

Introduction to Turkiye's Cultural Heritage

- **Content:** Civilizations of Anatolia, the Ottoman and Republican periods, cultural diversity, and traditions in daily life.
- **Objective:** This course aims to introduce participants to Turkiye's cultural heritage in its historical, spatial, and social contexts. It supports the interpretation of Turkiye's multi-layered cultural structure through the civilizations of Anatolia, and the cultural heritage of the Ottoman and Republican eras. The course provides foundational knowledge of Turkiye 's historical and cultural background.

Learning Objectives

Cognitive (Knowledge-Based) Objectives

Participants will be able to:

1. Relate the concept of cultural heritage in Turkiye to UNESCO definitions.
2. Outline the historical development of Anatolian civilizations and their cultural contributions.
3. Identify cultural heritage elements from the Ottoman and Republican periods.
4. Explain the cultural diversity developed across different regions of Turkiye.

Analytical and Critical Thinking Objectives

Participants will be able to:

5. Analyze the continuity of cultural heritage in architectural, artistic, and social dimensions.
6. Reevaluate their own cultural perspectives through cross-cultural comparisons.
7. Discuss how daily practices reflect cultural values.

Applied and Experiential Objectives

Participants will be able to:

8. Experience the basic practices of traditional arts (e.g., tile art, marbling, miniature painting, storytelling).
9. Develop fieldwork skills through on-site observation of cultural heritage areas.
10. Gain the ability to prepare visual or oral presentations through group work.

General Information

- **Program Title:** Introduction to Turkiye's Cultural Heritage
- **Duration:** 3 weeks
- **Total Course Hours:** 42 hours
- **Participants:** International undergraduate students
- **Location:** METU (Middle East Technical University), Ankara and surrounding regions
- **Purpose:** To introduce participants to Turkiye's cultural and historical richness, including Anatolian civilizations, architectural heritage, traditional crafts, belief systems, and everyday cultural practices.

Weekly Program Summary

Week 1: The Heritage of Anatolia – History and Civilizations

Themes: Introduction to the History and Cultural Heritage of Anatolia

Total Hours: 14 hours

Day	Topic / Activity	Format	Duration
Monday	Opening Session – Introduction, Program Overview, Seminar: “A Historical Overview of Turkiye” – Turkiye 's geographical, historical, and cultural setting; What is cultural heritage?	Theoretical	2 hours
Tuesday	Seminar: “A Cultural Overview of Turkiye” + Group Discussion: Comparing Similar Elements in Participants’ Own Cultures	Theoretical + Interactive	2 hours
Wednesday	Seminar: “Music and Social Life in Anatolia” + Musical Samples – Guest Speaker	Theoretical + Interactive	3 hours
Thursday	Storytelling and Traditional Theater Workshop (Drama-based)	Applied	4 hours
Friday	Ankara Ethnography Museum	Fieldwork	3 hours

Week 2: Ottoman and Republican Period Culture

Themes: Anatolian Civilizations | Archaeology | Museums

Total Hours: 14 hours

Day	Topic / Activity	Format	Duration
Monday	Turkiye 's Geographical, Historical, and Cultural Setting Revisited	Theoretical	2 hours
Tuesday	Anatolian Civilizations II – Hittites, Urartians, Phrygians, Lydians	Theoretical	2 hours
Wednesday	Anatolian Civilizations III – Hellenistic Period, Roman, and Byzantine Eras	Theoretical	2 hours
Thursday	Workshop: Ancient Scripts and Archaeological Objects	Applied	4 hours
Friday	Museum of Anatolian Civilizations	Fieldwork	4 hours

Week 3: Contemporary Reflections and Sustainability of Cultural Heritage

Themes: Architecture | Traditional Crafts | Daily Life Culture

Total Hours: 14 hours

Day	Topic / Activity	Format	Duration
Monday	Ottoman Architecture and Urban Texture – Mosques, Complexes (Külliye), Inns, Baths	Theoretical	2 hours
Tuesday	Traditional Crafts: Tile Art, Marbling (Ebru), Carpets	Theoretical	2 hours
Wednesday	Visual Expression Workshop: Collage Making (thematic, group-based)	Applied	4 hours
Thursday	Daily Life Culture Group Discussion: Comparing Similar Practices in Their Own Cultures – Family structure, food culture, hospitality	Theoretical + Interactive	2 hours
Friday	Ankara Castle, Hamamönü District	Fieldwork	4 hours

Learning Outcomes

By the end of the course, participants will be able to:

- Identify key civilizations that lived in Anatolia.
- Understand the multilayered nature of Türkiye's cultural structure.
- Analyze the concept of cultural heritage from historical, architectural, and sociological perspectives.
- Engage with traditional arts and rituals through hands-on experiences.
- Develop comparative cultural awareness by observing cultural interactions.

Optional Extras

- **Weekend Trip:** 2-day cultural excursion to Cappadocia (Göreme Open-Air Museum, underground cities)
- **Taste Workshop:** Introduction to Turkish cuisine and cooking session (e.g., mantı, dolma)

Recommended Readings

Core Readings (in English)

- Kafesciođlu, . (2009). *The Ottoman Empire and Early Modern Europe*. Cambridge University Press.
- Redford, S. (2015). *A Cultural History of Anatolia: From the Neolithic to the Seljuks*. Edinburgh University Press.
- UNESCO World Heritage Centre – whc.unesco.org
- Kuban, D. (1985). *Ottoman Architecture*. Antique Collectors' Club.

Additional Readings (in English & Turkish)

- Atasoy, N. (2000). *Turkish Art and Architecture*
- Aslanapa, O. (1987). *Türk Sanatı*
- Bozdođan, S. (2001). *Modernism and Nation Building: Turkish Architectural Culture in the Early Republic*
- Erzen, J. N. (2008). “Islamic Aesthetics: An Alternative Way to Knowledge.” *Journal of Aesthetic Education*

Visual & Audiovisual Materials

- *Times and Winds (İstanbul'da Zaman*, dir. Reha Erdem – cultural architecture-themed film)
- *UNESCO World Heritage Sites in Türkiye* (TRT Documentary Series)

Assessment Methods

Method	Description	Suggested Weight (optional)
Active Participation	Observed in workshops and group activities	30%
Intercultural Comparative Presentation	Analysis of Turkish culture vs. students' home culture	30%
Final Project (Group Work)	Presentation/poster/project on a selected cultural heritage element	40%