HIST 4263:003: Food, Sex, and Drugs in Middle Eastern History
Fall 2016
Prof. Nancy L. Stockdale
Time: Tuesdays 6:30 – 9:20 PM
Place: Wooten Hall 212

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. 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.

Content Notes: We will be discussing food, sex, and drugs in frank and sometimes graphic ways. Please note that some of the topics we will explore will touch on issues including, but not limited to: addiction, sexual abuse and exploitation, sexual practices of a variety of kinds, food production and consumption, ideas about disordered eating, and changing ideas about morality around all of these issues. If this brings up any concerns, I am happy to discuss them with you.

Course Readings: There are seven required books for this course:
Afary, Janet, Sexual Politics in Modern Iran
Eltahaway, Mona, Headscarves and Hymens: Why the Middle East Needs a Sexual Revolution
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

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--15%, paper--30%, 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 October 11th and an in-class final exam on December 13th. 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. You will turn the midterm in electronically to our Blackboard page.

**Paper:** You will write one 8-page paper, due November 22nd, before lecture starts. 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. You will turn this paper in electronically to our Blackboard page.

**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 in your assignment. Such events include death, extreme ill health, etc. If this is the case, please talk with me. 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 downloads of Grimes songs claiming to be her--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 take-home midterms and term papers to me electronically via our class Blackboard page at https://learn.unt.edu/.

**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, tablet, or mobile device, only to be surfing the net, IMing, texting, or otherwise disrupting people with your computer/phone shenanigans. Furthermore, do not photograph or 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.

**Guns:** The legislature of the State of Texas has enacted Texas Senate Bill 11, which you may read in its entirety at http://www.legis.state.tx.us/tlodocs/84R/billtext/html/SB00011F.htm. This law permits the concealed carry of firearms on our campus by people with the appropriate license. Per the UNT policy on this law (http://policy.unt.edu/sites/default/files/untpolicy/04.001_CarryingOfConcealedHandgunsOnCampus_2016.pdf), I am not permitted to ban firearms from my office nor my classrooms. However, you may rest assured that I will not be carrying any firearms on the campus of the University of North Texas.

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

WEEK ONE/August 30th
Introduction: Why food, sex, and drugs?
Reading: Be sure to get all of your books!

WEEK TWO/September 6th
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/September 13th
Medieval food in the Middle East
Reading: excerpts from Zaouali, Medieval Cuisine of the Islamic World (available for download on our Blackboard site)

WEEK FOUR/September 20th
Orientalism and the Orientalist take on consumables
Reading: catch up!

WEEK FIVE/September 27th
Poverty, Wealth, and the Pursuit of Nutrition
Reading: Hattox, Coffee and Coffeehouses

WEEK SIX/October 4th
Food as a Weapon, Food as Protest, Food as Identity
Reading: catch up!
Take-Home Midterm Passed Out in Class

WEEK SEVEN/October 11th
Blurring the line between food and drugs
Reading: catch up!
MIDTERM DUE AT THE START OF CLASS

WEEK EIGHT/October 18th
Drugged, Up and Down
Reading: Matthee, The Pursuit of Pleasure

WEEK NINE/October 25th
Modern Drugs, Modern Drug Wars
Reading: Marshall, The Lebanese Connection

WEEK TEN/November 1st
Medicine, Shisha, and Smack – co-opted cases
Reading: catch up!
WEEK ELEVEN/November 8th
The Birds and the Bees – Before Modern Identities
Reading: el-Rouayheb, *Before Homosexuality in the Arab-Islamic World*

WEEK TWELVE/November 15th
Let's Talk About Sex
Reading: Afary, *Sexual Politics in Modern Iran*

WEEK THIRTEEN/November 22nd
The Drama of the Carnal Body
Reading—catch up!

**TERM PAPER DUE AT THE START OF CLASS**

WEEK FOURTEEN/November 29th
Revolutionary Bodies
Reading: Eltahawey, *Headscarves and Hymens*

WEEK FIFTEEN/December 6th
Reflections on Food, Sex, and Drugs in Middle Eastern History
Reading for the week: catch up!

FINAL EXAM: December 13th, 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.

**Good luck!**
Paper Assignment

This paper is due before the start of class 22 November 2016. 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. You will turn it in electronically at the class Blackboard site at https://learn.unt.edu

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 turn this paper in electronically to our Blackboard site at http://learn.unt.edu. This will allow me to protect you from plagiarism and cheating, as well as give you electronic feedback. We are saving trees and other paper-free resources by using this method! You can access the process on the “Course Content” splash page of our Blackboard site 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, and get someone else you trust to read it over as well--a roommate, a friend, a partner--and make corrections before you upload 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 8 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!