<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Course Title:</th>
<th>Gender, Sexuality and Politics in Modern Turkey</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Course Code:</td>
<td>KADH SOGP 340S</td>
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<tr>
<td>Subject:</td>
<td>Sociology, Gender &amp; Cultural Studies, Political Science</td>
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<tr>
<td>Credits:</td>
<td>3</td>
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<tr>
<td>Semester/Term:</td>
<td>☒ Summer</td>
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**Course Description:**
This is an interdisciplinary course that will explore issues of gender and sexuality in Turkey. Turkey presents an interesting site for investigating how gender and sexuality are constructed, enacted, represented, and communicated in various contexts of contemporary culture. We will engage issues of gender and sexuality in law, politics and culture. As Turkey is a majority Muslim country we will also address these issues within Islam and the way that impacts their formations in Turkish society. More specifically we will address such issues as: women's movements, the headscarf issue, reproductive rights and legal interventions regarding the body and sexuality, LGBTQ rights, Islamic women's activism and media representations of gender and sexuality.

**Course Requirements:**

**Required Text**

Students will receive a reader and will be expected to do the required readings before each class as listed in the syllabus below.

Demirdirek, Aynur. “In Pursuit of the Ottoman Women’s Movement” in Deconstructing Images of The Turkish Woman, edited by Zehra F. Arat. **ISBN:** 0312175442; **Cost:** To Be Determined

Mango, Andrew. The Turks Today (to be read throughout the course). **ISBN:** 1585677566; **Cost:** To Be Determined.

Leila Ahmed, 1993. Women, Gender, and Islam: Historical Roots of a Modern Debate. **ISBN:** 0300055838; **Cost:** To Be Determined

Women Living Under Muslim Laws. For Ourselves - Women reading the Quran. 1997. **ISBN:** B0000CP3EUY; **Cost:** To Be Determined

Kugle, Scott Siraj al-Haqq. Homosexuality in Islam- Critical Reflection on Gay, Lesbian & Transgender Muslims. **ISBN:** 1851687017; **Cost:** To Be Determined

Arat, Zehra. The Patriarchal Paradox: Women Politicians in Turkey. ISBN: 0838633471; Cost: To Be Determined

Durakbaşa, Ayşe. Kemalism as Identity Politics in Turkey” in Deconstructing Images of The Turkish Woman, edited by Zehra F. Arat. ISBN: 0312175442; Cost: To Be Determined

İlyasoğlu, Aynur. Islamist Women in Turkey: Their Identity and Self Image”. Deconstructing Images of The Turkish Woman, edited by Zehra F. Arat. ISBN: 0312175442; Cost: To Be Determined

Kandiyoti, Deniz. “Pink Card Blues: Trouble and Strife at the Crossroads of Gender” in Fragments of Culture. ISBN: 1860644279; Cost: To Be Determined

Büker, Seçil. “The Film Does Not End with an Ecstatic Kiss”. in Fragments of Culture. ISBN: 1860644279; Cost: To Be Determined


Saktanber, Ayşe. “Women in the Media in Turkey: The Free Available Woman or the Good Wife and Selfless Mother?” in Women in Modern Turkish Society: A Reader, ed. Sirin Tekeli. ISBN: 978-1856491525; Cost: To Be Determined

Arat, Yeşim. Feminist Institutions and Democratic Aspirations: The Case of the Purple Roof's Shelter Foundation”. in Deconstructing Images of The Turkish Woman, edited by Zehra F. Arat. ISBN: 0312175442; Cost: To Be Determined

Journal Articles
- O’Neil, Mary Lou. Being Seen: Headscarves and the Contestation of
Public Space in Turkey. European Journal of Women’s Studies, 15: 101-15
- Sever and Yurdakal, Culture of Honor, Culture of Change: A Feminist Analysis of Honor Killings in Rural Turkey. Violence Against Women, 7, 964-998

Assignments

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Course Requirements</th>
<th>Percentages</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1. Reflective Journal</td>
<td>20%</td>
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<tr>
<td>2. Class participation</td>
<td>10%</td>
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<tr>
<td>3. Response papers (2@10%)</td>
<td>20%</td>
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<tr>
<td>4. Interview and presentation</td>
<td>20%</td>
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<tr>
<td>5. Film or Magazine Analysis</td>
<td>10%</td>
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<tr>
<td>6. Final Project</td>
<td>20%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>100%</td>
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Reflective Journal -- Students will keep a journal of their observations and experiences over the duration of the course

Class Participation -- Reading and taking part in class discussions

Interview and presentation -- Students will interview women students and Kadir Has University and present their findings

Final Project -- Students will use the readings and classroom discussions as well as their own observations to create a 5 minute digital story/presentation reflecting one of themes from the class.
### Learning Outcomes and/or Expected Student Competencies:

