

Marmara University Faculty of Architecture
School of Architecture and Design
2026-2027 Fall Semester

Course Title	Code	Semester	Hour (T+P)	Credit	ECTS
THE URBAN FABRICS OF ISTANBUL	ARCH 1011	FALL	3	4	4
Prerequisites	-				
Language of Instruction	English				
Course Type (Required / elective)	Elective				
Course Coordinator	Assoc. Prof. Nicole Kançal-Ferrari				
Instructor /e-mail	nicole.kancal@marmara.edu.tr ; nicole.kancalferrari@gmail.com				
Assistant	Res. Asst. Furkan Sağdıç				
Goals	This course aims to introduce the multilayered dimensions of the city of Istanbul with a focus on its historical topography, urban development, and architectural culture.				
Learning Outcomes	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Acquiring knowledge about the historical layers of present Istanbul. 2. Developing awareness about the diversity of the urban and architectural aspects of Istanbul. 3. Understanding the relationship between space and the built environment of Istanbul from a topographic and historical perspective. 4. Ability to discuss the past and present urban and architectural design choices and their consequences in the city of Istanbul. 5. Gaining a view into architectural historiography and produce basic writings on architecture. <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Günümüz İstanbul'unun tarihi katmanları hakkında bilgi edinme. 2. İstanbul'un kentsel ve mimari yönlerinin çeşitliliği hakkında farkındalık geliştirmek. 3. İstanbul'un yapılı çevresi ve mekânsal boyutları arasındaki ilişkiyi topografik ve tarihsel bir perspektiften anlama. 4. İstanbul'un geçmişteki ve günümüzdeki kentsel ve mimari tasarım tercihleri ve getirdikleri sonuçlarını tartışabilme. 5. Mimarlık tarih yazımına dair bir bakış açısı kazanma ve mimarlık üzerine temel yazılar üretebilme. 				
Course Content	<p>This course serves as an immersive introduction to the multifaceted city of Istanbul, encompassing its rich historical, spatial, and cultural dimensions. It offers a comprehensive understanding of the urban and architectural evolution that has shaped the city's fabric, while also delving into the significance of its architectural landmarks. The course is designed to merge experiential learning through city exploration and site visits with thoughtful discussions about the historical and contemporary challenges that Istanbul confronts.</p> <p>Bu ders, İstanbul kentine tarihsel, mekânsal ve kültürel boyutlarıyla bir giriş niteliğindedir. Kentin dokusunun kentsel ve mimari gelişimine genel bir bakış sunmanın yanı sıra önemli mimari yapıları hakkında da bilgi vermektedir. Ders, kenti yürüyerek keşfetmeyi ve kent içindeki mekanları ziyaret etmeyi birleştirmeyi ve aynı zamanda kentin karşı karşıya olduğu tarihsel ve güncel zorlukları tartışmayı amaçlamaktadır.</p>				
Assessment Criteria	Assessment Components				
	Mid-term and Final Exam can be split up into, assignments and presentations according to the professor's announcement				

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	Mid-term (Presentation, note- and sketchbook discussion and reading assignment 10% + 10% + %20)	% 40
	Final Exam (Sketchbook 25% and one poster presentation 35%)*	% 60
	TOTAL	%100

Submission details will be provided

Midterm:

- Readings for assignment will be given in week 4
- Note- and Sketchbook discussion (Note- and Sketchbook: A5 format; reading notes and sketches from readings, classes and trips).
- Presentation topic: Choose a topic from the Bienal (individual visit or our trip)

Final:

- Note- and Sketchbook submission and presentation
- Poster presentation, details for topics tba, groups of 2 or 3 (infographic poster)

WEEKLY TOPICS AND PREPARATIONS The weekly topics and reading resources are subject to change according to the instructor's preferences		
Weeks	Topics	Initial Studies
Week 1	30.09.2026 Introduction: course overview. Dimensions of the city of Istanbul.	tba (to be announced)
Week 2	07.10.2026 Prehistory and early history in a contemporary perspective	tba
Week 3	14.10.2026 The capital's Greek, Roman, Early Christian and Byzantine Periods (Excursion to the Archaeological Museum) Closure time: 18:50, museum card	tba
Week 4	21.10.2026 The capital's Greek, Roman, Early Christian and Byzantine Periods	tba
Week 5	28.10.2026 29 October Holiday	tba
Week 6	04.11.2026 The historical churches of Istanbul (Excursion to At Meydanı and Little Hagia Sophia and/or Kariye)	tba
Week 7	11.11.2026 Transformations after the conquest: early and 'classical period' Ottoman Istanbul; Historical Istanbul and the Topkapı Palace (Excursion to Topkapı Palace) Closure time: 18:00	tba
Week 8	16.11.2026 – 22.11.2026 Midterm Exam	Evaluation of sketchbooks and assignments
Week 9	25.11.2026 Pera and the Western face of Istanbul: European architects in the capital Excursion to Pera	tba
Week 10	02.12.2026 Reshaping the city in the 19th century (Excursion to Sirkeci - Divanyolu - Aksaray) (Karaköy?)	tba
Week 11	09.12.2026 Istanbul's waterfronts: 17th and 18th century (Boat trip on the Bosphorus)	tba
Week 12	16.12.2026 Transformations in the early republic and urbanization in the second half of the 20th century Unkapanı SGK İstanbul Municipality and environments	tba
Week 13	23.12.2026 Anatolian side of the city Contemporary Perspectives (İstanbul Modern, Çamlıca Mosque, Taksim Mosque, Çamlıca Tower) (Excursion to Üsküdar (Küçük Çamlıca))	tba
Week 14	30.12.2026 Students Presentations	tba
Week 16	04.01.2027 - 17.01.2027 Final Exam Students Presentations and Evaluation of the course	

