

University of Florida
Honors Program – UnCommon Reads
IDH2930 / Class #26103

“The Present State of the Ottoman Empire”

Spring 2025

Little Hall 119
T | Period 6 (12:50 PM - 1:40 PM)

Instructor: Yehoshua Ecker
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381 Dauer Hall
Office hours: TBA and by appointment
Zoom meeting also available

Course description

An 18th century country survey claiming to be more interesting and entertaining than the competition. An irreverent book, full of historical fact and possibly fiction, gossip and anecdotes. Written by a shady and obscure character, called an assassin and a fraud. This was one of the ways English readers were exposed to Ottoman realities, history, customs and opinions. It serves as an introduction to the Ottoman world, to the way it was viewed and studied by others, and to the craft and practices of writing large scale survey projects that try to describe everything you need to know.

This Honors course carries one credit and entails one contact hour per week.

Main Text

Elias Habesci, *The Present State of the Ottoman Empire* (London: R. Baldwin et al, 1784).
Available in digital form.

Reading schedule

Week	Pages to read & Themes
1	Title page; <i>Introduction</i>
2	i-xv & table of contents
3	1-52
4	52-102
5	103-141
6	142-183
7	184-217
8	218-285
9	286-353
10	354-423
11	424-443
12	<i>Sources and credibility</i>
13	<i>Approaches to knowledge</i>
14	<i>Conclusion</i>

Weekly assignments (10 out of 12)

Choose one every week from the list provided in class.

Submit by Monday evening.

Grading

Attendance: 28

Participation: 28-42

Weekly assignments (10): 50

A minimum grade of B is required to earn Academic points towards your Honors Completion Requirements. (Exception: Honors Quest I and II sections require a C). Once you have earned your final grade in this course, please upload the course information and final grade from your Unofficial Transcript into your Honors Canvas Cohort: Honors Completion module to earn Honors Milestone / Completion credit.

Assignments details

Detailed instructions for the assignments will be provided in class.

Assignment submission dates

Weekly (10 out of 12), the day before class.

Syllabus Changes

The syllabus is subject to change. Changes will be announced in advance as much as possible. Changes and adjustments are to be expected.

Class Policies

Attendance: Attendance is required and will be taken at every class meeting: please write your name and sign the dated attendance sheet. Requirements for class attendance and make-up exams, assignments, and other work in this course are consistent with university policies and require appropriate documentation. Read the university attendance policies here: <https://catalog.ufl.edu/UGRD/academic-regulations/attendance-policies/>. *When possible, please let me know in advance if you will not be attending a class session.* You are allowed up to 1 undocumented absences, after which any unexcused absence will affect your grade. Excused absences include documented medical emergency, family crisis, military service, university sanctioned or official activities.

Email: As a matter of policy, UFL related communications are delegated to your UFL email. Information concerning the course, especially changes in venue, readings, assignments, etc., will be disseminated via Canvas announcements. Please make sure that your contact information is updated and that you are signed up to receive notification of course announcements.

Turning in assignments: Students are required to provide all assignments in digital form, by the date and time they are due (extra time in case of documented emergencies or extreme circumstances will be considered).

Late Papers and Tests: Tests and papers will not be accepted late without medical documentation or review of specific circumstances.

Electronic devices: All electronic devices are allowed, as long as you use them for class purposes or for other necessary purposes (emergency calls and updates, essential time sensitive communications). Please make sure they do not interfere with the class or disturb other students, do not emit high volume sounds, and are set to reasonably silent mode.

Student Honor Code and Student Conduct Code: The University of Florida holds its students to the highest standards. Students are encouraged to read the University of Florida Student Honor Code and Student Conduct Code (Regulation 4.040), so they are aware of these standards. The University principles address respect for people and property, for fairness, for Laws and Regulations, and for academic integrity. Any violation of the Student Honor Code will result in a referral the Student Conduct and Conflict Resolution and may result in academic sanctions and further student conduct action.

The University of Florida Student Honor Code and Student Conduct Code (UF Regulation 4.040) can be found at these links:

<https://sccr.dso.ufl.edu/policies/student-honor-code-student-conduct-code/>

<https://policy.ufl.edu/regulation/4-040/>

<https://policy.ufl.edu/wp-content/uploads/2020/12/UF-Regulation-4.040.pdf>

The processes of applying the codes can be found at the Dean of Students Office website:
<https://sccr.dso.ufl.edu/process/student-honor-code/>
<https://sccr.dso.ufl.edu/process/student-conduct-code/>

Academic Honesty:

Academic honesty and integrity are fundamental values of the University. 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 Conduct Code specifies a number of behaviors that are in violation of this code and the possible sanctions. Students commit to holding themselves and their peers to the high standard of honor required by the Student Honor Code. Any Student who becomes aware of a violation of the Student Honor Code is encouraged to report the violation to the appropriate University Official. Click the links above to read the Conduct Code. If you have any questions or concerns, please consult with the instructor.

