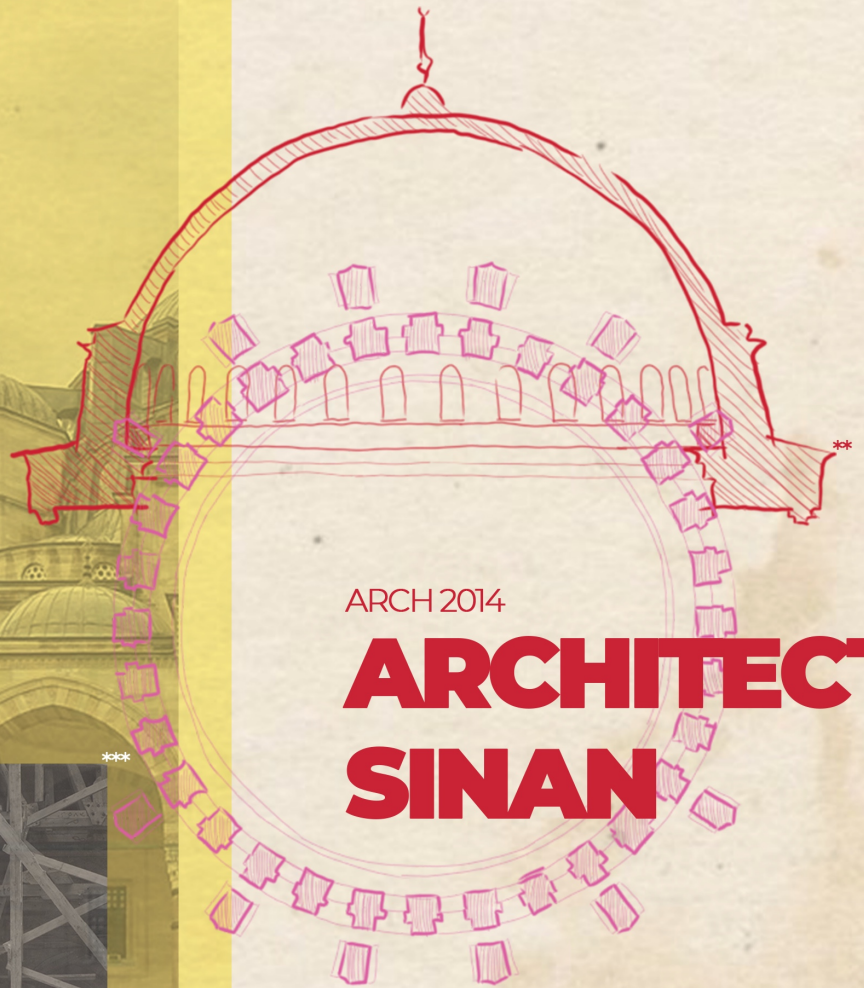




*Courtyard of the Süleymaniye Mosque, Istanbul, Turkey. Photo by Myrabella, licensed under CC BY-SA 3.0, Wikimedia Commons.

**Sketch collage based on the original drawing "Süleymaniye Camii central dome - Süleymaniye Mosque central dome" (Ulgun Family / SALT Research, CC BY-NC-ND 4.0)

***Ulgun Alici, (n.d). Süleymaniye Camii onarım çalışmaları - Restoration of Süleymaniye Mosque [photograph], SALT Research.



ARCH 2014

ARCHITECT SINAN

Marmara University

Faculty of Architecture and Design Department of Architecture

2025-2026 Spring

Asst. Prof. Zeynep İNAN OCAK

Res. Asst. Melek KORKMAZ

This course explores the life and works of Architect Sinan, the chief architect of the Ottoman Empire in the 16th century, along with the construction technologies of his era. Sinan's cultural and technical background, architectural solutions, particularly his large span dome designs and repair interventions, are analyzed in detail through models, drawings, and site visits.

