Contact information: 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.
Teaching Assistant: Mr. Mervyn Roberts

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 learn the historical foundations of Islam and study the ways that Islamic-identified empires developed in the period between the 7th and 18th centuries. Topics studied include: the life of Muhammad and the early Islamic leadership; cultural borrowing and adaptation within the Islamic Empires; science and arts in Islamic societies; the positions and experiences of minorities under Islamic rule; Sufism; and other issues concerning the development and expansion of Islam as a political and religious force in history. This class will be taught primarily from Middle Eastern perspectives, and will include many contrasting Middle Eastern voices, to give students a wider sense of the variety of issues, ideas, and historical conclusions concerning this dynamic and influential region.

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

Karen Armstrong, Muhammad: A Prophet for Our Time
Al-Khatib al-Baghdadi, Selections from the Art of Party-Crashing in Medieval Iraq
Ross Dunn, The Adventures of Ibn Battuta
Vernon Egger, A History of the Muslim World to 1405
James Lindsay, Daily Life in the Medieval Islamic World
Amin Maalouf, The Crusades Through Arab Eyes
Michael Morgan, Lost History: The Enduring Legacy of Muslim Scientists, Thinkers, and Artists
Rumi (Coleman Barks, translator) The Essential Rumi

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 troubles 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! Assignments for the books are located in the calendar section of this syllabus.

**Grading:** Your grade for the course will be weighted as follows: class participation (which includes participation on Blackboard discussion forums)—10%, paper—20%, a midterm—25%, sustainability project—20%, and a final—25%. 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 March 4th**). This will be an essay exam and you will have one week to complete it. You will be given a final (**in-class on May 6th 6:30-8:30 PM**), and this will be a “Green Book” exam that is closed book (i.e., you will not be allowed to use notes or any other aids to take this exam). I will supply the Green Books and you will bring a pen. There will not be make-ups for these exams, so if you have any other engagements, change them and come prepared to turn in the test at the scheduled time/take the test at the scheduled time.

**Paper:** You will write one 6-page paper, **due April 8th**, 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.

**Sustainability Assignment:** You will be taking part in an assignment that will engage issues of sustainability and connect you with historical and contemporary sustainability projects in the Middle East. You will receive the details for this assignment in class on January 21st. The project will include each of you making a dedicated forum post on Blackboard to share your findings with the class, and will be **due April 22nd**.

**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 that 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 at 940.565.4323.”

**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 HAIM 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 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 included with your paper assignment and on your take home midterm assignment.

**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, and other disruptive devices before entering the classroom. Do not pretend to be taking notes on your laptop or mobile device, only to be surfing the net, IMing, texting, or otherwise disrupting people with your computer/phone shenanigans. Furthermore, do not take photos in class, nor 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 14th: Introduction & The Middle East before Islam
Reading: Egger, 1-31

WEEK TWO/January 21st: Muhammad and the arrival of Islam
Reading: all of Armstrong

WEEK THREE/January 28th: Early Islamic Society & early Islamic expansion
Reading: Egger, 33-61

WEEK FOUR/February 4th: The Emergence of Arab supremacy in the Middle East
Reading: Lindsay, 1-85

WEEK FIVE/February 11th: The Abbasids and Islamic diversities
Reading: Egger, 62-84

WEEK SIX/February 18th: Islamic Schism
Reading: Lindsay, 86-138

WEEK SEVEN/February 25th: The Mind, the Arts, and the Market
Reading: Egger, 85-171, all of al-Baghdadi
TAKE HOME MIDTERM DISTRIBUTED

WEEK EIGHT/March 4th: Minorities in the Islamic Empires
Reading: all of Morgan
TAKE HOME MIDTERM DUE AT BEGINNING OF CLASS

WEEK NINE/March 11th
SPRING BREAK—Have a great vacation!

WEEK TEN/March 18th: The Era of the Crusades
Reading: all of Maalouf

WEEK ELEVEN/March 25th: Mysticism and Popular Religion
Reading: all of Rumi

WEEK TWELVE/April 1st: Islamic Empires Beyond the Middle East
Reading: Egger, 208-256

WEEK THIRTEEN/April 8th: Non-Arabs Conquer the Islamic Heartland
Reading: Lindsay, 139-207; Reading: Egger, 256-318
TERM PAPER DUE AT THE BEGINNING OF CLASS
WEEK FOURTEEN/April 15th: Islamic Exploration
Reading: all of Dunn

WEEK FIFTEEN/April 22nd: The Rise of the Ottomans and the Middle East on the brink of European hegemony
Reading: catch up!
SUSTAINABILITY PROJECT DUE AT THE BEGINNING OF CLASS

WEEK SIXTEEN/April 29th
WRAP UP AND REVIEW!

FINAL EXAM: May 6th, 6:30-8:30 PM
This will be in 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 8th April 2014
Late papers will not be accepted.

It must be at least six (6) pages double spaced, with appropriate margins and in 12 point Times font.

Answer this question for your paper:

In Karen Armstrong’s biography of Muhammad, we are presented with the life of one of the most influential figures of history. The early Islamic community, as she presents it, was diverse in social position, but relatively homogenous in culture. However, the message of Islam was universal, and within less than 200 years, millions of people over three continents embraced the faith and/or were ruled by governments identified as “Islamic.” By the late medieval period, a person such as Ibn Battuta could travel for years and remain within the dar al-Islam, or “House of Islam” (Islamic lands.) Using Armstrong’s biography and Dunn’s telling of Ibn Battuta’s travels, explain how and why it was that Islam was able to achieve such expansive success. What was it about the message of Islam that was so appealing? How did the life of Muhammad serve as a role model to Muslims? How was Islam molded and shaped—and how did it mold and shape—many societies as it moved across the landscape of time and place?

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. This is an easy process. When you get to http://www.turnitin.com, establish a new student account (if you do not have one already). 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: 7445827
class title: Islam and its Empires
password: stockdale

Once you have added this class to your homepage, click on the class title, find the assignment called "paper," and paste your paper in (or upload it as a .doc file), then submit it. That's all you need to do! You will get a confirmation code emailed to you--make sure you keep that, 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 to write your paper. Good luck!**