HISTORY 4263: 001  
Gender Issues in Middle Eastern History  
Dr. Nancy L. Stockdale  
Fall 2015  
Time: Mondays 6:30 PM – 9:20 PM  
Place: Wooten Hall 119

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: Mondays 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 course, we will study gender issues in Middle Eastern history, both in terms of historic events around gender and using gender as a category of historical analysis. Topics we will study include: roles of women, men, and children in Middle Eastern histories, constructions of femininity and masculinity over time and space, the significance of ethnicity and class on constructions of gender, sexuality and history, the impact of nationalism on gender identities, and historical representations of gender in popular and high culture. My primary goals for this course include: helping students understand the significances of various gender roles in Middle Eastern History; presenting students with tools for using gender as a prism/category of analysis for understanding historical narratives; working as a class to hear/listen to disparate Middle Eastern voices about gender through time and across space.

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

Ahmed, Leila, Women and Gender in Islam: Historical Roots of a Modern Debate
Bier, Laura, Revolutionary Womanhood: Feminisms, Modernity, and the State in Nasser’s Egypt
Najmabadi, Afsaneh, Professing Selves: Transsexuality and Same-Sex Desire in Contemporary Iran
Parsipur, Shahrnush, Women Without Men: A Novel of Modern Iran
Satrapi, Marjane, The Complete Persepolis
Thompson, Elizabeth, Colonial Citizens: Republican Rights, Paternal Privilege, and Gender in French Syria and Lebanon
Yosef, Raz, Beyond Flesh: Queer Masculinities and Nationalism in Israeli Cinema
I cannot stress enough how important it is for you to keep up and complete all of your assigned readings. Most of our class will involve discussing the reading, so if you don't do it, you will fail. If you have any troubles understanding any of the readings, feel free to come in to office hours to discuss them with me. Bring up your questions in class, too—if you have them, others probably do as well.

If you have not had classes in modern Middle Eastern history and would like to read a solid account of recent historical events, see William Cleveland and Martin Bunton, *A History of the Modern Middle East*. This book is not required, but it is highly recommended, and easily available online or from the library.

**Grading:** Your grade for the course will be weighted as follows: class participation (which will include in-class discussions + online discussion board on Blackboard)—10%, individual Blackboard journals – 15%, term paper—30%, a group wiki assignment on Blackboard--20%, and a final in-class exam--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.

**Blackboard:** We will be using Blackboard for a variety of graded elements in this course, including a discussion board, personal journals, turning in your term paper, and taking part in a group wiki assignment. *You cannot pass this class without utilizing Blackboard.* You can log into Blackboard at https://learn.unt.edu and access the class in your schedule. Please do not hesitate to talk with me if you have problems accessing Blackboard in any way. Remember to exercise properly netiquette while interacting with one another on Blackboard. A great guide to netiquette may be found here: http://www.albion.com/netiquette

**Final Exam:** You will be given an *in-class final exam on December 7th, 6:30 – 8:30 PM*. This will be an essay exam. There will not be make-ups for this exam, so if you have any other engagements, change them and come prepared to take the test at the scheduled time. Please note that this exam will be closed-book, meaning, you will not be allowed any notes or any other study tools.

**Blackboard Journals:** On the class Blackboard page (login at http://learn.unt.edu), I have set up a journal assignment, called Gender in Middle Eastern History Journal. You can access it on the “Course Content” splash page. This journal is a place for you to communicate with yourself, and me, regarding your interpretations/opinions/questions about class content. You should make an effort to write each week in the journal — the topic of your entries are up to you, as long as they are related to our class topics/lectures/readings/media/etc. This is a space for you to engage with the material, work out ideas, ask questions, and reflect upon our class themes and evidence. I will drop in to read and comment upon your journal throughout the course. This journal will not be graded based on its content per se. However, you must write consistently and seriously throughout the course to obtain the points available. There will be 10 points available per week. The grading for the journals portion of the course grade is as follows: 100-150 points = A, 80-99 points = B, 79-70 points = C, 69-60 points = D, 59-0 points = F. If you
do the math, you will see that it's VERY easy to get an "A" on this assignment, as long as you take the journal seriously and participate most weeks.

**Paper:** You will write one 8-page (double-spaced) paper, due November 9th, before lecture starts. You will submit this paper electronically to Blackboard. If you need help with your writing, feel free to come to me for assistance. The assignment 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.

**Group WIKI assignments:** This class will be divided into 6 working groups. Each group will create a WIKI on the class Blackboard. The final Wikis are due on November 30th, before the start of class. The assignment is attached to this syllabus. If you need help with your writing or any other stage of this assignment, feel free to come to me for assistance.

**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 reasonable 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 a reasonable accommodation letter to be delivered to faculty to begin a private discussion regarding your specific needs in a course. You may request reasonable accommodations at any time, however, ODA notices of reasonable 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 reasonable 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 reasonable 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](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 started 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. You can find UNT’s policy on Academic Dishonesty here: [http://policy.unt.edu/sites/default/files/untpolicy/pdf/7-Student_Affairs-Academic_Integrity.pdf](http://policy.unt.edu/sites/default/files/untpolicy/pdf/7-Student_Affairs-Academic_Integrity.pdf)

In order to protect students who do not plagiarize, I will be having everyone in the course submit their papers electronically through Blackboard, where they will be run through turnitin.com’s database. They will also be graded on Blackboard, and grades will be made available via Gradebook. Turning in papers digitally will prevent others from stealing physical copies of your work, as well as save paper! It will also save you all from trying to read my handwriting. 😊

**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 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 1 - August 24th**
What is "the Middle East" and why is gender significant?
Reading for the week: get your books!