1. 19.02.2026	2. 26.02.2026	3. 05.03.2026	4. 12.03.2026	5. 19.03.2026 Ramadan Feast Eve	6. 26.03.2026	7. 02.04.2026	MIDTERM 09.04.2026
Introduction	The Architectural Environment	Before Sinan	Sinan and His Own Narrative	-	Structural Reading of a 16th Century Building	Structural Reading through Sinan's work	EXAM
Introduction Literature Review Who Was Called an Architect / engineer?	The legal/ organizational structure of the Ottoman Empire The concept of Islamic art and architecture	The Heritage of Byzantium & Early Ottoman Analysis of Hagia Sophia's influence, transition from Byzantine traditions	Reading and analyzing Sinan's life, career, works through his primary autobiographical source, understanding an architect in Ottoman Empire		Analysing the load-bearing logic, masonry techniques, and material hierarchy in Classical Ottoman Architecture.	Analysing Sinan's three mosques structurally and spatially	WRITTEN EXAM
		Work together 1	Work together 2			Work together 3	
		Reading "Hagia Sophia" architecturally	Making timeline of Sinan's life			Süleymaniye Construction Site, Reality with Numbers	
			HOMEWORK - 1 Reading Tezkiretül Bünyan	HOMEWORK - 2 Modeling central dome planning		QUIZ - 1	

HOMEWORK - 1	%20
HOMEWORK - 2	%15
QUIZ - 1	%5
WRITTEN EXAM	%60

9. 16.04.2026	10. 23.04.2026 Nat. Sovereignty & Children's Day	11. 30.04.2026	12. 07.05.2026 Workshop	13. 14.05.2026	14. 21.05.2026	15. 28.05.2026 Sacrifice Feast Holiday	16. 04.06.2026	17. 11.06.2026	FINAL 18.06.2026
Age of Sinan	Site Visit-1	Urbanism & Engineering	Model Production-1	After Sinan	Model Production-2		Site Visit-2 & Presentation	Writing Workshop	EXAM
Public Buildings Tombs Masjids His contemporaries	Süleymaniye and Kadirga Sokollu Külliyesi and Observation his touch on Ayasofya	Sinan's city-scale vision: Aqueducts, bridges, and infrastructure.	In-class model reviews and peer discussion	What Sinan left behind How his architectural principles continued or transformed His influences on later Architects	In-class model reviews and peer discussion	Celebration of Sinan's Birthday (May 29)	In-class model reviews and peer discussion	From Site to Text: In-Class Report Writing	SUBMISSION OF PRESENTATION REPORT POSTER MODEL DISCUSSION
Work together 4		Work together 5	Work together 6	Work together 7	Work together 8		Work together 9		
Süleymaniye Construction Site, Reality with Numbers		Drawing aqueducts	Designing dome Making bricks	Constructing dome, arch	Constructing dome, arch		Writing Essay		
		ASSIGNMENT OF TOPICS				On-Site Presentation	Presentation report		

Active Participation: In-Class Activities and Field Trip	%20
On-Site Presentation	%50
Writing Workshop	%10
SUBMISSION	%20

	Öğrenme Çıktıları	Learning Outcomes
LO1	1.Tarihsel Bilgi: Osmanlı mimarisi ve Mimar Sinan'ın eserleri hakkında temel düzeyde bilgi sahibi olur.	1.Historical Knowledge: Gains a basic level of knowledge about Ottoman architecture and the works of Architect Sinan.
LO2	2.Mesleki Rol: Mimar Sinan örneği üzerinden, 16. yüzyılda bir mimarın toplumsal rolünü ve mesleki etkinliğini kavrar.	2.Professional Role: Understands the social role and professional practice of an architect in the 16th century through the example of Mimar Sinan.
LO3	3.Mimari Analiz: Mevcut bir yapının mimari kurgusunu ve yapım tekniğini temel düzeyde okuma ve analiz etme becerisi kazanır.	3.Architectural Analysis: Acquires the ability to read and analyze the architectural organization and construction techniques of an existing building at a basic level.
LO4	4.Bütüncül Değerlendirme: 16. yüzyıl mimarlık ortamını ve anıtsal yapıları; şehircilik, mühendislik ve sosyo-kültürel değerler ekseninde, yapılı çevreyle olan ilişkileri üzerinden bütüncül bir yaklaşımla değerlendirir.	4.Holistic Evaluation: Evaluates the architectural environment and monumental buildings of the 16th century through a holistic approach, considering their relationships with the built environment in terms of urbanism, engineering, and socio-cultural values.
LO5	5.Eleştirel Araştırma: Bilgi kaynaklarındaki tutarsızlıkları ve abartılı anlatıları bilimsel verilerle ayırt eder; bu eleştirel araştırma yöntemini farklı mimar ve dönemleri incelemek için kullanır.	5.Critical Research: Distinguishes inconsistencies and exaggerated narratives in information sources using scientific evidence, and applies this critical research approach to the study of different architects and historical periods.

