HIST 4263:006: Food, Sex, and Drugs in Middle Eastern History
Spring 2013
Prof. Nancy L. Stockdale
Time: Tuesdays 6:30 – 9:20 PM
Place: Wooten Hall 219

Contact information:
Professor's email: stockdale@unt.edu
This is a very effective way for us to communicate, so feel free to reach me online. I check my accounts once per day, so please remember that you will not necessarily receive an “instant reply” from me, but I will answer your email in a timely manner. When emailing me, please identify yourself by giving me your entire name, the class you are in, and your specific question or request.
Office: Wooten Hall #238
Office phone: (940) 565-4209
Office hours: Tuesdays 4:30-6:00 PM and by appointment.
Please come and talk to me during office hours, as it is your time set aside for us to discuss history and the course. If you cannot come during these hours, please make an appointment to see me.

Course Description: In this class, students will explore how the commodities of food, sex, and drugs have influenced Middle Eastern History since the 7th century. We will not only learn about changing attitudes and trends in food, sex, and drugs through time, but we will analyze the complex contributions of these concepts/things/ideas in shaping the region in various historical eras. My primary goal for this class is to get students to consider the way that everyday, mundane acts—such as growing, buying, preparing and eating food, having and dreaming about sex, and producing, buying, legislating, and consuming drugs—impact larger historical trends and events. Students should walk away from this class with a clear sense of how the production, consumption, and conceptualization of food, sex, and drugs has changed our historical understandings of the Middle East.

Course Readings: There are eight required books for this course:

Afary, Janet, Sexual Politics in Modern Iran
Hattox, Ralph, Coffee and Coffeehouses
Heine, Peter, Food Culture in the Near East, Middle East, and North Africa
Marshall, Jonathan, The Lebanese Connection: Corruption, Civil War, and the International Drug Traffic
Matthe, Rudi, The Pursuit of Pleasure: Drugs and stimulants in Iranian History, 1500-1900
el-Rouayheb, Khaled, Before Homosexuality in the Arab-Islamic World, 1500-1800
Singer, Amy, Constructing Ottoman Beneficence: An Imperial Soup Kitchen in Jerusalem
Zaouali, Lilia, Medieval Cuisine of the Islamic World: A Concise History with 174 Recipes

I cannot stress enough how important it is for you to keep up and complete all of your assigned readings. You will be examined on the information in your books just as you will the lectures, and you will be expected to integrate readings into our class discussions as well. If you have any trouble understanding any of the readings, feel free to come in to office hours to discuss them with me. Note that I will be giving unannounced quizzes throughout the semester based on your readings if I find
that people aren’t reading, so make sure that you do the readings on time!

**Grading:** Your grade for the course will be weighted as follows: class participation—10%, paper—25%, reaction project—10%, a midterm—25%, and a final—30%. If you have any questions about your grades once received, please come to see me (at least 24 hours after receiving them) during my office hours. There is no curve in this class.

**Exams:** You will be given a take home **midterm due on February 26th** and an in-class **final exam on May 7th**. These will be essay exams. There will not be make-ups for these exam, so if you have any other engagements, change them and come prepared to turn in the test at the scheduled time.

**Paper:** You will write one 8-page **paper, due April 9th**, before lecture starts. If you need help with your writing, feel free to come to me for assistance. The assignment—and relevant turnitin.com materials—is attached to this syllabus. Please note: it will NOT be possible for you to turn this paper in late, so please prepare to turn it in on time.

**Reaction Project:** You will create a reaction project that will become part of an exhibit during Maymester 2013 at UNT. The assignment will be passed out in class on February 19th and will be due **April 30th**. This assignment will be your contribution to the UNT portion of a traveling exhibit called *A is for Arab* by Prof. Jack Shaheen. (More information to come!)

**Turning in things late:** This is a simple one--I do not accept late assignments. All work must be turned in to me by the due date and time! If not, your grade will suffer, because you will receive a 0% for that assignment. Of course, there are life events which pop up that make it impossible for you to turn your assignment in. Such events include death, extreme ill health, etc. If this is the case, please talk with me. (Please don’t fake someone’s death.) Otherwise, turn in your assignments on time.

**ADA Accommodation:** The University of North Texas abides by the legal code of the Americans with Disabilities Act, and I am happy to give qualifying students accommodations. However, the only way that I can provide these accommodations is if you register with the Office of Disability Accommodation in advance of the date when you need such accommodation. Students register with this office, and the office in turn notifies professors of the types of accommodations necessary. If you don’t register with them, I cannot provide any special accommodations. If you do register with them, we can set up the accommodations you require through their office.

