UNIVERSITY OF CRETE

FACULTY OF PHILOSOPHY

DEPARTMENT OF HISTORY AND ARCHAEOLOGY

Interinstitutional Programme of Postgraduate Studies in Ottoman History

STUDENT HANDBOOK FOR THE ACADEMIC YEAR 2024-2025



of the University of Crete
in partnership with the
Institute for Mediterranean Studies

of the Foundation for Research and Technology-Hellas

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1. Introduction

The Interinstitutional Postgraduate Programme in Ottoman History is organised by the Department of History and Archaeology of the University of Crete in collaboration with the Institute for Mediterranean Studies of the Foundation for Research and Technology-Hellas.

The Programme started in 1988 as a Training and Specialisation Programme in Turkish Studies at the Institute for Mediterranean Studies, on the initiative of the University of Crete professors Vassilis Dimitriadis and Elizabeth A. Zachariadou. In 1994 the Programme was formalised with the establishment of the Postgraduate Programme in Turkish Studies at the Department of History and Archaeology of the University of Crete (Ministerial Decision: B7/88/94 [Government Gazette 362/B'/17.05.1994]). From 2005 to 2018 the Programme operated as a postgraduate programme of the Department of History and Archaeology in cooperation with the Institute for Mediterranean Studies on the basis of the Ministerial Decisions No. 44166/B7 (Government Gazette 901/B'/01.07.2005) and 79264/B7 (Government Gazette 1400/B'/02.06.2014) which approved its operation. From the academic year 2018-2019, the Programme was re-established as the Interinstitutional Postgraduate Programme in Ottoman History that was jointly organised by the Department of History and Archaeology and the Institute for Mediterranean Studies (Government Gazette 1993/B'/04.06.2018, Government Gazette 3438/B'/17.08.2018, Government Gazette 328/B'/01.02.2022). The functioning of the programme as the Interinstitutional Postgraduate Programme in Ottoman History of the Department of History and Archaeology of the University of Crete in collaboration with the Institute for Mediterranean Studies of the Foundation for Research and Technology-Hellas was renewed in 2024 (Government Gazette 1934/B'/28.03.2024).

2. Scope

The Postgraduate Programme in Ottoman History focuses on teaching and research on the history of the Ottoman Empire, but may also cover the pre-Ottoman period of Turkish history and the history of the Republic of Turkey.

3. Aim

The aim of the Postgraduate Programme in Ottoman History is the promotion of scientific knowledge and the research through the training of researchers specialised in Ottoman history.

4. Learning outcomes

The Postgraduate Programme in Ottoman History trains researchers familiar with the problems and methods of historical research and prepares them for the preparation of a doctoral thesis in the field of history, providing them also with the necessary knowledge to be able to use Ottoman historical sources. In this context, the Programme offers not only history seminars, but also courses in Ottoman language, diplomatics and palaeography, and modern Turkish language.

The learning outcomes of the Programme are as follows:

- Demonstrated specialist knowledge and understanding that builds on and reinforces the learning outcomes of the first cycle of study, and which provides students with a basis for originality of thought and the development and application of ideas, particularly in the context of research activity.
- Ability of graduates to use their specialised knowledge and understanding to solve problems, even in new, unfamiliar or unpredictable contexts, within a broad and interdisciplinary context.
- Ability of graduates to combine knowledge and handle complex issues, to make judgements with linguistic competence, even with incomplete or limited information, and to be critically aware of knowledge issues in the field of Ottoman history.
- Ability of graduates to formulate and communicate clearly and concisely their conclusions, and the knowledge, reasoning and logical assumptions on which they are based, to both specialist and non-specialist audiences.
- Possession of necessary learning skills that allow graduates of the programme to continue their studies in a largely self-reliant manner.

5. Qualifications of graduates

Alumni of the Ottoman History Postgraduate Programme possess the qualifications of Level 7 of the National and European Qualifications Framework for Lifelong Learning, which enable them to proceed to the preparation of a doctoral thesis, as well as to be employed in research projects, archives, libraries, museums and other institutions for the promotion and dissemination of scientific knowledge and research.

