HIST 4246:001 – Imperialism in the Modern Middle East
Dr. Nancy L. Stockdale
Fall 2017
Time: Tuesdays 6:30 PM-9:20 PM
Place: Wooten Hall 221

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, you will learn about the modern history of imperialism
in the Middle East. We will gain an historical foundation concerning classic Islamic
styles of empire, and then delve deep into histories of European and Ottoman
imperialism, as well as anti-imperial and post-colonial movements, in the past 200+
years. We will place special emphasis on Lebanon, Algeria, Egypt, Israel, Armenia,
Syria, and Palestine, but we will also learn about movements in Iraq, Iran, Turkey, and
other Middle Eastern nations. This class will be taught primarily from Middle Eastern
perspectives and through the prism of post-colonialism, and will include many
contrasting arguments about empire, to give you a wider sense of the variety of issues,
ideas, and historical conclusions concerning this dynamic and influential region.

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

Albert Camus, The Stranger
Kamel Daoud, The Meursault Investigation
Leila Tarazi Fawaz, A Land of Aching Hearts: The Middle East in the Great War
Randa Jarrar, A Map of Home
Dawn Anahid MacKeen, The Hundred Year Walk: An Armenian Odyssey
Edward Said, Orientalism
Elizabeth Thompson: Colonial Citizens: Republican Rights, Paternal Privilege, and
Gender in French Syria and Lebanon

I cannot stress enough how important it is for you to keep up and complete all of your
assigned readings. Your grades for this class will be based on your work with the
readings as well as lectures and other assignments, so if you don’t do your reading, you
will fail. If you have any troubles understanding any of the books, 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.

**Grading:** Your grade for the course will be weighted as follows: class participation (which includes participation on Blackboard discussion forums)—15%, paper--25%, a midterm--25%, and a final--35%. 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 (passed out in class on Oct 10th and due at 6:30 PM on Oct 17th). This will be an essay exam and you will have one week to complete it. You will be given a final (in-class on Dec 12th from 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 7-page paper, due Nov 21st at 6:30 PM. 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.

**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 started marketing the Instagram app 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, 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/pdf/SB00011F.pdf](http://www.legis.state.tx.us/tlodocs/84R/billtext/pdf/SB00011F.pdf). 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/04.001_CarryingOfConcealedHandgunsOnCampus_2016.pdf](http://policy.unt.edu/sites/default/files/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 29th
Introduction to Imperialism: What is it and why does it matter historically?
Reading: Be sure to get all of your books!

WEEK TWO/September 5th
Islamic Imperialism, part I: the Classical Arab Empires
Watch: Video “Islam, Empire of Faith” – access it here: http://libproxy.library.unt.edu:2708/view/work/bibliographic_entity%7Cvideo_work%7C1791742
You will need to log in to your UNT library access (same login as my.unt.edu). This link is also available via our class Blackboard site, on the “Course Content” page.

WEEK THREE/September 12th
Islamic Imperialism, part II: the non-Arab successor empires
Watch: Continue watching “Islam, Empire of Faith”

WEEK FOUR/September 19th
The Ottomans: Successful imperialists over time and space
Watch: Finish watching “Islam, Empire of Faith”

WEEK FIVE/September 26th
The beginnings of European expansion and Orientalism
Reading: Edward Said, Orientalism

WEEK SIX/October 3rd
Case: The French in Algeria
Reading: Albert Camus, The Stranger

WEEK SEVEN/October 10th
Case: the British in Egypt
Reading: Begin Leila Fawaz, A Land of Aching Hearts
TAKE HOME MIDTERM DISTRIBUTED

WEEK EIGHT/October 17th
The trauma of World War I – Everything Changes
Reading: Finish Leila Fawaz, A Land of Aching Hearts
TAKE HOME MIDTERM DUE AT 6:30 PM

WEEK NINE/October 24th
Case: Syria and Lebanon
Reading: Reading: Elizabeth Thompson, Colonial Citizens

WEEK TEN/October 31st - TBA
WEEK ELEVEN/November 7th
Case: Armenia
Reading: Dawn Anahid MacKeen, *The Hundred-Year Walk*

WEEK TWELVE/November 14th
The fight for independence - Case: Algeria
Watch: Film, “The Battle of Algiers” – Access it here: 
https://unt.kanopystreaming.com/video/battle-algiers-0
You will need to log in to your UNT library access (same login as my.unt.edu). This link is also available via our class Blackboard site, on the “Course Content” page.

WEEK THIRTEEN/November 21st
The fight for independence - case: Israel, then Palestine
Reading: Kamel Daoud, *The Meursault Investigation*
TERM PAPER DUE AT 6:30 PM

WEEK FOURTEEN/November 28th
Petrochemicals and empire in the Middle East
Reading: Randa Jarrar, *A Map of Home*

WEEK FIFTEEN/ December 5th
Remnants of empire in the Modern Middle East
Reading: Wrap up and review!

FINAL EXAM: in class on Dec 12th from 6:30-8:30 PM

GOOD LUCK!
Paper Assignment

This paper is due before the start of class on November 21st, 2017 by 6:30 PM. Late papers will not be accepted. It must be at least seven (7) pages double-spaced, with appropriate margins and in 12 point Times font. You will turn it in electronically at the class Blackboard Learn site at https://learn.unt.edu.

Answer this question for your paper:

Imperialism is the rule of one society by another. This sounds simple enough – it sounds like a military and/or political concept, and in fact, imperialism is often expressed in this fashion. However, historians often talk about imperialism in far more diverse terms; they speak of “cultural imperialism,” “economic imperialism,” and frame it in other ways, too. In this paper, I would like you to discuss the various ways that imperialism has taken shape in the modern Middle East. Using examples from at least three different countries, and at least two different centuries, explain the ways that imperialism has been manifested. How have local people been impacted by imperialism? What were the tools of imperialism in these cases? In what ways have people suffered from, benefitted from, and been changed by imperialism? What is your historical assessment of the imperialist enterprises about which you have chosen to write? In your paper, you must use evidence from at least three of the assigned books, as well as relevant information from the lectures, films, and classroom discussions, to support your argument.

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 on our Blackboard Learn page.

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 do not 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 turn it 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 contractions. 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.

Don't wait until the last minute to write your paper. Good luck!