On completion of the course, students should be able to:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Learning Outcomes</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1. Discuss concepts of gender and sexuality</td>
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<tr>
<td>2. Examine the meanings of sex and gender and the influence of those meanings on everyday life</td>
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<tr>
<td>3. Assess the concept of honor and its role as a tool of social control</td>
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<td>4. Produce clear, concise and potent arguments that include an analysis of gender and sexuality and that are based on evidence.</td>
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<td>5. Interpret the ways the law legitimizes and regulates gender and sexual identities in Turkey</td>
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<td>6. Assess the rights of women and LGBTQ peoples in Turkey</td>
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<td>7. Develop an interview instrument and conduct and interview</td>
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<td>8. Analyze and decode representations of gender and sexuality</td>
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<td>9. Examine forms of political protests and evaluate their efficacy.</td>
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### Course Outline:

<table>
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<tr>
<th>Session</th>
<th>Topic</th>
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<tr>
<td>Session 1</td>
<td>This first week will serve as an introduction to our topic and location. We will go over the basic history of the late Ottoman and Republican period. We will also establish a common vocabulary through a discussion of concepts and theories of gender and sexuality.</td>
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<td></td>
<td>• Trip to Women's library</td>
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**Learning Objectives:**

- Basic understanding of the concepts of gender and sexuality
- Strengthen tools of critical analysis by focusing on the meanings of sex and gender and the influence of those meanings on everyday life

**Readings:**

- Demirdirek, Aynur. “In Pursuit of the Ottoman Women's Movement”
- Mango, Andrew. The Turks Today (to be read throughout the course)
- Altan-Olcay, Özlem. “Gendered Projects of National Identity Formation: The Case of Turkey”
- White, Jenny, ‘State Feminism, Modernization and
 Assignments:

Journal

**Session 2**

**Gender and Sexuality in Islam**

We will examine the ways that gender and sexuality are understood within Islam from both religious texts as well as various interpretations. Different schools of Islamic law provide different interpretations of text and doctrine, all of which are Muslim. Thus, there are multiple “Islamic” views on sexuality. We will explore how the various schools of law vary on issues such as the permissibility of the use of contraceptives, abortion, and acceptance of homosexuality, lesbianism, transsexuality, bisexuality, cross-dressing, and gender re-assignment. We will also address how these issues have been understood and interpreted within Turkish society.

- Walking tour of Eyüp, a religiously significant site and neighborhood home to many observant people
- Guest speakers—Observant Islamic woman and Islamic theologian

**Learning Objectives:**

- Develop a basic understanding of the tenets of Islam
- General knowledge of gender and sexuality within Islam
- Knowledge of the forms of Islam practiced in Turkey
- Ability to develop a coherent argument based on evidence

**Readings:**

- Leila Ahmed, Women, Gender, and Islam: Historical Roots of a Modern Debate
- Women Living Under Muslim Laws. For Ourselves - Women reading the Quran
- Saktanbar, Ayşe. “We Pray Like You Have FunNew Islamic Youth in Turkey between Intellectualism and
### Popular Culture’

**Assignments:**
- Journal

**Response Paper:** Students will produce a two page response paper that uses the readings to explicate one of the themes discussed in the course so far.

### Session 3

**Representations of Gender and Sexuality**

This week will move our explorations to a cultural level and we will examine the representations of gender and sexuality. In Turkey, as elsewhere, we are surrounded by representations of gender and sexuality and we read these images for the cultural messages that they present. Moreover, we will also examine the ways in which Turkish people themselves represent/perform their gender and sexuality.

- Tours of various neighborhood such as Kadıköy, Bakırköy, Nişantaşı
- Interviews with Kadir Has University women students

**Guest speaker topic:** Screening of a Turkish film and discussing the ways that gender and sexuality are portrayed in Turkish cinema.

**Assignments:**
- Journal
- Magazine or film analysis (Students will analyze either a Turkish film or magazine for its discourses on gender and sexuality).

### Session 4

**The Politics of Gender and Sexuality**

This week will explore the development of gender politics in Turkey including women’s political organizing and participation in the political process. In many ways women's entrance into the public sphere was predicated on women sublimated all signs of their sexuality so we will also discuss issues of honor and how this concept is used to control women and even legitimate violence against them. We will address the formation of women’s movements and women’s organizations. We will also discuss the politics of the headscarf as well as the
mobilization of Islamic women and their participation in politics.
• Trip to Ankara—meet with women parliamentarians, meet with women’s arm of any of the major political parties, representatives of the Ministry of Family and Social Responsibilities

**Learning Objectives:**
- An outline of the history of Turkish politics, especially women’s participation and the history of political activism and forms of activism
- Understanding of the concept of honor and its role as a tool of social control
- Strengthen your ability to produce clear, concise and potent arguments that include an analysis of gender and sexuality and that are based on evidence.

**Readings:**
- Arat, Zehra. The Patriarchal Paradox: Women Politicians in Turkey
- Durakbaşa, Ayşe. Kemalism as Identity Politics in Turkey”
- O'Neil, Mary Lou. Being Seen: Headscarves and the Contestation of Public Space in Turkey
- Arat, Zehra. “Toward a democratic society: The women's movement in Turkey in the 1980s”
- Sever and Yurdakal, Culture of Honor, Culture of Change: A Feminist Analysis of Honor Killings in Rural Turkey

**Assignments:**
Journal
Response Paper: Students will produce a two page response paper that uses the readings to explicate one of the themes discussed in the course so far.