1. 19.02.2026	2. 26.02.2026	3. 05.03.2026	4. 12.03.2026	5. 19.03.2026 Ramadan Feast Eve	6. 26.03.2026	7. 02.04.2026	MIDTERM 09.04.2026
Introduction	The Architectural Environment	Before Sinan	Sinan and His Own Narrative		Structural Reading of a 16th Century Building	Structural Reading through Sinan's work	EXAM
LO1 Historical Knowledge	LO1 Historical Knowledge LO4 Holistic Evaluation	LO1 Historical Knowledge LO2 Prof. Role LO4 Holistic Evaluation	LO1 Historical Knowledge LO2 Prof. Role LO5 Critical Research		LO3 Arch. Analysis LO4 Holistic Evaluation	LO3 Arch. Analysis LO4 Holistic Evaluation LO5 Critical Research	

9. 16.04.2026	10. 23.04.2026 Nat. Sovereignty & Children's Day	11. 30.04.2026	12. 07.05.2026 Workshop	13. 14.05.2026	14. 21.05.2026	15. 28.05.2026 Sacrifice Feast Holiday	16. 04.06.2026	17. 11.06.2026	FINAL 18.06.2026
Age of Sinan	Site Visit-1 Süleymaniye and Kadirga Sokullu Kulliyesi and Observation his touch on Ayasofya	Urbanism & Engineering	Model Production-1	After Sinan	Model Production-2		Site Visit-2 & Presentation	Writing Workshop	EXAM
LO1 Historical Knowledge LO3 Arch. Analysis LO5 Critical Research		LO3 Arch. Analysis LO2 Prof. Role	LO3 Arch. Analysis	LO1 Historical Knowledge LO2 Prof. Role LO4 Holistic Evaluation	LO3 Arch. Analysis		LO3 Arch. Analysis LO4 Holistic Evaluation	LO3 Arch. Analysis LO5 Critical Research	

ARCH2014 ARCHITECT SINAN 2025-26 Spring Syllabus

Part 1: Course Information

Instructor Information

Instructor: Zeynep Inan Ocak
Office: 7009
Office Hours: Wednesday Morning
Office Telephone: +905322583605
E-mail: inan.ocak@marmara.edu.tr zeynepinanocak@gmail.com

Asistant: Melek Korkmaz
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Office Hours: Wednesday Morning
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Course Description

This course explores the life and works of Architect Sinan, the chief architect of the Ottoman Empire in the 16th century, along with the construction technologies of his era. Sinan's cultural and technical background, architectural solutions, particularly his large span dome designs and repair interventions, are analyzed in detail through models, drawings, and site visits.

Prerequisite

None

Area

Departmental Selective

Textbook & Course Materials

Sâî, Mustafa Çelebi. (2003). *Yapılar Kitabı: Tezkiretü'l-Bünyan ve Tezkiretü'l-Ebniye (Mimar Sinan'ın Anıları)*. Haz. H. Develi. İstanbul: K Kitaplığı Yayınevi.

Barkan, Ömer Lûtfi. (1972). *Süleymaniye Camii ve imareti inşaatı (1550-1557)*. Ankara: Türk Tarih Kurumu Yayınları.

Crane, Howard & Akin, Esra. (2006). *Sinan's Autobiographies: Five Sixteenth-Century Texts.* Ed. Gülru Necipoğlu. Leiden: Brill.

Necipoğlu, Gülru. (2005). *The Age of Sinan: Architectural Culture in the Ottoman Empire.* London: Reaktion Books.

Necipoğlu, Gülru. (2017). *Sinan Çağı: Osmanlı İmparatorluğu'nda Mimari Kültür.* Çev. Gül Çağalı Güven. İstanbul: İstanbul Bilgi Üniversitesi Yayınları.

Necipoğlu, Gülru. (2007). *15. ve 16. Yüzyılda Topkapı Sarayı: Mimari, Tören ve İktidar.* Çev. Ruşen Tezer. İstanbul: Yapı Kredi Yayınları.

Goodwin, Godfrey. (1992). *A History of Ottoman Architecture.* London: Thames & Hudson.