This is UNT's ADA statement for syllabi: “The University of North Texas makes reasonable academic accommodation for students with disabilities. Students seeking accommodation must first register with the Office of Disability Accommodation (ODA) to verify their eligibility. If a disability is verified, the ODA will provide you with an accommodation letter to be delivered to faculty to begin a private discussion regarding your specific needs in a course. You may request accommodations at any time, however, ODA notices of accommodation should be provided as early as possible in the semester to avoid any delay in implementation. Note that students must obtain a new letter of accommodation for every semester and must meet with each faculty member prior to implementation in each class. Students are strongly encouraged to deliver letters of accommodation during faculty office hours or by appointment. Faculty members have the authority to ask students to discuss such letters during their designated office hours to protect the privacy of the student. For additional information see the Office of Disability Accommodation website at http://www.unt.edu/oda. You may also contact them by phone...
Plagiarism and cheating: Plagiarism and cheating take many forms, including, but not limited to: the use of another author's words without citation, cutting and pasting uncited materials from the internet, having someone else to do your work and claiming it as your own, and copying from another student’s paper or exam. All writing is the intellectual property of the person who came up with it; just think about what would happen if you suddenly starting marketing Microsoft Word as your own software, or released CDs of Grimes songs claiming to be the band--this is plagiarism. If you are caught cheating or plagiarizing, you may be expelled from UNT. Trust me, I will catch you and I will prosecute you, because plagiarism makes me very angry. If you are still unsure at any time during the semester as to what plagiarism is, please come and talk to me.

In order to protect students who do not plagiarize, I will be having everyone in the course submit their papers and take-home midterms to me via two concurrent methods--you will give me a hard copy and I will have you submit a copy of your paper online to turnitin.com. Information about this free and easy procedure is attached to your paper assignment in this syllabus.

Classroom decorum: As a courtesy to me as well as your fellow students, please do not come late to class, nor leave early. Also, please turn off all cellular phones, pagers, music players, laptop volumes, and other disruptive devices before entering the classroom. Do not text or email or surf the web during class. Furthermore, do not record the class in any way, including audio or video tape, or digital recording devices, unless you have approved that as a necessary action with me and the Office of Disability Accommodation.

Please note: I reserve the right to make changes to this syllabus.
Schedule:

WEEK ONE/January 15th
Introduction: Why food, sex, and drugs?
Reading: Be sure to get all of your books!

WEEK TWO/January 22nd
Concepts about consumption, production, and the distribution of food, sex, and drugs
Reading: Heine, *Food Culture in the Near East, Middle East, and North Africa*

WEEK THREE/January 29th
Medieval food in the Middle East
Reading: Zaouali, *Medieval Cuisine of the Islamic World*

WEEK FOUR/February 5th
Orientalism and the Orientalist take on consumables
Reading: catch up!

WEEK FIVE/February 12th
We will watch a film and discuss it in class: *Reel Bad Arabs: How Hollywood Vilifies a People*
Reading: catch up! And begin thinking about your Reaction Project
*Reaction Project assignment distributed in class*

WEEK SIX/February 19th
Poverty, Wealth, and the Pursuit of Nutrition
*Reading: Singer, Constructing Ottoman Beneficence*
*Take-Home Midterm Passed Out in Class*

WEEK SEVEN/February 26th
Food as a Weapon, Food as Protest, Food as Identity
reading: catch up!
*MIDTERM DUE AT START OF CLASS*

WEEK EIGHT/March 5th
Blurring the line between food and drugs
Reading: Hattox, *Coffee and Coffeehouses*

WEEK NINE/March 12th
NO CLASS—SPRING BREAK!

WEEK TEN/March 19th
Drugged, Up and Down
Reading: Matthee, *The Pursuit of Pleasure*
WEEK ELEVEN/March 26th
Modern Drugs, Modern Drug Wars
Reading: Marshall, *The Lebanese Connection*

WEEK TWELVE/April 2nd
Medicine, Shisha, and Smack – co-opted cases
Reading: catch up!