6. Duration of study

The duration of study in the Postgraduate Programme in Ottoman History is four (4) academic semesters. The maximum permitted duration of study is eight (8) academic semesters.

Any extension of the normal period of study shall be approved by the Curriculum Committee of the Programme upon request of the student concerned.

7. Suspension of studies

Students of the Ottoman History Postgraduate Programme are entitled to request, for proven serious reasons, suspension of their studies by the Programme's Curriculum Committee.

The maximum permitted duration of suspension of studies is two (2) academic semesters, which may or may not be consecutive. Suspension may be discontinued upon request of the student to the Curriculum Committee of the Programme. At the end of the approved suspension of studies, the student shall be automatically reinstated as an active student of the Programme.

The period of suspension of studies is not counted in the student's period of study.

8. Part-time studies

The Interinstitutional Postgraduate Programme in Ottoman History does not offer the possibility of part-time studies.

9. Degree awarded

The Interinstitutional Postgraduate Programme in Ottoman History awards a Diploma of Postgraduate Studies in Ottoman History. The Diploma is at level seven (7), in accordance with the National and European Qualifications Framework for Lifelong Learning.

The grade of the Diploma of Postgraduate Studies is calculated as follows: one half is the average of the grades of the seminars and courses the student has successfully completed and the other half is the grade of the Master's thesis, on condition that it must have been given a minimum grade of five (5). The diploma indicates the student's final grade and has three classes: good (5-6.49), very good (6.50-8.49), excellent (8.5-10).

10. Organisation of the educational process

The teaching of the seminars and courses of the Interinstitutional Postgraduate Programme in Ottoman History is carried out in person in Rethymno, Crete, Greece.

The seminars and courses are organised in two semesters, winter and spring, per academic year. Each seminar and course lasts at least three hours per week for 13 weeks, except for the Greek as a Foreign Language courses which last at least six hours per week. The seminars and courses of the Programme follow the academic calendar announced by the School of Philosophy of the University of Crete. The timetable of seminars and courses and the exam calendar for the courses of the

Programme are announced by the secretariat of the Department of History and Archaeology.

The assessment and grading of students is at the discretion of each instructor by means of a written or oral examination or written essay or essays or a combination of the above or as otherwise deemed appropriate. The method of assessment and marking shall be communicated in good time by the instructor to the students of each seminar and course.

11. Curriculum – ECTS credits

In order to successfully complete their studies in the Postgraduate Programme in Ottoman History, students are required to accumulate during the two-year study cycle a total of one hundred and twenty (120) ECTS credits as follows:

I) Sixty (60) ECTS credits from the successful completion of five (5) postgraduate seminars in history. Four (4) of these have to be in the fields of Ottoman or Turkish History and one (1) has to be in the fields of either Byzantine History or Modern and Contemporary Greek and European History. Each seminar lasts three hours per week for thirteen weeks and corresponds to twelve (12) ECTS credits.

If no seminar in Byzantine History or Modern and Contemporary Greek and European History is offered in English, students who do not speak Greek are allowed to take all five (5) history seminars in the fields of Ottoman or Turkish History.

- II) Twelve (12) ECTS credits from the successful completion of four (4) courses in Ottoman language, diplomatics and palaeography, one per semester. Each course is taught at least three hours per week for thirteen weeks and corresponds to three (3) ECTS credits.
- III) Twelve (12) ECTS credits from the successful completion of four (4) courses in modern Turkish, one per semester of study. Each course is taught at least three hours per week for thirteen weeks and corresponds to three (3) ECTS credits.

Students whose mother tongue is Turkish are exempted from modern Turkish language courses. Instead, they are obliged to successfully complete two (2) courses in Modern Greek as a foreign language. Each Modern Greek course is taught at least six hours per week for 13 weeks and corresponds to six (6) ECTS credits. The same obligation exists for any other non-Greek-speaking students who are exempted from Turkish language courses following a decision of the Programme's Curriculum Committee on the recommendation of the Turkish language teacher.