Goodwin, Godfrey. (2012). *Osmanlı Mimarlığı Tarihi.* İstanbul: Kabalcı Yayınları.

Günay, Reha. (2006). *A Guide to the Works of Sinan the Architect in Istanbul.* İstanbul: Yapı-Endüstri Merkezi Yayınları.

Kuban, Doğan. (2007). *Osmanlı Mimarisi.* İstanbul: YEM Yayınları.

Tanyeli, Gülsün. (2017). *Hiçbir üstad böyle kâr etmemiştir: Osmanlı inşaat teknolojisi tarihi.* İstanbul: Akın Nalça Kitapları.

Course Requirements

- Fieldwork & Survey Tools: Measure tools, digital camera for visual documentation, and a sketchbook for on-site observations.
- Model Making Kit: Various modeling materials (to be announced based on project requirements)
- Software & Reporting: Access to architectural drawing and modelling software (AutoCAD, SketchUp etc.) and presentation tools for final reporting.

Course Structure

- Delivery is hybrid: 50% lecture, 30% discussion, and 20% hands-on visual analysis activities.
- No formal labs; sessions utilize the main classroom and architecture studios for workshops.
- Mandatory site visits to Sinan's monuments involve meeting at various off-campus locations.
- Specific meeting points and weekly venue changes will be announced one week in advance.

Part 2: Student Learning Outcomes

Historical Knowledge: Gains a basic level of knowledge about Ottoman architecture and the works of Architect Sinan.

Professional Role: Understands the social role and professional practice of an architect in the 16th century through the example of Mimar Sinan.

Architectural Analysis: Acquires the ability to read and analyze the architectural organization and construction techniques of an existing building at a basic level.

Holistic Evaluation: Evaluates the architectural environment and monumental buildings of the 16th century through a holistic approach, considering their relationships with the built environment in terms of urbanism, engineering, and socio-cultural values.

Critical Research: Distinguishes inconsistencies and exaggerated narratives in information sources using scientific evidence, and applies this critical research approach to the study of different architects and historical periods.

You will meet the objectives listed above through a combination of the following activities in this course:

Objectives are met through written exams, on-site presentations (50%), and physical model production (20%).

Attend weekly lectures, mandatory site visits (Süleymaniye/Kadirga), and collaborative "Work Together" sessions.

Complete two homeworks (Tezkiretül Bünyan and dome modeling), a quiz, and a final report/poster/model package.

Participate in in-class model reviews, peer discussions, and the writing workshop to fulfill participation credits.

ARCH2014 ARCHITECT SINAN

2025-26 Spring Syllabus

Part 3: Topic Outline/Schedule

Week 01 (19.02): Introduction

- Literature Review: Who was called an Architect/Engineer?

Week 02 (26.02): The Architectural Environment

- The legal/organizational structure of the Ottoman Empire; The concept of Islamic art and architecture.

Week 03 (05.03): Before Sinan

- The Heritage of Byzantium & Early Ottoman; Analysis of Hagia Sophia's influence.

"Work Together" 1: Reading "Hagia Sophia" architecturally.

Week 04 (12.03): Sinan and His Own Narrative

- Analyzing Sinan's life and career through primary autobiographical sources.

"Work Together" 2: Making a timeline of Sinan's life.

HOMEWORK-1: Reading Tezkiretül-Bünyan.

Week 05 (19.03): Ramadan Feast Eve

- No scheduled class.

Week 06 (26.03): Structural Reading of a 16th Century Building

- Analyzing load-bearing logic, masonry techniques, and material hierarchy.

HOMEWORK-2: Modeling central dome planning.

Week 07 (02.04): Structural Reading Through Sinan's Work

- Analyzing Sinan's three major mosques structurally and spatially.

"Work Together" 3: Süleymaniye Construction Site – Reality with Numbers.

QUIZ-1

Week 08 (09.04): MIDTERM EXAM

- Written Exam.

Week 09 (16.04): Age of Sinan

- Public Buildings, Tombs, Masjids, and his contemporaries.

"Work Together" 4: Süleymaniye Construction Site – Reality with Numbers (continued).

Week 10 (23.04): Site Visit-1 (National Sovereignty & Children's Day)

- Site Visit: Süleymaniye and Kadirga Sokollu Külliyesi; observations on Ayasofya.

Week 11 (30.04): Urbanism & Engineering

- Sinan's city-scale vision: Aqueducts, bridges, and infrastructure.

