacy of life in Istanbul. Throughout the semester, we will discuss various themes to understand how multiple realities reflected and shaped the human conscience by focusing on Istanbul. We will also examine global and local influences on the author, including ways Umberto Eco and Ahmet Hamdi affected his work.

Required Materials and Supplies Fees

The course has no prerequisites. The assignments are: a closed reading and engaged classroom discussion of book chapters, and regular contributions to a weekly blog to be created by the professor on the course website. Additional readings and recommended materials will be posted on the e-learning website. Consider acquiring an affordable copy of the book from [this link](#). There are no additional fees for the course.

Evaluation of Grades

This course includes the following assignments along with weekly discussion meetings. Be willing, engaged, and punctual: *attend* the meetings, *participate* in discussions, and *complete* your reading/writing assignments in advance.

1. *Attendance* (5 points). Attendance will be recorded during meetings and students are expected to attend all the classes except in the case of an emergency.
2. *Participation and blog entries* (25 and 15 points). Students will participate the meetings and write blog texts. Further information will be given during the first class meeting.
3. *Book review* (15 points). By Week 5, students will submit a 4-page abstract on another novel of their choice with the approval of the professor.
4. *Take-home Final* (40 points). The final examination will draw from lectures and select readings, and will be due on the last meeting of class. A review class will provide guidelines and address questions about this exam.

Please note that all the readings and written assignments must be completed by the date indicated on the syllabus and cannot be rescheduled. Requests of any special accommodations must be made to the professor in writing and in advance. You are welcome to discuss any of these assignments with the professor. Though the instructor reserves the right to make changes to this syllabus (with an in-advance warning if deemed necessary), the assignment schedules and UF regulations will stand at all times.

Grading Policy

Letter Grade	A	A-	B+	B	B-	C+	C	C-	D+	D	D-	F
Numerical Value (% rank)	+94	90 93	87 89	84 86	80 83	77 79	74 76	70 73	67 69	64 66	60 63	-60
GPA Equivalent	4.0	3.67	3.33	3.0	2.67	2.33	2.0	1.67	1.33	1.0	0.67	0

More information on grades and grading policies is [here](#)

Class Attendance and Make-Up Policy

Attendance and participation are required for success. They not only constitute 30% of your grade. Repeated absences also affect your performance on other assignments. Missing class likewise means missing participation and falling behind in other assignments.

According to the Office of the University Registrar, “acceptable reasons for absence from class include illness, serious family emergencies, special curricular

requirements (e.g., judging trips, field trips, and professional conferences), military obligation, severe weather conditions, religious holidays and participation in official university activities such as music performances, athletic competition or debate. Absences from class for court-imposed legal obligations (e.g., jury duty or subpoena) must be excused.”

For further information about the University of Florida’s attendance policy, please see [the current Undergraduate Catalogue](#)

Students Requiring Accommodations

Students with disabilities requesting accommodations should first register with the Disability Resource Center (352-392-8565, www.dso.ufl.edu/drc/) by providing appropriate documentation. Once registered, students will receive an accommodation letter which must be presented to the instructor when requesting accommodation. Students with disabilities should follow this procedure as early as possible in the semester.

University Honesty Policy

UF students are bound by The Honor Pledge which states, “We, the members of the University of Florida community, pledge to hold ourselves and our peers to the highest standards of honor and integrity by abiding by the Honor Code. On all work submitted for credit by students at the University of Florida, the following pledge is either required or implied: “On my honor, I have neither given nor received unauthorized aid in doing this assignment.” [The Honor Code](#) specifies a number of behaviors that are in violation of this code and the possible sanctions. Furthermore, you are obligated to report any condition that facilitates academic misconduct to appropriate personnel. If you have any questions or concerns, please consult with the instructor.

Class Demeanor

Students are expected to arrive to class on time and behave in a manner that is respectful to the instructor and to fellow students. Please avoid the use of cell phones and restrict eating to outside of the classroom. Opinions held by other students should be respected in discussion, and conversations that do not contribute to the discussion should be held at minimum, if at all.

Course Evaluation

Students are expected to provide feedback on the quality of instruction in this course by completing [online evaluations](#)

Evaluations are typically open during the last two or three weeks of the semester, but students will be given specific times when they are open. Summary results of these assessments are available to students [here](#)

Counseling and Wellness Center

Contact [the Counseling and Wellness Center](#), (352) 392-1575; and the University Police Department, (352) 392-1111 or 911 for emergencies.

Course Schedule

Week 1 (August 28) Course Mechanics and Introduction

- [Orhan Pamuk Interview](#)
- Aamir R. Mufti, "[Orientalisms and World Literatures](#)"

Week 2 (September 4)

- My Name Is Red, ch. 1-4
- ** Blog discussions start this week **

Week 3 (September 11)

- My Name Is Red, ch. 5-8
- Duke University Global Cities Series, "[Istanbul: A Multi-perspectival City](#)"

Week 4 (September 18)

- My Name Is Red, ch. 9-13
- Selim Deringil, "Turks and Europe"

Week 5 (September 25)

- My Name Is Red, ch. 14-18
- ** Book-review Canvas-submission **

Week 6 (October 2)

- My Name Is Red, ch. 19-23
- Donald Quataert, "Why Study Ottoman History"

Week 7 (October 9)

- My Name Is Red, ch. 24-28

Week 8 (October 16)

- My Name Is Red, ch. 29-33
- Halil Inalcik, "Istanbul: An Islamic City"

Week 9 (October 23)

- My Name Is Red, ch. 34-38
- Llyod Fallers, "Turkish Islam"

Week 10 (October 30)

- My Name Is Red, ch. 39-43

Week 11 (November 6)

- My Name Is Red, ch. 44-48

Week 12 (November 13)

- My Name Is Red, ch. 49-52
- Emily Apter, *Global Translatio: The 'Invention of Comparative Literature, Istanbul 1933*

Week 13 (November 20)

- My Name Is Red, ch. 53-56

Week 14 (November 27)

- My Name Is Red, ch. 57-59

** Take-home final instructions will be provided, due by the last classroom meeting **

Week 15 (December 4) Final Submission and Concluding Remarks