IV) Thirty-six (36) ECTS credits from the preparation, research, writing and successful public defence of a Master's thesis. The 36 ECTS credits are distributed as follows

over three (3) academic semesters: (i) research in literature for the thesis topic and writing of research proposal, second semester, twelve (12) ECTS credits; (ii) research in primary and secondary sources, third semester, twelve (12) ECTS credits and (iii) writing and public defence of the Master's thesis, fourth semester, twelve (12) ECTS credits. For students who are exempted from the obligation to attend Turkish language courses, the 36 ECTS credits of the Master's thesis shall be distributed as follows over four (4) academic semesters: i) preparation for the Master's thesis I (literature review), first semester, nine (9) ECTS credits; ii) preparation for the Master's thesis II (research proposal writing), second semester, three (3) ECTS credits; iii) research in primary and secondary sources II, third semester, three (3) ECTS credits, v) research in primary and secondary sources III, fourth semester, three (3) ECTS credits, and vi) writing and public defence of the Master's thesis, fourth semester, twelve (12) ECTS credits.

Curriculum, including the history seminars and language courses that students are required to successfully complete in order to graduate from the Interinstitutional Postgraduate Programme in Ottoman History:

First semester of studies

Course/activity	Mandatory/elective	ECTS credits
Ottoman History seminar: "Ottoman studies: introduction and state-of-the-art" (OTT 101)	Mandatory	12
Seminar in Byzantine History or Modern and Contemporary Greek and European History	Mandatory, but students are allowed to select from a list	12
Ottoman language, diplomatics and palaeography I (OTT 201)	Mandatory	3
Turkish language I (TOY 003)	Mandatory	3
Total ECTS credits		30

Second semester of studies

Course/activity	Mandatory/elective	ECTS credits
Ottoman History seminar	Mandatory	12

Research in literature for the thesis topic and	Mandatory	12
writing of research proposal (OTT 401)		
Ottoman language, diplomatics and palaeography	Mandatory	3
II (OTT 202)		
Turkish language II (TOY 004)	Mandatory	3
Total ECTS credits		30

Third semester of studies

Course/activity	Mandatory/elective	ECTS credits
Ottoman History seminar	Mandatory	12
Research in primary and secondary sources for the	Mandatory	12
Master's thesis (OTT 402)		
Ottoman language, diplomatics and palaeography	Mandatory	3
III (OTT 203)		
Turkish language III (TOY 013)	Mandatory	3
Total ECTS credits		30

Fourth semester of studies

Course/activity	Mandatory/elective	ECTS credits
Ottoman History seminar	Mandatory	12
Ottoman Language, diplomatics and palaeography IV (OTT 204)	Mandatory	3
Turkish language IV (TOY 014)	Mandatory	3

Writing and public defence of Master's thesis (OTT 403)	Mandatory	12
Total ECTS credits		30
Total EC13 Credits		30

Curriculum for students exempted from Turkish language courses:

First semester of studies

Course/activity	Mandatory/elective	ECTS credits
Ottoman History seminar: "Ottoman studies: introduction and state-of-the-art" (OTT 101)	Mandatory	12
Ottoman language, diplomatics and palaeography I (OTT 201)	Mandatory	3
Modern Greek as a foreign language I (MGRL A)	Mandatory	6
Preparation for the Master's thesis I (literature review) (OTT 404)	Mandatory	9
Total ECTS credits		30

Second semester of studies

Course/activity	Mandatory/elective	ECTS credits
Ottoman History seminar	Mandatory	12
Ottoman language, diplomatics and palaeography II (OTT 202)	Mandatory	3
Modern Greek as a foreign language II (MGRL B)	Mandatory	6
Preparation for the Master's thesis II (research proposal writing) (OTT 405)	Mandatory	3
Research in primary and secondary sources for the Master's thesis I (OTT 406)	Mandatory	6
Total ECTS credits		30

Third semester of studies

Course/activity	Mandatory/elective	ECTS credits
Ottoman History seminar (OTT 103)	Mandatory	12
Seminar in Byzantine History or Modern and Contemporary Greek and European History or Ottoman History	Mandatory, but students are allowed to select from a list	12
Ottoman language, diplomatics and palaeography III (OTT 203)	Mandatory	3
Research in primary and secondary sources for the Master's thesis II (OTT 407)	Mandatory	3
Total ECTS credits		30