"Work Together" 5: Drawing aqueducts.

ASSIGNMENT OF TOPICS

Week 12 (07.05): Model Production-1 (Workshop)

- In-class model reviews and peer discussion.
- "Work Together" 6: Designing dome and making bricks.

Week 13 (14.05): After Sinan

- What Sinan left behind: Transformation of his architectural principles.
- "Work Together" 7: Constructing dome and arch.

Week 14 (21.05): Model Production-2

- In-class model reviews and peer discussion.
- "Work Together" 8: Constructing dome and arch.

Week 15 (28.05): Sacrifice Feast Holiday

- No scheduled class (Celebration of Sinan's Birthday, May 29).

Week 16 (04.06): Site Visit-2 & Presentation

- In-class model reviews and peer discussion.
- ON-SITE PRESENTATION

Week 17 (11.06): Writing Workshop

- From Site to Text: In-class report writing.

"Work Together" 9: Writing Essay.

PRESENTATION REPORT DUE

FINAL WEEK (18.06): FINAL SUBMISSION

- Submission of Presentation Report, Poster, and Model.
- FINAL EXAM & DISCUSSION

ALTERNATE FORMAT:

Week	Topic	Readings	Activities	Due Date
1	Introduction (19.02)	Literature Review: Who Was Called an Architect/Engineer?	-	-
2	The Architectural Environment (26.02)	Legal/organizational structure of the Ottoman Empire; Concept of Islamic art and architecture	-	-
3	Before Sinan (05.03)	Heritage of Byzantium & Early Ottoman; Analysis of Hagia Sophia's influence	Work Together 1: Reading "Hagia Sophia" architecturally	-
4	Sinan and His Own Narrative (12.03)	Reading/analyzing Sinan's life and works through primary autobiographical sources	Work Together 2: Making timeline of Sinan's life	HOMEWORK-1: Reading Tezkiretül Bünyan
5	Ramadan Feast Eve (19.03)	-	-	-
6	Structural Reading of 16th Century Building (26.03)	Analyzing load-bearing logic, masonry techniques, and material hierarchy	-	HOMEWORK-2: Modeling central dome planning
7	Structural Reading through Sinan's work (02.04)	Analyzing Sinan's three mosques structurally and spatially	Work Together 3: Süleymaniye Construction Site, Reality with Numbers	QUIZ-1
8	MIDTERM EXAM (09.04)	-	WRITTEN EXAM	-
9	Age of Sinan (16.04)	Public Buildings, Tombs, Masjids; His contemporaries	Work Together 4: Süleymaniye Construction Site, Reality with Numbers	-
10	Site Visit-1 (23.04)	Süleymaniye and Kadirga Sokollu Külliyesi; Observation of his touch on Ayasofya	-	-
11	Urbanism & Engineering (30.04)	Sinan's city-scale vision: Aqueducts, bridges, and infrastructure	Work Together 5: Drawing aqueducts	ASSIGNMENT OF TOPICS
12	Model Production-1 (07.05)	In-class model reviews and peer discussion	Work Together 6: Designing dome, Making bricks	-
13	After Sinan (14.05)	Transformation of Sinan's architectural principles; Influences on later architects	Work Together 7: Constructing dome, arch	-
14	Model Production-2 (21.05)	In-class model reviews and peer discussion	Work Together 8: Constructing dome, arch	-
15	Sacrifice Feast Holiday (28.05)	Celebration of Sinan's Birthday (May 29)	-	-
16	Site Visit-2 & Presentation (04.06)	In-class model reviews and peer discussion	-	ON-SITE PRESENTATION
17	Writing Workshop (11.06)	From Site to Text: In-Class Report Writing	Work Together 9: Writing Essay	PRESENTATION REPORT
FINAL	FINAL EXAM (18.06)	Discussion	-	SUBMISSION: Report, Poster, Model

Part 4: Grading Policy

Graded Course Activities

The final grade for this course is calculated based on a total of 100 points. The distribution between Midterm and Final periods is as follows:

Points	Description
Midterm Exam	
20	Homework-1: Tezkiretü'l-Bünyan Reading Analysis
15	Homework-2: Modeling Central Dome Planning
5	Quiz-1: Structural and Historical Basics
60	Written Exam: Midterm examination
Final Exam	
20	Active Participation: In-class activities and Field Trip engagement
50	On-Site Presentation: Presentation of assigned topics at historical sites
10	Writing Workshop: In-class essay and report writing
20	Final Submission: Completion of Poster and Physical Model package
100	Total Points Possible

Late Work Policy

Be sure to pay close attention to deadlines - there will be no make up assignments or quizzes, or late work accepted without a serious and compelling reason and instructor approval.

