History 5260 - 001: Seminar in Middle Eastern History  
Dr. Nancy L. Stockdale  
Spring 2018  
Time: Mondays 6:30 pm-9:20 pm  
Place: Wooten Hall 262

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: Please note: I will be out of town at the beginning of the semester, but I will be available for appointments via email and Skype. Once I return to campus, I will hold office hours on Mondays from 4:30-6 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. Please do not hesitate to make an appointment while I am out of town – I will be happy to speak with you.

Course Description: This course is a seminar in Middle Eastern history. Because there are many disparate interests among students, there will be many different topics pursued individually. Together we will discuss various concerns, methods, and challenges facing historians of the Middle East, and share issues of style, methods, and perspectives amongst ourselves. Each student will pursue his/her own research project, which will culminate in a paper and a presentation to the class. By the end of this class, everyone in the seminar will be an expert in his/her particular topic and have a better sense of the possibilities for research in the field of Middle Eastern history. PLEASE NOTE: If you are new to Middle Eastern history, this may not be the class for you. You are responsible for filling in the historical gaps in your knowledge. I can guide you to sources, topics, methods, etc., but this is not an introductory content course, and I will not be giving narratives in this class.

Resources: Throughout the course, I’ll be expanding this list of resources, but some that will assist you include:  
Unicode font for those using transliteration (available for Mac and Windows here: http://mamluk.chicago.edu/unicode.html)  
*IJMES* English Transliteration Chart (available at https://ijmes.chass.ncsu.edu/docs/TransChart.pdf)
Grading: Your grade for the course will be weighted as follows: class participation: 15%; research presentation: 25%; final research paper: 60%. 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 or during a prescheduled appointment.

Presentation: At the end of the semester, each student will give a 30-minute presentation on his/her research findings to the class. This presentation will give you a chance to explain your questions, thesis/theses, and evidence to your peers. I would like everyone to consider this presentation as a trial run for future professional events, such as conferences, seminars, and symposia. The final presentations will take place during the last two sessions of the course – April 23rd and April 30th.

Research Paper: You will write one original research paper, due May 7th, by 9 PM, to be electronically turned in via our class Blackboard page. If you need help with your writing, feel free to come to me for assistance. Directions for the assignment are at the bottom of our syllabus.

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, 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 started marketing Microsoft Word as your own software, or released downloads of Chromatics songs claiming to be them--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 our Blackboard Learn system. There will be no hard copies turned in – we are a paperless classroom. Your work will be added to the turnitin.com archive through this method, and scanned for cheating, but it will also be preserved so that others cannot cheat off of you. Win-win!

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 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 1** – The semester starts on Tuesday, Jan 16th, and our class meets on Mondays. However, during this week, please acquaint yourself with the syllabus and email Prof. Stockdale to make an appointment for an introductory Skype meeting for the next week.

**Week 2 – January 22nd**
Students will speak individually with Prof. Stockdale for introductions (see previous week).

**Week 3 – January 29th**
DUE: Topics. Please write/turn in 1-2 page report on your proposed topic, ideas for sources, etc. Turn this in electronically to stockdale@unt.edu - I will reply with comments via email.

**Week 4 –February 5th**
TBA

**Week 5 –February 12th**
TBA

**Week 6 – February 19th**
TBA

**Week 7 –February 26th**
TBA

**Week 8 –March 5th**
Class meets in person as a group! Rough drafts are due – turn in electronically via email. Be prepared to informally discuss your project with the class.

**Week 9 –March 12th**
Spring Break!

**Week 10 –March 19th**
TBA

**Week 11 –March 26th**
TBA

**Week 12 –April 2nd**
In-class discussions about research progress

**Week 13 –April 9th**
TBA

**Week 14 –April 16th**
In-class discussions about research progress

**Week 15 – April 23rd**
Student Presentations Part 1

**Week 16 – April 30th**
Student Presentations Part 2

**FINAL PAPER DUE** May 7th via the electronic class Blackboard Learn system by 9 PM.

Good luck!
Research Paper Assignment

Due: May 7th by 9 PM. Late Papers Will Not Be Accepted
This paper is worth 60% of your final grade in the course. It must be at least thirty (30) pages, double-spaced, with appropriate margins and in 12 point font (such as Times, the font in which this paper is written.)

Your assignment: To write an original research paper.

1. Choose a research question that is DOABLE, INTERESTING, ORIGINAL, and FOCUSED IN THE MIDDLE EAST. This is the region between Morocco and Iran, including the southern Mediterranean, the eastern Mediterranean as far north as Turkey, the Arabian Peninsula, and the Iranian plateau. (South and Central Asia, including Afghanistan, is not part of the region we are studying.) The modern period in the Middle East is defined roughly as the past 200 or so years, give or take.
2. Use the appropriate primary and secondary sources for evidence to assert your thesis. If you are disputing or reinforcing the secondary literature, contextualize your work in the field. If you are striking out in a new area, be sure to contextualize your evidence historically.
3. List all of the sources you will discuss in bibliography format (this is not included in your page requirements).
4. Be sure to cite fully in endnote or footnote form as well. Papers without citations will be returned ungraded. You may use any citation format your choose, but you must be consistent. For example, I tend to use Chicago and/or Turabian, but you may use MLA or another system, if you prefer.
5. Come to me for assistance whenever you need it! Your research is self-directed, but I am here to meet with you (including via Skype while I am away from Denton) and will guide you throughout the process, as necessary. Please do not hesitate to reach out if you need help at any point!

GOOD LUCK