Fourth semester of studies

Course/activity	Mandatory/elective	ECTS credits
Ottoman History seminar	Mandatory	12
Ottoman Language, diplomatics and palaeography IV (OTT 204)	Mandatory	3
Research in primary and secondary sources for the Master's thesis III (OTT 408)	Mandatory	3
Writing and public defence of the Master's thesis (OTT 403)	Mandatory	12
Total ECTS credits		30

12. Languages of teaching, essays and examination

The languages of teaching and examination of history seminars and language courses, as well as the languages of written assignments, including the Master's thesis, are English and Greek. The minimum level of language proficiency in English and Greek is B2 according to the Common European Framework of Reference for Languages.

If there are students in a seminar or course who do not have a minimum level of B2 in Greek according to the Common European Framework of Reference for Languages, the language of instruction is English; the same applies to the

examination of language courses. Student essays may be written either in Greek or in English, after consultation between the student and the instructor or supervisor.

13. Courses for the academic year 2024-2025

Fall semester

History seminars

Ottoman History

OTT 101: Nikos Sigalas, Ottoman studies: introduction and state-of-the-art (12 ECTS)

Byzantine History

BΣ-BIΣ 138: Konstantinos Moustakas, *Asia Minor between Byzantium, the Seljuks and the Emirates* (12 ECTS)

Ottoman language, diplomatics and palaeography

OTT 201: Yannis Spyropoulos, *Ottoman language, diplomatics and palaeography I* (3 ECTS)

Turkish language

TOY 003: Gülsün Aksoy-Aivali, Modern Turkish I (3 ECTS)

Greek language

MGRL A: Maria Poulopoulou, Modern Greek as a foreign language I (6 ECTS)

Spring semester

History seminars

Ottoman History

OTT 110: Antonis Anastasopoulos, *The beginning and the end of the Ottoman Empire* (12 ECTS)

Byzantine History

B Σ -BI Σ 145: Demetrios Kyritses, Counsellors, councils and assemblies: imperial decision-making in Byzantium (12 ECTS)

Ottoman language, diplomatics and palaeography

OTT 202: Marinos Sariyannis, *Ottoman language, diplomatics and palaeography II* (3 ECTS)

Turkish language

TOY 004: Gülsün Aksoy-Aivali, Modern Turkish II (3 ECTS)

Greek language

MGRL B: Maria Poulopoulou, Modern Greek as a foreign language II (6 ECTS)

14. Seminar and course abstracts

Fall semester, academic year 2024-2025

Title	Ottoman studies: introduction and state-of-the-art
Code	OTT 101
Instructor	Nikos Sigalas
Mandatory/elective	Mandatory
ECTS credits	12
Mode of teaching	Face-to-face
Abstract	The aim of the course is to introduce students to the field of Ottoman studies and to familiarise them with the basic historiographical interpretations, the controversies and the stakes that govern this field. During the weekly meetings, the basic patterns and problems that have been and are still being addressed in Ottoman studies will be presented and discussed with the students. Particular emphasis is placed on the way in which the topics change and are reinterpreted over time, in relation to general trends in world historiography.
Method of	Written assignment or assignments
assessment	

Title	Asia Minor between Byzantium, the Seljuks and the Emirates	
Code	ΒΣ-ΒΙΣ 138	
Instructor	Konstantinos Moustakas	
Mandatory/elective	Elective	
ECTS credits	12	
Mode of teaching	In person	
Abstract	In person The seminar covers the period of the Turkish conquest of Asia Minor and its gradual transformation into "Turkey", from the 11th to the 14th century. Student papers address specific issues of this transition and transformation, with an emphasis on the critical examination of sources and literature. In particular, special emphasis is placed on individual aspects of the whole issue, concerning the relationship between the older population of the country and the new rulers, at the level of social relations, cultural interactions and overall integration into the new state and social structures.	
Method of	Written assignment or assignments	
assessment		

