

SYLLABUS FOR HISTORY 4246:401: IMPERIALISM IN THE MODERN MIDDLE EAST – SPRING 2026 – Prof. Nancy L. Stockdale @UNT

Welcome to HIST 4246 – Imperialism in the Modern Middle East! Please download this syllabus and refer to it throughout the semester. It will always be available online on our Canvas site, too.

Instructor Information

Professor Contact Information: Dr. Nancy L. Stockdale

Office Hours and Location: My regular hours this semester will be online on Wednesdays, 11 AM - Noon, and by appointment, via Zoom. We will meet virtually in my Zoom room at <https://unt.zoom.us/my/nancystockdale>. However, if you would like to meet in person, let me know and we can make an appointment to meet in my office at Wooten 238 or GAB 220. Zoom is a free service provided through the university. We can connect on Zoom using video or audio-only interfaces on your phone, computer, or tablet.

Email: stockdale@unt.edu **Pronouns:** She/Her/Hers **Titles:** Dr./Prof.

Communication Expectations: I will check my email at least once per day Monday-Friday during regular business hours, 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.

Please note: I will not be checking my email regularly during weekends or Spring Break.

Teaching Assistant Contact Information: Ms. Madison Berry. You may contact her via email at MadisonBerry@my.unt.edu. Like me, she will not be expected to answer your emails during the weekend or Spring Break. Ms. Berry will hold zoom office hours on Mondays from 12-1 PM and Fridays from 8-9AM, and by appointment. She can also meet in person if necessary. The link to her Zoom hours will be on our Canvas page.

Course Description, Structure, and Objectives

From the UNT Catalogue: “The modern history of imperialism in the Middle East. Historical foundation concerning classic Islamic styles of empire and the history of European and Ottoman imperialism, as well as anti-imperial and post-colonial movements, in the past 200-plus years. Includes many contrasting arguments about empire and postcolonialism to give students a wider sense of the variety of issues, ideas and historical conclusions concerning this dynamic and influential region.”

From Prof. Stockdale: 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, along with anti-imperial and post-colonial movements, in the past 200+ years. We will place special emphasis on Lebanon, Algeria, Egypt, Palestine, Armenia, Syria, and Israel, 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 postcolonialism. It will include 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. Students should leave this course having a clear understanding of several historical and contemporary impacts of modern imperialism in the Middle East.

Course Structure: This class is fully online throughout the Spring semester, and the materials are presented asynchronously, which means that there are no required synchronous class events. (For example, I will not be lecturing over Zoom.) The delivery platform is UNT’s Canvas learning management system. There are 5 content modules, each with a discussion board assignment. There is also an Unessay assignment, which includes a midterm assignment and a finals week assignment. All due dates are contained within the syllabus, as well as in the modules on Canvas.

Course Objectives: In this course, I have identified some key learning objectives:

- 1) Students will learn about the histories and impacts of imperialism in the Middle East from the late 18th- early 21st centuries.
- 2) Students will demonstrate their understanding of how imperialism impacted the region through discussions in the forums and their Unessay project.
- 3) Students will engage with a variety of primary and secondary source materials, including contrasting Middle Eastern voices, to give them a wider sense of the variety of issues, ideas, and historical conclusions concerning this dynamic and influential region.

Course Expectations: As the instructor of this course, Prof. Stockdale is responsible for:

- 1) providing course materials that will assist and enhance your achievement of the stated course goals, and guidance in using those materials,
- 2) providing timely and helpful feedback within the stated guidelines,
- 3) assisting in maintaining a positive learning environment for everyone.

As a student in this course, you are responsible for:

- 1) engaging with the materials and completing all requirements of the course in a timely manner,
- 2) remaining attentive and engaged in the course,
- 3) assisting in maintaining a positive learning environment for everyone.

Required/Recommended Materials & Course Requirements

There are three books required for this class. You may purchase the books through the UNT Bookstore, access them from the UNT Library, or find them through other vendors of your choice. The books have been placed on Reserve in the UNT Library. There are also some film/videos in our modules, which are all available for streaming through our Canvas site and PPT files. A variety of primary sources are embedded into the course modules as well, complete with links for accessing them directly from Canvas. These include written, visual, and material sources. Alternative text is provided for all images. Closed Captioning is available for all required videos.