WEEK ThIRTEEN/April 9th
The Birds and the Bees – Before Modern Identities
Reading—catch up!
*Term Paper Due at the Start of Class*

WEEK FOURTEEN/April 16th
The Birds and the Bees – Modern Identities
Reading: el-Rouayheb, *Before Homosexuality in the Arab-Islamic World*

WEEK FIFTEEN/April 23rd
Let's Talk About Sex
Reading: Afary, *Sexual Politics in Modern Iran*

WEEK SIXTEEN/April 30th
Reflections on Food, Sex, and Drugs in Middle Eastern History
Reading for the week: catch up!
*Reaction Project Assignment Due at the Beginning of Class*

FINAL EXAM: May 7th, 6:30-8:30 PM
This will be an in-class green book exam. I will provide the Green Books. Please bring an ink pen (not a pencil). This is a closed note and closed book exam.
Paper Assignment
DUE before the start of class due April 9th, 2013
Late papers will not be accepted. It must be at least eight (8) pages double spaced, with appropriate margins and in 12 point Times font. Answer the following questions for your paper:

Without food, sex, and drugs, human life would cease to be. And yet, humans are often tortured by their obsessions over these commodities. Food, sex, and drugs can bring great pleasure, great sorrow, and great conflict to humans—both in terms of individual and communal experience. In this class, we're exploring the ways that food, sex, and drugs have influenced people as they have acted and reacted, creating and living personal and societal stories that eventually became history. For this paper, I would like you to consider how historians may best understand the roles of commodities in history, particularly those driven by human instinct. Consider, too, concepts of decadence, austerity, normalcy, immorality, piety, and other ideas that may carry connotations of morality, instinct, and choices—in relation to food, sex, and drugs. What do you make of a commodities-based approach to history? Does the consumption of food, sex, and drugs necessarily carry moral connotations? Is it possible for us to divorce these things from what they mean in various times and places? How best may we approach the study of what people consume and do with their bodies?

Remember: I can help you throughout the writing process! Please do not hesitate to come to me for help if you need it. Come see me in office hours or email me at stockdale@unt.edu and we'll set up an appointment to fit our mutual schedules.

And don't forget: You will have to turn in two copies of this paper--one hard copy to me before lecture begins, and one electronic copy to turnitin.com
Here are the directions for this easy process:
In order to get full credit for your paper, you will have to turn in two versions--a hard copy to me and an electronic copy to my account at http://www.turnitin.com. When you get to http://www.turnitin.com, establish a new student account. DO NOT USE THE TRIAL ACCOUNT, GET A REAL ACCOUNT. All you need for this is your email address and a password of your choosing. It's very simple and totally free! Once you establish your account, log on and join the correct class on your home page. Here are our class code and password:
class code: 5973729
class title: Food, Sex, and Drugs in Middle Eastern History
class title: Food, Sex, and Drugs in Middle Eastern History
password: stockdale
Once you have added this class to your homepage, click on the class title, find the assignment called "term paper," and paste your paper in, then submit it. That's all you need to do! You will get a confirmation code emailed to you--make sure you print that out, it's your receipt for the process.

A word to the wise: You are required to cite any quotations you take from any source, as well as any ideas that are not your original thoughts. I don't care which citation format you use--MLA, parenthetical, Turabian, Chicago, etc.--but you must use one and be consistent. Please come to me if you would like further help with this concept.

And some more advice: PROOFREAD! Don't just rely on the spell-checker, because it's always inadequate. Read over your paper in hard copy format, and get someone else you trust to read it over as well--a roommate, a friend, a partner--and make corrections before you print out the copy you will turn in. This is crucial because I expect these papers to be made up of excellent spelling and
grammar as well as scintillating historical insight--yes, I do count grammar and composition! How can I follow your arguments if I can't understand what they are???

Things to double-check when proofreading your paper:
Have you cited all sources?
Have you written full sentences?
Have you purged your language of internet jargon, contractions, and other informalities?
Have you fully answered the question?
Have you proofread and not merely relied upon the spellchecker of your word processing program?
Do you have a thesis and have you supported that thesis with historical evidence?

Things I do not want to see in your academic term paper:
No dictionary definitions.
No Wikipedia or other unreliable sources from the internet.
No mega-paragraphs that go on for pages and pages and incorporate millions of topics--one paragraph = one topic.
Please don't go off on tangents about your life. Anecdotes are not historical evidence, and your opinion should only be expressed with historical evidence to support it.
You must staple your paper before you hand it in. Otherwise I will not accept it. DO NOT put it in a folder, use paper clips, or any other means to bind it---just staple it.
Don't wait until the last minute!
Good luck!!