Title	Ottoman language, diplomatics and palaeography I	
Code	OTT 201	
Instructor	Yannis Spyropoulos	
Mandatory/elective	Mandatory	
ECTS credits	3	
Mode of teaching	In person	
Abstract	The aim of the course is to familiarise students with the Arabic alphabet and to teach them basic elements of Ottoman grammar and syntax, as well as to offer them their first contact with the Ottoman printed text. In this context, students are taught the different forms of letters and numbers, as well as their transcription systems in the Latin alphabet. Finally, they practise a number of grammatical and syntactic phenomena of Turkish, Arabic and Persian and understand their correct usage within the Ottoman historical context.	
Method of	Written assignment or assignments, oral	
assessment	presentations, written examination	

Title	Turkish language I	
Code	TOY003	
Instructor	Gülsün Aksoy-Aivali	
Mandatory/elective	Mandatory for students whose mother tongue is not	
	Turkish	
ECTS credits	3	
Mode of teaching	In person	
Abstract	The aim of the course is to familiarise students with the basic structures of the Turkish language: cases (dative, accusative, ablative, genitive), definite and indefinite designation of nouns, present and future tense, suffixes, nouns, adjectives, pronouns, sentences (affirmative, interrogative, negative), superlative degree of adjectives, prepositions, temporal adverbs, simple present and past tense, adverbial forms.	
Method of	Oral and written exercises, project presentations,	
assessment	written and oral examination	

Title	Modern Greek as a foreign language I	
Code	MGRL A	
Instructor	Maria Poulopoulou	
Mandatory/elective	Mandatory for students whose mother tongue is	
	Turkish	
ECTS credits	6	
Mode of teaching	In person	
Abstract	The course of Modern Greek for the beginners' level (A1-A2 according to the Common European Framework of Reference for Languages) is addressed to students with zero or minimal knowledge of Modern Greek and aims to introduce them to the language in its cultural context. The course aims at developing the students' communicative competence in everyday/non-typical communication situations. The fundamentally communicative approach is reinforced by the systematic teaching of Modern Greek grammar.	
Method of assessment	Written and/or oral assignments, written examination	

Spring semester, academic year 2024-2025

Title	The beginning and the end of the Ottoman Empire	
Code	OTT 110	
Instructor	Antonis Anastasopoulos	
Mandatory/elective	Mandatory	
ECTS credits	12	

Mode of teaching	In person	
Abstract	In person The course focuses on the first and last decades of the history of the Ottoman Empire. By proposing relevant literature to students, the course aims first of all to familiarise them with the two historical periods that it deals with, and with how early Ottoman history was used ideologically and politically in the late Ottoman Empire. Furthermore, the seminar aims to train students in the critical approach to literature and in identifying historiographical traditions and genealogies. Students are required to study Ottoman period historiography and modern bibliography, make oral presentations and prepare written assignments. Written assignment or assignments	
Method of	Written assignment or assignments	
assessment		

Title	Counsellors, councils and assemblies: imperial decision-	
	making in Byzantium	
Code	ΒΣ-ΒΙΣ 145	
Instructor	Demetrios Kyritses	
Mandatory/elective	Elective	
ECTS credits	12	
Mode of teaching	In person	
Abstract	The course explores the processes of collective deliberation and decision-making in Byzantium, at the highest political level, that of the emperor and his advisors. It uses historical sources to examine the different modes of collective deliberation and their evolution over time. The ultimate goal is to encourage students to reflect on the concept of absolute rule and the very nature of the medieval Roman state.	
Method of	Written assignment or assignments	
assessment		

Title	Ottoman language, diplomatics and palaeography II	
Code	OTT 202	
Instructor	Marinos Sariyannis	
Mandatory/elective	Mandatory	
ECTS credits	3	
Mode of teaching	In person	
Abstract	Students are taught to read printed Ottoman texts and are introduced to simple forms of hand-written texts in the Ottoman language. During the course, they are asked to read and translate simple texts, putting into	

		practice what they have learned in their first semester of study. At the same time, students have a first contact with Ottoman archival material.	
Method	of	Written assignment or assignments, oral presentations,	
assessment		written examination	

