Course Description
This course focuses on the demographic, social, and cultural transformations that Istanbul underwent during the 20th century, considering the city both as it has been experienced and as viewed from a more distanced “sociological” perspective. Readings are selected from a variety of disciplines with the goal of more fully grasping what Istanbul was during this period of rapid and unprecedented change.

Course requirements
Students are expected to attend class and participate in class discussions, make class presentations on topics to be specified, and write a take-home (out of class) final examination.

Topics and Readings

1. Overview of Issues and Approach (19.10)


Aziz Nesin reading (to be provided)

2. An Urban Geography of Istanbul: Socio-Economic Structures on the Ground (21.10)


Selections from *Istanbul: City of Intersections*. Urban Age, 2009

3. Population: Decline, Growth and Movement (26.10)


Recommended: Duben and Behar, “Fertility and birth control: Istanbul’s particularites” in Duben and Behar, *op. cit.*; Frederic C. Shorter, “Turkish population in the great depression” *New Perspectives on Turkey*, 12 (fall 2000)

4. A City of Families (28.10)


Alan Duben, “Twentieth century Istanbul: households, families, demographic realities and Ordinary Lives” (English version of “20. yüzyılda İstanbul: haneler, aileler ve demografik gerçekler”, in *Eski İstanbullar, Yeni İstanbullar*. Osmanlı Bankası Arşiv ve Araştırma Merkezi, 2009.)


5. Social Differentiation, Class, Ethnicity-Religion (2/11)


Ayşe Öncü, “Istanbulites and others: the cultural cosmology of being in the middle class in the era of globalism” in Keyder, op. cit.


Orhan Pamuk, “Conquest or decline: the Turkification of Constantinople” in Pamuk, op. cit.

6. Neighborhood and Community (4.11)

Duben and Behar, selections from ch. 2 “Mahalle” pp. 29-35 in Duben and Behar, op. cit.; Orhan Pamuk, “The melancholy of ruins: Tanpinar and Yahya Kemal in the city’s poor neighborhoods” (ch. 26), “The picturesque and the outlying neighborhoods” (ch. 27), “To be unhappy is to hate oneself and one’s city (ch. 34) in Pamuk , op. cit.


7. Land, Housing, Gentrification: Connecting the Old and the New (9.11)
Çağlar Keyder, “The housing market from informal to global” in Keyder, op.cit.


8. Identities: Istanbul East/West, Male/Female, Islamist/Secular (11.11)

Duben and Behar, “Conclusion” in Istanbul Households, op. cit.

Orhan Pamuk, “Black and white” (ch. 5), “Hüzün” (ch.10), “Four lonely melancholy writers” (ch.11), Pamuk, op. cit.


Amy Mills, “Conclusion: Nostalgia for cosmopolitanism in Istanbul” in Mills, op.cit.