Required Books (in the order in which we will read them):

- 1) Riverbend, *Baghdad Burning*
- 2) Omar El Akkad, *One Day, Everyone Will Have Always Been Against This*
- 3) Marjane Satrapi, *The Complete Persepolis*

Required Films:

- 1) *Battle of Algiers* (1966, directed by Gillo Pontecorvo). You may [stream this online for free](#) through the UNT Media Library.
- 2) *Lessons of Darkness* (1992, directed by Werner Herzog). You may [stream this online for free](#) through the UNT Media Library.

Everything in the modules is required, unless otherwise indicated. I cannot stress enough how important it is for you to keep up and complete all your assigned readings as well as the PPT files and any embedded videos in them. You will be expected to integrate information from the readings and the modules into our Canvas discussions. If you have any trouble understanding any of the materials, feel free to bring this up with me and with your peers in the discussion forums, or reach out to me or Ms. Berry.

Our schedule for reading the books and watching the films is in the calendar section of this syllabus and in the Canvas modules. Guiding questions for each of the readings are integrated into the modules.

A note about some images in my PowerPoint slides: This course contains some copyrighted material, (website image) the use of which has not been specifically authorized by the copyright owner. I have determined this to be "fair use" of the copyrighted material as referenced and provided for in section 107 of the US Copyright Law. If you wish to use any copyrighted material from this document for purposes of your own that go beyond fair use, you must obtain express permission from the copyright owner.

Course Requirements:

| Graded Assignments | Points Possible | Percentage of Final Grade |
|---|--------------------------------|----------------------------------|
| Participation in Discussion Boards 5 Discussion Forums @ 50 points each. | 50 pts x 5= 250 points. | 50% |
| Midterm Unessay Preparation | 50 points | 10% |
| Final Unessay Project | 100 points | 40% |
| Total Points Possible | 400 points | 100% |

Grading:

Your grade for the course will be weighted as follows: Discussion forums – 50%, Midterm Unessay Preparation – 10%, Final Unessay Project – 40%. If you have any questions about your grades once received, please address those concerns with me, but wait at least 24 hours after receiving them. There is no curve in this class. Also, I do not give extra credit.

I will use the following scale for grades:

100-90% = A
89-80% = B
79-70% = C
69-60% = D
59-0% = F

I will post a rubric for the Unessay assignment by the end of the second week of the semester (January 23rd.)

Turning in assignments late: My general policy is that I do not accept late assignments. However, sometimes life throws us curve balls that make deadlines challenging. Please meet our deadlines, and please do not abuse my understanding. If something comes up to prevent you from turning things in on time, reach out to me, and we will work something out if it is appropriate to do so. *Make sure you know when things are due and have a plan for meeting your deadlines. Make your plan right now. Schedule your due dates into your calendar/planner.*

Content Warning:

This class will include discussions and materials of an adult nature. The histories that we will study will include difficult topics, such as imperialism, wars, racism, economic struggles, slavery, sexism, violence of many kinds, and other sensitive topics. Please reach out to Prof. Stockdale privately if you have concerns about the course material. It is IMPERATIVE that we discuss these topics in an adult, academic manner. Please maintain a respectful tone, especially when we are dealing with topics of a sensitive nature.

Course Prerequisites & Technology requirements for courses with digital materials:

There are NO course prerequisites for this course. This course has digital components. To fully participate in this class, students will need internet access to reference content on the Canvas Learning Management System. If circumstances change, you will be informed of other technical needs to access course content. Information on

how to be successful in a digital learning environment can be found at [Learn Anywhere](https://online.unt.edu/learn) (<https://online.unt.edu/learn>).

To be successful in this course, students should be proficient in creating.doc and/or .docx documents, downloading and uploading files – including .doc, .pdf, .ppt, .jpg, and other common file types, sending and receiving emails, and using the Canvas learning management system. You will need a computer and/or tablet and/or phone that is capable of smoothly running the UNT Canvas system, streaming videos and music through Canvas, the UNT Library, and other internet sites, and uploading/downloading files. You will need to be able to view .doc, .pdf, and .ppt files, as well as image files. (Canvas will provide this ability, but it is best if you can access these files from your own device, after downloading them.) Please contact me if you are having trouble with any of these skills or obtaining said technology. All images will have appropriate alternative text for accessibility.