Title	Turkish language II	
Code	TOY 004	
Instructor	Gülsün Aksoy-Aivali	
Mandatory/elective	Mandatory for students whose mother tongue is not	
	Turkish	
ECTS credits	3	
Mode of teaching	In person	
Abstract	The course aims to familiarise students with more complex grammatical and syntactic phenomena: simple present tense (II), relative participle (I), adverbial forms, compound sentences, conjunctions, transitive, intransitive and passive verbs, indirect speech (I), that-clauses (I), simple past tense, compound tenses. At the same time, students practise speaking.	
Method of	Oral and written exercises, presentation of papers,	
assessment	written and oral examination	

Title	Modern Greek as a foreign language II	
Code	MGRL B	
Instructor	Maria Poulopoulou	
Mandatory/elective	Mandatory for students whose mother tongue is	
	Turkish	
ECTS credits	6	
Mode of teaching	In person	
Abstract	The course of Modern Greek for the intermediate level (B1-B2 according to the Common European Framework of Reference for Languages) is addressed to students with basic knowledge of Modern Greek and aims to further develop their skills in the production and comprehension of oral and written language. At this level, the basic grammar of Modern Greek is completed, while the range of communicative contexts and textual genres to which students are introduced is broadened.	
Method of	Written and/or oral assignments, written examination	
assessment		

15. Erasmus+ partner institutions

The Department of History and Archaeology has active agreements under the Erasmus+ programme with the following university departments offering courses and supervision of students in the field of Ottoman history:

- 1. Ankara: Middle East Technical University, Department of History, hist.metu.edu.tr
- 2. Istanbul: Boğaziçi University, Department of History, hist.bogazici.edu.tr
- 3. Istanbul: Boğaziçi University, The Atatürk Institute for Modern Turkish History, ata.bogazici.edu.tr

16. Teaching staff

Name	Title	Contact details
Gülsün Aksoy-Aivali	Language Instructor, Turkish Language and Terminology, Faculty of Philosophy, University of Crete	<u>aivalig@uoc.gr</u> Tel. +30 2831077347
Antonis Anastasopoulos	Associate Professor, Ottoman History, Department of History and Archaeology, University of Crete	anastasopoulos@uoc.gr Tel. +30 2831077368
Demetrios Kyritses	Assistant Professor, Byzantine History, Department of History and Archaeology, University of Crete	kyritsis@uoc.gr Tel. +30 2831077353
Kostas Moustakas	Associate Professor, Byzantine and Early Ottoman History, Department of History and Archaeology, University of Crete	moustakas@uoc.gr Tel. +30 2831077355
Maria Poulopoulou	Language Instructor, Greek as a Foreign Language, Faculty of Philosophy, University of Crete	poulopom@uoc.gr Tel. +30 2831077278

Marinos Sariyannis	Research Ottoman Institute Mediterranean Studies/FORTH	Director, History, for	sariyannis@ims.forth.gr Tel. +30 2831106009
Nikos Sigalas	Postdoctoral Re Institute Mediterranean Studies/FORTH	esearcher, for	nikos.sigalas@gmail.com Tel. +30 2831106003
Yannis Spyropoulos	Principal Re Ottoman Institute Mediterranean Studies/FORTH	esearcher, History, for	spyropoulos@ims.forth.gr Tel. +30 2831106008

17. Student advisor

Paraskevas Matalas, Assistant Professor of Contemporary History, Department of History and Archaeology, office no. 61, matalas@uoc.gr, tel. +30 2831077340.

18. Administrative staff

Name	Title	Contact details		
Stavroula Kritikaki	Secretary, Department of History and Archaeology, University of Crete	kritikaki@uoc.gr Tel. +30 2831077336		
Anastasia Tzanoudaki	Graduate Secretary, Department of History and Archaeology, University of Crete	tzanoudaki@uoc.gr Tel. +30 2831077379		
Email address of the Department of History and Archaeology:				
history-archaeology@ia.uoc.gr				

19. Websites

Department of History and Archaeology website:		
www.history-archaeology.uoc.gr		
Institute for Mediterranean Studies website:		
<u>www.ims.forth.gr</u>		
Website of the Interinstitutional Postgraduate Programme in Ottoman History:		
https://www.history-archaeology.uoc.gr/en/graduate-studies/programs-of-post-graduate-studies/joint-english-language-m-a-program-in-ottoman/?lang=en		