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REFERENCES	
Main Textbook	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Mehmet Akif Aydın - Çoşkun Yılmaz (eds.), History of Istanbul from Antiquity to the 21st Century, ISAM (2019 Turkish version: 2015). - Zeynep Çelik, The Remaking of Istanbul – Portrait of an Ottoman City in the Nineteenth Century. University of California Press (1993). - Meltem Ö. Gürel (ed.) Mid-Century Modernism in Turkey Architecture Across Cultures in the 1950s and 1960s. Routledge (2016). - Shirine Hamadeh - Çiğdem Kafescioğlu (eds.). A Companion to Early Modern Istanbul. Brill (2022). - Çiğdem Kafescioğlu, Constantinople/Istanbul: Cultural Encounter, Imperial Vision, and the Construction of the Ottoman Capital, University Park, PA (2009). - Doğan Kuban, Istanbul, an Urban History: Byzantium, Constantinople, Istanbul, Istanbul (1996). - Wolfgang Müller-Wiener. Bildlexikon zur Topographie Istanbuls. Wasmuth (1977). - Rüstem Ünver Ottoman Baroque Princeton UP (2019).
Secondary Textbooks	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Pelin Yoncacı Arslan, 'Towards a new Honorific Column: The Column of Constantine in Early Byzantine Urban Landscape'. METU JFA 2016/1. 121; DOI: 10.4305 / METU JFA 2016.1.5. - Claudia Barsanti, Alessandra Guiglia, 'Spolia in Constantinople's Hagia Sophia from the Age of Justinian to the Ottoman Period: The Phenomenon of Multilayered Reuse'. Spolia Reincarnated: Afterlives of Objects, Materials, and Spaces in Anatolia from Antiquity to the Ottoman Era. Koç University Research Center for Anatolian Civilizations (ANAMED) (2019). - EDHEM ELDEM, Istanbul: from imperial to peripheralized capital EDHEM ELDEM The Ottoman City between East and WEST. Aleppo, Izmir, and Istanbul. EDHEM ELDEM, DANIEL GOFFMAN, and BRUCE MASTERS, 1999. - Ezgi Dikici Eunuchs and the City: Residences and Real Estate Owned by Court Eunuchs in Late Sixteenth-Century Istanbul YILLIK: Annual of Istanbul Studies 3 (2021): 7–37. - Robert Ousterhout, The Rediscovery of Constantinople and the Beginnings of Byzantine Archaeology: A Historiographic Survey 181 in Scramble for the Past: A Story of Archaeology in the Ottoman Empire, 1753–1914, salt, 2011. - Ashley Dimmig, A Tented Baroque. Ottoman Fabric (and) Architecture in the Long Nineteenth Century in Textile in Architecture, 2023. - Tülay Artan, The making of the Sublime porte near the Alay Köşkü and a tour of a grand Vizierial Palace at Süleymaniye. Turcica, Volume 43, 145-206, 2011. - Artan, Tülay. "Chapter 2 The Paradoxes of Hagia Sophia's Ablution Fountain: The Qasida al-Burda in Cosmopolitan Istanbul, 1740". Hagia Sophia in the Long Nineteenth Century, edited by Emily Neumeier and Benjamin Anderson, Edinburgh: Edinburgh University Press, 2024, pp. 66-97. - H. Coskun, The historical symbolizing of Istanbul city through its iconic buildings, Cities' Identity Through Architecture and Arts – Catalani et al. (Eds) © 2018 Taylor & Francis Group, London, ISBN 978-1-138-05409-7. - Dursun, A. H. İstanbul'da yaşama sanatı (3. basım.). Ötüken, 2002. - Bornovalı Sedat, Yayın Yeri:Timaş, Editör:Neval Akbıyık, Basım sayısı:1, Sayfa sayısı:280,

ECTS / WORKING HOUR TABLE			
Activities	Number of Weeks	Duration (Hour)	Working Hours
Duration of the Course (Including Exams: 14 x Total Weekly Course Hour)	14	3	42
Extracurricular Working Hour (Preparatory Work, Review,Internet studies etc.)	14	2	28
Midterm exam	1	5	5
Final Exam	1	5	5
Working Hours in Total			90
Working Hours in Total / 30			30
ECTS Credit of the Course			3