Part 5: Course Policies

Attend Class

Attendance is mandatory for all lecture sessions and specifically for the two scheduled site visits to the Süleymaniye and Kadirga Sokollu Külliyesi.

Since the course involves cumulative structural and historical analysis, students are expected to attend weekly to maintain continuity in understanding Sinan's architectural evolution.

Missing the "Work Together" workshop sessions or mandatory field trips will directly impact the final participation grade.

In the event of an emergency or illness, students must provide official documentation (e.g., a medical report) to the instructor within one week of the absence.

Commit to Integrity

Students are expected to maintain professional behavior and a high level of academic integrity. In this course, architectural history is treated with respect; therefore, your commitment to honest learning, original analysis, and active participation is essential for your professional development.

Academic Integrity & Dishonesty Policy

What is Dishonesty?: Academic dishonesty includes cheating, inventing false citations, and plagiarism (using someone else's drawings, models, or ideas without proper credit). It is an attempt to claim credit for knowledge or skills you do not yet possess.

Instructor's Role: As the instructor, I am responsible for monitoring academic honesty. If I suspect an act of dishonesty, I will first discuss the matter directly with the student(s) involved based on the evidence found.

Penalties: Depending on the severity of the incident, penalties may include:

An oral reprimand (for minor misunderstandings).

A failing grade for the specific project, paper, or exam.

A failing grade for the course in cases of premeditated or repeated dishonesty.

Official Regulations: All incidents will be handled according to the **Marmara University Student Disciplinary Regulations** (*Yükseköğretim Kurumları Öğrenci Disiplin Yönetmeliği*). Serious cases will be reported to the Faculty Dean's office for further disciplinary action.

Important Note: Any form of academic dishonesty, including plagiarism in drawings/models or cheating in exams, will be handled according to the Student Disciplinary Regulations and will be reported to the Dean's Office for formal action.

Artificial Intelligence (AI) Policy

As this course focuses on the architectural and structural legacy of Architect Sinan, original analysis is essential. In alignment with **Marmara University's AI Policy** and the **Student AI Guide**, the following rules apply:

- **Transparency & Mandatory Citation:** If any Generative AI tool (e.g., ChatGPT, Gemini, DALL-E) is used at any stage of your work (brainstorming, drafting, or structural analysis), it must be explicitly reported. Failure to disclose the use of AI is considered academic misconduct.
- **Citation Requirements:** Your citations for AI-assisted work must include at least the following information:

- **Tool Name and Version** (e.g., ChatGPT-4.0).
- **Publisher** (e.g., OpenAI).
- **URL of the tool.**
- **A brief description** of how the AI was used in your project.
- **The specific prompts/commands** used to generate the results.
- *Example Declaration:* "I used ChatGPT-4.0 (OpenAI, <https://chat.openai.com/>) to generate brainstorming ideas for the dome analysis and used the prompt: 'Explain the structural role of the squinches in Süleymaniye Mosque.'"
- **Limits & Prohibited Use:** Copy-pasting AI-generated sections (such as introductions or conclusions) without citation is strictly prohibited. As a general rule, if more than **20%** of an assignment is detected as AI-generated, it may result in a grade of zero. All submissions will be checked via **Turnitin** or other AI detection systems.
- **Accuracy & Accountability:** AI can "hallucinate" or provide incorrect historical data. Students are solely responsible for the accuracy of all technical and historical information provided in their work.

Further Information: Students are required to review the **Marmara University Student AI Guide** for detailed ethical guidelines and examples: [https://ydio-aef.marmara.edu.tr/dosya/aef/ydio/Ogrenci Yapay Zeka Rehberi Marmara.pdf](https://ydio-aef.marmara.edu.tr/dosya/aef/ydio/Ogrenci_Yapay_Zeka_Rehberi_Marmara.pdf).

<https://ebe.marmara.edu.tr/idari/marmara-universitesi-yapay-zeka-politikasi>