Plagiarism: Plagiarism is defined in the University of Florida's Student Honor Code as follows: “A Student must not represent as the Student’s own work all or any portion of the work of another person or Entity.” To avoid plagiarism students must give proper attribution to any source used or consulted (oral or written materials, published or unpublished), and clearly mark and attribute direct quotes. Students should follow their faculty's policy on collaboration, should understand how to properly cite sources, and should not give nor receive an improper academic advantage in any manner through any medium. Plagiarism on any assignment will automatically result in a failing grade.

Course Evaluations: Students are expected to provide professional and respectful feedback on the quality of instruction in this course by completing course evaluations online via GatorEvals. Guidance on how to give feedback in a professional and respectful manner is available at: <https://gatorevals.aa.ufl.edu/students/>. Students will be notified when the evaluation period opens, and can complete evaluations through the email they receive from GatorEvals, in their Canvas course menu under GatorEvals, or via <https://ufl.bluera.com/ufl/>. Summaries of course evaluation results are available to students at: <https://gatorevals.aa.ufl.edu/public-results/>.

Accommodations: Students with disabilities who experience learning barriers and would like to request academic accommodations should connect with the disability Resource Center and provide appropriate documentation as early as possible in the semester. Once registered, students will receive an accommodation letter which must be presented to the instructor when requesting accommodation. It is important for students to share their accommodation letter with their instructor and discuss their access needs, as early as possible in the semester. To get started use this link: <https://disability.ufl.edu/get-started/> or call 352-392-8565.

Grading Policies and Scale: Current university grades and grading policies are explained here: <https://catalog.ufl.edu/UGRD/academic-regulations/grades-grading-policies/>

The grading scale used for this class:

	A	93-100+	A-	90-92	
B+	87-89	B	83-86	B-	80-82
C+	77-79	C	73-76	C-	70-72
D+	68-69	D	63-67	D-	60-62
F	<60				

Campus Resources

Health and Wellness

- *U Matter, We Care*: If you or someone you know is in distress, please contact umatter@ufl.edu, 352-392-1575, or visit U Matter, We Care website to refer or report a concern and a team member will reach out to the student in distress. <https://umatter.ufl.edu/>
- *Counseling and Wellness Center*: Visit the Counseling and Wellness Center website or call 352-392-1575 for information on crisis services as well as non-crisis services. <https://counseling.ufl.edu/>
- *Student Health Care Center*: Call 352-392-1161 for 24/7 information to help you find the care you need, or visit the Student Health Care Center website. <https://shcc.ufl.edu/>
- *UF Health Shands Emergency Room / Trauma Center*: For immediate medical care call 352-733-0111 or go to the emergency room at 1515 SW Archer Road, Gainesville, FL 32608; Visit the UF Health Emergency Room and Trauma Center website. <https://ufhealth.org/locations/uf-health-shands-emergency-room-trauma-center/>
- *GatorWell Health Promotion Services*: For prevention services focused on optimal wellbeing, including Wellness Coaching for Academic Success, visit the GatorWell website or call 352-273-4450. <https://gatorwell.ufsa.ufl.edu/>
- *University of Florida Police Department – UFPD*. Emergency and Police Assistance, <https://police.ufl.edu/>. Non-emergencies: 352-392-1111. For emergencies and immediate help call 9-1-1

Academic Resources

- *E-learning technical support*: Contact the UF Computing Help Desk at 352-392-4357 or via e-mail at helpdesk@ufl.edu. <https://helpdesk.ufl.edu/>
- *Career Connections Center*: Reitz Union Suite 1300, 352-392-1601. Career assistance and counseling services. <https://career.ufl.edu/>
- *Library Support*: Various ways to receive assistance with respect to using the libraries or finding resources. <https://answers.uflib.ufl.edu/ask>

- *Teaching Center*: Broward Hall, 352-392-2010 or to make an appointment 352- 392-6420. General study skills and tutoring. <https://academicresources.clas.ufl.edu/>
- *Writing Studio*: 2215 Turlington Hall, 352-846-1138. Help brainstorming, formatting, and writing papers. <https://writing.ufl.edu/writing-studio/>
- *Student Complaints On-Campus*: Visit the Student Honor Code and Student Conduct Code webpage for more information. <https://sccr.dso.ufl.edu/policies/student-honor-%20code-student-conduct-code/>
- *On-Line Students Complaints*: View the Distance Learning Student Complaint Process. <https://distance.ufl.edu/getting-help/student-complaint-process/>

Additional lists of resources

There are additional resources on Campus, in Gainesville and in Alachua County, listed on UFL webpages, including:

- <https://www.ufadvising.ufl.edu/student-resources/>
- <https://academicresources.clas.ufl.edu/>
- <https://titleix.ufl.edu/get-help/campus-resources/>

Honors Program contact information:

- Honors Program, 201 Walker Hall, 352-392-1519
- Quick questions for an Honors advisor? Email advisor@honors.ufl.edu
- Need an Honors advising appointment? Schedule via Microsoft Bookings: <https://bit.ly/ufhonorsadvising>