The Program

The Study Abroad Office, the Department of Asian Studies and the Carolina Center for the Study of the Middle East and Muslim Civilizations are glad to offer you a summer study abroad program in Istanbul, Turkey.

The program will be hosted by the Middle East Studies Institute of Marmara University, which is located in the district of Sultanahmet. Marmara University is a large public university that was officially established during 1982-1983 academic year with nine faculties, one vocational school and one institute, although it has a much longer history over more than a hundred years as an institution of higher education in Turkey.

Turkey, geographically situated at the meeting point of Asia and Europe, has a rich multi-ethnic culture. The city of Istanbul is one of the magnificent historic cities of the world, having been continuously populated for about 3000 years. For many centuries, Istanbul has been a capital city for different imperial powers such as the Roman, Byzantine and Ottoman Empires and it retains multiple traces of those past civilizations.

Program dates are generally as follows: Summer - third week in May to end of June

*All courses are taught in English. There is no option to take a language course.

Fast Facts

- Language of instruction: English
- Language prerequisite: None
- Terms: Summer
- Undergraduate exchange: No
- Eligibility (minimum): Rising sophomore
- GPA requirement: 2.75
- Non-UNC may apply? Yes
- When can I apply: Beginning December 1 prior to any summer following your freshman year
- Application deadline for Summer 2012: March 9, 2012
- Study Abroad advisor: Lori Rezzouk
- Program dates: May 18 - June 29, 2012
The Academics

In this six-weeks program, students will receive UNC-Chapel Hill graded credit for two 3-credit courses. These courses will fulfill both General Education and Elective course requirements. Both courses will be taught by Dr. Canguzel Zulfikar of the Department of Asian Studies.

ASIA 244: History of Istanbul

The primary theme of this course is to view Istanbul as a live, functioning city within its wider historical context. The course will study Istanbul’s formation, population, architecture, monuments, music, art, literature in Istanbul and on Istanbul, and the complex interplay of these elements with politics. Using history as a base, the course will also discuss Istanbul in the global sphere, and observe how it fits into both Asia and Europe, and the efforts of politicians, civil society, and the media to either further or limit this projection.

ASIA 243: Turkish Culture and Society

According to historians, the Turkish Republic came into existence in the period 1908-1945, during which traumatic and revolutionary developments followed each other in quick succession. At the same time it is the period of political experiments and the birth of Turkish nationalism. The republic is both heir to all of these developments and a bold experiment in nation building and westernization. In this course Turkey will be examined historically as a multicultural entity. Students will read comparatively about Sufism in the Ottoman context and in contemporary Turkey; nationalism; Mustafa Kemal Atatürk (1881-1938); Turkish Republic and Kernalism; current Turkish politics, economics, and democracy. The course will explore paradigms such as tradition and modernity as a tool for historical analysis to learn about Turkey and will discuss the difficulty of presenting Turkey in the binary of traditionalist versus modernist.

The teaching of these two courses will be enriched through visits to the world famous religious temples and museums, lectures by invited guest faculty and community members, and participation in a range of cultural events.

The Life

The program will use the classrooms and academic facilities of the Institute for Middle East Studies on the Sultanahmet campus of Marmara University. The Center provides visiting students with a temporary university access card, access to the university library and resource center, access to wi-fi in the building and shared workspace.

Students will live in a hotel located in the heart of the historic Sultanahmet in a neighborhood within walking distance of the Marmara campus. Students will be in comfortable double or triple rooms, each room equipped with A/C, television, bathroom and internet connection. Breakfast will be provided daily at the hotel’s lounge on the top floor. For the other meals, students can take advantage of the many restaurants located within walking distance of the campus and the hotel. Students will have easy access to clinics, banks, travel agencies, bookstore and convenience food markets conveniently located in Sultanahmet.

DR. CANGUZEL ZULFIKAR is the Turkish Studies Program Director and Lecturer at Department of Asian Studies. She has taught courses on Turkey, Istanbul, and Turkish, in addition to Islamic Civilizations, Sufism, at UNC Chapel Hill and Duke University. With a Ph.D. degree in History from Hacettepe University, Dr. Zulfikar trained to do economic, institutional and social history of the Ottoman Empire. Her special interests are in charitable endowments and their activities as civil society institutions, and Sufism (Islamic Mysticism).