**Week 2 - August 31st**
Women’s Issues and the formation of Islamic civilization
Reading for the week: Ahmed, pp. 1-123

**Week 3 - September 7th – Labor Day**
NO CLASS

**Week 4 - September 14th**
Modern Feminism in the Arab World
Reading for the week: Ahmed, pp. 127-248
Wiki groups will be assigned in class

**Week 5 - September 21st**
Gender and Colonialism
Reading for the week: Thompson, pp. 1-154

**Week 6 - September 28th**
Gender and Modernity
Reading for the week: Thompson, pp. 155-290

**Week 7 - October 5th**
Gender and the Nation
Reading for the week: all of Bier

**Week 8 - October 12th**
Gender and the life cycle
Reading for the week: Catch up!

**Week 9 - October 19th**
Urban & Rural Spaces and Gender Norms
Reading for the week: All of Satrapi

**Week 10 - October 26th**
Modern Faith and Gender
Reading for the week: all of Parsipur

**Week 11 - November 2nd**
Sexuality, Masculinity, and Femininity
Reading for the week: all of Yosef
Week 12 - November 9th
Youth Culture & Gender in the Middle East
Reading for the week: catch up!
Paper Due before the start of class (uploaded to Blackboard)

Week 13 - November 16th
Transmissions of Gender in the modern Middle East
Reading for the week: all of Najmabadi

Week 14 - November 23rd
TBA
Reading for the week: catch up!

Week 15 – November 30th
What have we learned about gender in Middle Eastern history?
Reading for the week: catch up!!!
WIKI assignments are due at Blackboard before the start of class

Final Exam: Monday, December 7th, 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.

GOOD LUCK!!!
Paper Assignment

DUE to be uploaded to Blackboard before the start of class on November 9th, 2015

Late papers will not be accepted.

Your paper must be at least eight (8) pages double-spaced, with appropriate margins and in 12 point Times/similar font.

Your assignment is to find five primary sources that share a common gender theme in Middle Eastern history, and write an analytical paper linking your sources to larger historical trends. You should use information you gain from our course readings, lectures, media presentations, and discussions to inform your analysis. Although additional research is not mandatory per se, you should consult with external sources if they help with your historical analysis. The key for success with this assignment is to select sources that help you explain aspects of gender issues in Middle Eastern history to your reader.

Your primary sources can come from any realm of cultural production – they can be government documents, pieces of art, oral histories, elements of material culture – the possibilities are endless. The key is to make sure that your sources all connect to a common gender theme, and that they help you better understand aspects of Middle Eastern history.

NOTE: The sources you select may be used as the sources for your Wiki assignment! Although it is not mandatory to use the same sources for both assignments, I recommend it.

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 this paper in on Blackboard before the start of class on November 9th! You can access the process on the “Course Content” splash page by clicking “Term Paper” and following the directions. Let me know if you have any issues.

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 in formalities?
Have you fully answered the assignment?
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?
Are your block quotes single-spaced, and is the body of your paper double-spaced?

**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. It is important to take a stand and build an argument, but you need to use evidence to do so.

**Don't wait until the last minute! Good luck!**
Wiki Assignment
DUE to be completed on Blackboard before the start of class on Nov 30th, 2015
Wikis cannot be modified after 6:30 PM on Nov 30th.

On September 14th, everyone will be placed randomly (via drawn names) into one of six groups for the wiki assignments. Using the Blackboard wiki site for the course, each group will create a wiki page, which is due on Nov 30th, and which will be open for the entire class to see, once completed.

The assignment is to create a collaborative and annotated online primary source archive. As a group, you will write an introduction to your sources collaboratively, using the wiki as your platform. The introduction should be between 750-1000 words. Each person will then bring one primary source to the wiki, and annotate the significance of her/his primary source to the history of gender issues in the Middle East. Each annotation should be between 500-1000 words. By the end of the assignment, your wiki should consist of an introduction that links/compares/contrasts sources and their historical frameworks, and your sources, with their explanations.

Wikis are a media format that allow people to alter each other’s work. Each group will be responsible for making sure that everyone’s work is as complete as possible. Professor Stockdale will be able to monitor who is writing what, who is editing what, etc. Be sure that you are all contributing, that you are all taking responsibility for one of the sources, and that you all contribute to the introductory essay that ties your sources together.

Here is the Student Learning Outcome explanation of this assignment:

Students will understand significances of gender roles in Middle Eastern History and find primary sources to support their understandings.

1. Students will demonstrate critical analysis and curation of primary sources related to gender issues in Middle Eastern history.
   1.1. Identify appropriate primary sources.
   1.2. Classify and group primary sources together.
   1.3. Analyze and explain the significance of sources to gender roles in Middle Eastern history.

2. Students will demonstrate understanding of secondary literature related to gender issues of Middle Eastern history found in their chosen primary sources.
   2.1. Analyze the themes of the literature.
   2.2. Select appropriate literature to reference in explanations of primary sources in the wiki archive.

Points to remember:

This is group work, and you will be graded as a group as well as individuals by the professor. Be sure that everyone is doing his/her fair share. Prof. Stockdale will be monitoring the Blackboard wikis and discussions to be sure everyone is participating. If any issues arise, do not hesitate to contact Dr. Stockdale.
As individuals, it is probably in your best interest to focus your wiki primary sources on your term paper sources, unless you decide that you want to do even more work. As a group, it is in your best interest to make sure that everyone is participating, that you don’t procrastinate, and that your writing is clear, to the point, and instructive.

Be sure that you always remain respectful toward one another, that you use the rules of netiquette and etiquette, and that you keep your groups’ best interests in mind when modifying each others’ work on the wiki.

Don’t hesitate to talk with Dr. Stockdale – alone or as groups – if you need any help!

**Good luck!**