

TURKISH TV DRAMA Summer 2021

Instructor: Sezen Kayhan, Department of Media and Visual Arts

Class Hours: Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday, 15:00-18:00

Class Location: via Zoom

Zoom link

Course Description

In the last two decades, TV drama production in Turkey have been booming with a significant international impact. Turkey has become the world's fastest-growing television series exporter in the world and the second-largest drama exporter after the US. Turkish series have recently gained even more visibility generated by the production of Netflix original series in Turkey: these include *The Protector (Hakan Muhafız)*, *The Gift (Atiye)*, *Love 101 (Aşk 101)*. This course provides an overview of contemporary Turkish dramas examining their relation to the historical, social, political, and cultural contexts. The common trends and topics of Turkish television will be analyzed with the transformations Turkey has been going through. It will also look at the cultural adaptations of foreign series and various genres such as historical dramas, rom-coms and action thrillers.

Contact Information

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To schedule a meeting, please contact me by email.

Required Materials

Weekly readings and the links of the subtitled TV episodes can be found in this Google Drive folder: **Google drive link.**

It is very important that you **read and watch the materials of the week before you come to class**, since we will discuss themes of the week through them. I also expect you to give examples of your own during class.

Requirements and Grading

Attendance and Participation	40%
Assignments	35%
Response Papers	25%

Attendance and Participation

Your participation grade consists of regular attendance and **prepared and substantial participation** in class discussions. Missing classes and coming late to class will affect your grade. Each student is allowed **3** absence **excused or unexcused** from class without penalty. Each additional absence will affect your participation grade. **If you miss more than 3 classes, you will automatically fail the course.** If you do miss class, for whatever reason, it is your responsibility to find out what happened and prepare for the following class. Concerning lateness, every third lateness will count as an absence.

Sessions on selected topics include screening of TV series, their analysis and discussion. Students are expected to read the provided texts and follow the watch list for each week. Further in-class activities include interactive quizzes, discussions and Q&A with visiting industry professionals. The guest speakers will be announced few days before the class. You are expected to prepare questions to the guest speakers before the class.

Assignments

1- Binge Watch Review: Choose one TV series from or outside the watch list. Watch it's at least 5 episodes. Write a review about the series (around 300 words).

Due: Aug 2nd %10

2- Genre Comparison: Choose a genre. Pick one international and one Turkish series of that genre. Compare and contrast their approach. What are their similarities and differences? Are there cultural aspects in these series? Can these series be limited with one genre? The assignment will be around 300 words.

Due: Aug 9th %10

3- Visiting a Shooting Location: You will be provided a list of TV series locations in Istanbul. You will select one location to visit. You will take photographs of the neighborhood and write a short travelogue. If you are not in Istanbul you can make search about one of the sites online and write an informative paper instead of a travelogue (around 300 words).

Due: August 15th %15

Response Papers

Each student will select 2 topics, based on course content and reading material. Responses should manifest critical thinking and engagement with class discussions; must include proper citation to related course reading material. (Around 700 words in total per paper)

1st Paper due 11st August %10

2nd Paper due 22nd August %15

You need to upload your assignments and response papers to the related folder on Google Drive.

Academic Dishonesty

Koç University Student Code of Conduct (<http://vpaa.ku.edu.tr/academic/student-codeof-conduct>) applies to all course activities. Plagiarism, as defined as 'borrowing or using someone else's written statements or ideas without giving written acknowledgement to the author, and other forms of academic dishonesty are not acceptable at Koç University. All individual assignments must be completed by the student himself/herself without the aid of other individuals.

Weekly Schedule

1. Day (July, 26th)

Introduction: From Yeşilçam to Television

Reading: Bhutto, Fatima. "How Turkish TV is Taking over the World." *Guardian*. Sept 13.
<https://www.theguardian.com/tv-and-radio/2019/sep/13/turkish-tv-magnificent-century-dizi-taking-over-world>

2. Day (July, 27th)

TV Drama as a Political Tool: Ottoman series and Turkey's Soft Power Policy

Readings: Batuman, Elif. 2014. "Ottomania: A Hit TV-Show Re-imagines Turkey's Imperial Past." *The New Yorker*, February 17.
<http://www.newyorker.com/magazine/2014/02/17/ottomania>

Zafer, and Pantelis Vatikiotis. 2013. "Soft Power or Illusion of Hegemony: The Case of the Turkish Soap Opera 'Colonialism.'" *International Journal of Communication* 7: 2361–85.

Watch: First episode of *Magnificent Century*

3. Day (July, 28th)

Nationalism, Militarism and Masculinity

Reading: Çetin, Kumru Berfin Emre. "The "Politicization" of Turkish Television Dramas." *International Journal of Communication* 8 (2014): 22.

Watch: First episode of *Söz*

4. Day (July, 29th)

A New Approach to Police Procedurals

Reading: Ünür, Ayşegül Kesirli, and Alexander Dhoest. "Genre, Globalisation and The Nation: The Case of Turkish Police Procedural TV Series."

Watch: First Episode of *Behzat Ç.*

5. Day (August 2nd)

Changing Gender Representations

Reading: İnceoğlu, İrem. Gender Representation on Turkish TV. *The International Encyclopedia of Gender, Media, and Communication*.

Watch: Kısmet (Documentary): <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=NX8Un4nneXg>

6. Day (August 3rd)

Urban Depictions: Istanbul on TV

Watch: First Episode of *Aşk-ı Memnu*
First Episode of *Kayıp Şehir*

Guest Speaker: *Urban Studies Scholar*

7. Day (August 4th)

Rural Depictions: Feudalism and Tradition

Watch: First Episode of *Asmalı Konak*

Guest speaker: *Location Manager*

8. Day (August 5th)

Transnational Adaptations: Korean series in Turkey

Reading: Khan, Musa & Won, Yong-Jin. (2020). Transnationalization of TV Series: A Comparative Study of the Exportation of Korean and Turkish TV Series. *European Journal of Social Sciences*. 59. 193-208.

Watch: First episode of *Kiralık Aşk*

9. Day (August 9th)

Self-Orientalism and Turkish Netflix Originals

Reading: Said, Edward. Introduction. In *Orientalism*. New York: Pantheon Books, 1978.

Watch: First episode of *Hakan Muhafız (Netflix)*

10. Day (August 10th)

Healing through TV: Contemporary Therapy Series

Watch: First episode of *Bir Başkadır (Netflix)*

Reading: Bainbridge, C. Psychotherapy on the couch: Exploring the fantasies of In Treatment. *Psychoanalysis, Culture and Society*. 17, 153–168 (2012).

11. Day (August 11st)

The means of TV production: Labour and Working Conditions

Guest speaker: *Production Coordinator*

12. Day (August 12nd)

The sites of TV Production in Istanbul

Reading: Celik Rappas IA, Kayhan S. TV Series Production and the Urban Restructuring of Istanbul. *Television & New Media*. 2018;19(1):3-23.