Description: Constantinople was conquered by the Ottoman Turks and became the capital of their empire in 1453. This class will examine how the Ottomans, like their Byzantine counterparts, used art and architecture to bolster and frame their Imperial interests. We shall look at the impressive monuments built by a succession of emperors and also at smaller books and decorative objects that framed life in this period.

Writing assignments, class presentations, and exam: Students will submit two response papers related to the monuments and/or objects we visit on our class excursions. Each student will also research an Ottoman subject and give an on-site presentation during one of the class meetings. A final exam will be given at the end of the term.


Week 1

1. The Beginnings of Ottoman Istanbul (Mon)
   Reading: Stierlin, Turkey, Introduction and Early Ottoman Architecture
   This class will examine the city as the Ottomans found it in 1453 and look at some of the earliest Ottoman monuments, including Mahmut Pasha Camii and Beyazidiye.

2. Sinan: Imperial Architect (Wed)
   Reading: Stierlin, Turkey, Sinan, part 1
   During this meeting we shall examine the monuments built during Sinan’s long career, looking at two of his earlier works: Haseki Hürrem Camii and the Şehzade Mehment Camii and a later work, the Sokollu Mehmet Pasha Camii.

Week 2

3. Süleymaniye (Mon)
   Reading: Stierlin, Turkey, Sinan, part 2
   In this class, we shall begin to look at monuments built during the reign of Süleyman I, focusing on the Süleymaniye mosque complex built by the imperial architect, Sinan.

   ***First writing assignment due: response paper discussing the experience of visiting one of Sinan’s monuments

4. Life and Art in the Palace (Wed)
   Reading: Palace of Light & Gold, part 1
   In this class, we shall visit the Topkapi Palace, focusing on the architecture and palace life and ritual
Week 3: Reading:

5. **Tradition and Innovation at the End of the Classical Period (Wed)**
   **Reading:** Stierlin, *Turkey, Late Ottoman Architecture*
   For this last class, we shall visit Sultan Ahmet Camii (the Blue Mosque) and other late
   Ottoman monuments.

   ***Second writing assignment due: visual analysis of an aspect of the imperial palace

6. **Topkapi Treasury (Mon)**
   **Reading:** *Palace of Light & Gold*, part 2
   In this class, we shall return to Topkapi to view the collection of manuscripts and other
   objects.

   Class members will present on an object (or type of object) on view in the Topkapi
   Museum.

**Optional on-site visits:**

Istanbul Military Museum

Istanbul, Sakıp Sabancı Museum

Istanbul, Museum of Calligraphy

Istanbul, Museum of Turkish and Islamic Arts