**Session 5**
**Gender, Sexuality and Law**
This week will examine the development of the law with regards to gender and sexuality and the ways that it constructs, defines and even criminalizes certain
identities. We will explore the law in its historic context as well as its development over time. We will also discuss the ways that legal inequality has led to political action. In specific, we will explore the rights of women, LGBTQ peoples concerning discrimination and affirmative action as well as issues of the abortion, reproductive technologies and the criminalization of certain sexual activities.

**Guest speaker topic:** Regulation of Prostitution and Sex Work in Istanbul

**Learning Objectives:**
- Develop an understanding of the ways the law legitimizes gender and sexual identities
- Develop an understanding of the ways the law regulates gender and sexuality in Turkey
- Basic knowledge of the rights of women and LGBTQ peoples in Turkey
- How to develop an interview instrument and conduct and interview

**Readings:**
- Kurtoğlu, Ayça, “Sex Reassignment, Biological Reproduction and Sexual Citizenship in Turkey”
- İlyasoğlu, Aynur. Ilamist Women in Turkey: Their Identity and Self Image”
- Kandiyoti, Deniz. “Pink Card Blues: Trouble and Strife at the Crossroads of Gender”

**Assignments:**

Journal

Interview and presentation of findings (Students will work with the themes and issues that have been developed in the first three weeks of class to generate a series of questions to interview at least one Kadir Has University student. Students will then present their findings in an oral presentation.

**Learning Objectives:**
- Students will learn to analyze and decode representations of gender and sexuality
• Students will learn to recognize and analysis the discourses on gender and sexuality in Turkey

Readings:
• Büker, Seçil. “The Film Does Not End with an Ecstatic Kiss”
• Öztürkmen, Arzu. “A Short History of Kadınca Magazine and Feminism”
• Saktanber, Ayşe. “Women in the Media in Turkey: The Free Available Woman or the Good Wife and Selfless Mother?”
• Kirca, Süheyla. “Turkish women’s magazines: The popular meets the political.”

Session 6

Activism and the Fight for Equality
There is a long history of activism on behalf of equality in Turkey whether it be for women’s rights or the rights of the LGBTQ community. We will examine the ways that organizations have voiced themselves and the ways they have protested the lack of equality for women, gays, lesbians and transgendered people in Turkey. We will focus on both traditional forms of activism and protest as well as the ways that social media has become an important tool in the fight for equality.

Guest speaker topic: The ways that women and others are using social media and digital tools in pursuit of equality.
• Meet with activists from LAMBA, Mor Çatı
Participant observation: Gay Pride İstanbul (July 1 so depends on timing. Those who do not feel they can participate can observe and those who choose to can join in.)

Learning Objectives
• An understanding of forms of political protests and tools for evaluating their efficacy
• Develop the ability to objectively understand and analyze a different culture
• Students will learn to use digital tools to relate conceptual ideas and to tell a story
### Readings:
- Arat, Yeşim. Feminists, Islamists, and Political Change in Turkey
- Arat, Yeşim. Feminist Institutions and Democratic Aspirations: The Case of the Purple Roof's Shelter Foundation”

### Assignments:
- Journal
- 5 minute digital story presentation

### Other Policies:

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Expectations</th>
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<tr>
<td>Professional behavior is expected of all students. This includes preparation for classes, on-time attendance at classes, attendance at all group sessions and appropriate participation in the form of attentiveness and contributions to the course. Respect for the academic process is the major guiding principle for professional behavior and extends to all communications, including e-mail.</td>
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<tr>
<th>Attendance/Participation</th>
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<td>Prompt attendance, full preparation, and active participation in class discussions are expected from every student in every class session.</td>
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<th>Course Policies</th>
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<tr>
<td>For e-mail communications, students must use their Arcadia University e-mail account. Students are responsible for any information provided by e-mail or through Intranet postings.</td>
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<tr>
<th>Plagiarism</th>
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<tr>
<td>Representation of another’s work or ideas as one’s own in academic submissions is plagiarism, and is cause for disciplinary action. Cheating is actual or attempted use of resources not authorized by the instructor(s) for academic submissions. Students caught cheating in this course will receive a failing grade. Fabrication is the falsification or creation of data, research or resources to support academic submissions, and cause for disciplinary action.</td>
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<tr>
<th>Late or Missed Assignments</th>
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<tr>
<td>Will not be accepted for grading.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Students with Disabilities</td>
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<tr>
<td>Persons with documented disabilities requiring accommodations to meet the expectations of this course should disclose this information while enrolling into the program, and before leaving the United States so that appropriate arrangements can be made.</td>
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<th>Prerequisites:</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Upper Division Standing</td>
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