

BALIKESİR UNIVERSITY
FACULTY OF THEOLOGY / HIGH SCHOOL
UNIVERSITY ELECTIVE COURSE PRESENTATION FORM

Department / Department	Faculty of Theology / Department of Turkish-Islamic History and Arts		
Course title	Turkish-Islamic Epigraphy		
Semester of the Course	Güz	Bahar	
Course LanguageCourse	Türkçe X	İngilizce	
Credit	Teorik X	Uygulama	Toplam Kredi 2,00
ECTS			
Course Type of Study	Formal Education	Elective	
The aim of the course	The course Turkish-Islamic Epigraphy aims to enable students to recognize Islamic inscriptions within the Turkish-Islamic civilization in their historical, artistic, and cultural contexts, and to learn the scripts, styles, and application techniques of different periods. Within the scope of this course, students are expected to develop the ability to read, analyze, and interpret epigraphic texts, while also evaluating inscriptions in relation to the architectural structures, materials, and decorative elements with which they are associated. Furthermore, the course seeks to raise awareness of cultural heritage, enhance understanding of the preservation and documentation of inscriptions, and reinforce theoretical knowledge through practical applications.		
Course Content	Within the scope of this course, the definition, scope, and methodology of epigraphy are examined, and the historical development of Turkish-Islamic epigraphy is studied. Inscriptions from the Great Seljuk, Anatolian Seljuk, Beyliks, and Ottoman periods are analyzed in terms of their scripts, styles, and functions. Architectural, civil, and tombstone inscriptions are typologically classified, and the Qur'anic verses, hadiths, prayers, patron information, and dates contained in these inscriptions are analyzed through textual analysis. The course also covers calligraphic styles such as Kufic, Thuluth, Naskh, and Ta'liq, together with the techniques applied on materials such as stone, marble, tile, and wood. The aesthetic relationship between writing and ornamentation is examined, and practical exercises are conducted on reading, transcription, and interpretation of epigraphic texts.		
Prerequisites for the Course	There are no specific or compulsory prerequisites for this course.		
Instructors	Asst. Prof. Dr. Erdal Elmas	mail : erdal.elmas@balikesir.edu.tr	
Course Assistant	-	mail :	
Internship Status	-		
Course Resources	Academic sources in the field of Turkish-Islamic Epigraphy, including studies on inscriptions (kitabe) and Ottoman Turkish text reading.		
Course Structure	Ability to read Ottoman inscriptions and printed texts.		
Planned Learning Activities and Methods	Theoretical and practical courses		
Course Evaluation Criteria	Course ECTS Calculation Content		

Semester Studies	Number	Contribution (%) Activity	Number Duration	Total Work	Load	(Hours)
Midterm	1		Ders Süresi			
Quiz			Sınıf Dışı Çalışma Süresi			
Homework			Ara Sınavlar	40		
continuation			Yarıyıl Sonu Sınavı	60		
Application			Toplam İş Yüğü: 74			
Project			AKTS Kredisi:			
Semester final exam	1					

Learning Outcomes of the Course

Course Subjects

Week Subject	Preliminary	Preparation	Documents
1	Definition of Epigraphy and Basic Concepts		
2	Relationship of Epigraphy with Other Disciplines (History, Art History, Archaeology); Concepts of Inscription and Epigraph		
3	Emergence of Turkish-Islamic Epigraphy; Early Islamic Inscriptions		
4	Epigraphy of the Great Seljuk and Anatolian Seljuk Periods		
5	Beylik Period Inscriptions; Stylistic and Content Features		
6	Introduction to Ottoman Epigraphy		
7	Classical Ottoman Inscriptions		
8	Midterm Examination		
9	Calligraphic Styles: Thuluth, Naskh, and Other Scripts		
10	Kufic and Early Islamic Scripts		
11	Thuluth, Naskh, and Muhaqqaq Scripts		
12	Ta'liq and Riq'a Scripts; Their Use in Inscriptions		
14	Types of Inscriptions: Religious Structures (Mosques, Mausoleums, Madrasas)		
15	Types of Inscriptions: Civil Architecture and Tombstones		
15	Content of Inscriptions: Verses, Hadiths, Prayers, Patron Information; Chronograms and the Abjad System		
16	Final Examination		

Contribution of the Course to Program Outcomes

- Develops the ability to read, recognize, and interpret inscriptions belonging to the Turkish-Islamic civilization.
- Gains the ability to distinguish different calligraphic styles from various periods (e.g., Kufic, Thuluth, Naskh).
- Acquires skills to analyze the historical, cultural, and artistic context of inscriptions.

- Understands the relationship between writing and aesthetics, as well as compositional principles in Islamic art.
- Develops the ability to accurately analyze inscriptions on architectural monuments.
- Learns traditional methods such as the Abjad system and chronogram (date calculation).
- Gains awareness of the documentation and preservation of cultural heritage.
- Develops an interdisciplinary perspective linking art history, paleography, and epigraphy.
- Enhances academic research, source utilization, and analytical skills.
- Strengthens critical and analytical thinking skills through the study of historical artifacts.