Netiquette:

In this class, we will be engaging with one another via online communication using the discussion board. It is important that everyone be aware of online etiquette – known as ‘Netiquette’ – and treat each other with mutual respect. A helpful site for understanding appropriate online communication is Albion’s [“The Core Rules of Netiquette.”](#) Thank you in advance for using respectful and mature online communication skills.

Use of Generative AI:

Very Limited Use is Permissible. Throughout the semester, I expect 100% of your submitted work to be your own. I do NOT permit you to submit materials that have been generated using AI for discussion boards or the descriptive materials of your Unessay assignments. If you select to write a paper for your Unessay, you must write the paper without submitting AI generated materials. I have never used Gen AI to create course materials or in any of my research submissions. However, I sometimes use GenAI to brainstorm, calculate, or for random fact gathering, and I know that some people use it to help them clearly understand materials that they may need help understanding. I will always disclose how I use GenAI, and I expect the same from you. In accordance with the [UNT Honor Code](#), unauthorized use of GenAI tools is prohibited. Using GenAI content without proper credit or substituting your own work with GenAI work undermines the learning process and violates academic integrity. If you're unsure whether something is allowed, please seek clarification. I am always available to talk with you about proper AI use. If you have ideas about using AI to create Unessay materials, you must clear those with me in the Midterm Unessay Preparation assignment and/or discussions prior to submission.

Additional Important Information, including Assistance and UNT Policies

Technical Assistance: Part of working in the online environment involves dealing with the inconveniences and frustration that can arise when technology breaks down or does not perform as expected. Here at UNT we have a Student Help Desk that you can contact for help with Canvas or other technology issues.

UIT Help Desk: [UIT Student Help Desk site](#)

Email: helpdesk@unt.edu

Phone: 940-565-2324

In Person: Sage Hall, Room 330

Walk-In Availability: 8AM-5PM Monday-Friday

Telephone Availability: •Monday-Thursday: 8AM-9PM •Friday: 8AM-5PM •Saturday and Sunday: 11AM – 3PM

The UNT Library also has [laptops available for checkout](#).

For additional support, visit the [Canvas Student Guide](#).

Student Support Services:

UNT provides many resources to students to help ensure there are numerous outlets to turn to that wholeheartedly care for and are there for students in need, regardless of the nature of an issue or its severity. Listed below are several resources on campus that can support your academic success and well-being:

- [Student Health and Wellness Center](#)
- [Counseling and Testing Services](#)
- [UNT Care Team](#)
- [UNT Psychiatric Services](#)
- [CLASS Undergraduate Advising](#)
- [UNT One Stop](#) – where to go with questions about admissions, financial aid, scholarships, student accounts, and money management.
- [Registrar/Registration Issues](#)
- [Student Legal Services](#)
- [Career Center](#)
- [Student Affairs Programs & Services](#)
- [UNT Food Pantry](#)
- [First Generation Success Center](#)

[Academic Support Services are listed here.](#)

ADA Policy:

The University of North Texas makes reasonable accommodation for students with disabilities. To request accommodations, you must first register with the [Office of Disability Access](#) (ODA) by completing an application for services and providing documentation to verify your eligibility each semester. Once your eligibility is confirmed, you may request your letter of accommodation. ODA will then email your faculty a letter of reasonable accommodation, initiating a private discussion about your specific needs in the course.

You can request accommodations at any time, but it's important to provide ODA notice to your faculty as early as possible in the semester to avoid delays in implementation. Keep in mind that you must obtain a new letter of accommodation for each semester and meet with each faculty member before accommodations can be implemented in each class. You are strongly encouraged to meet with faculty regarding your accommodations during office hours or by appointment. Faculty have the authority to ask you to discuss your letter during their designated office hours to protect your privacy. For more information and to access resources that can support your needs, refer to the [Office of Disability Access](#) website (<https://studentaffairs.unt.edu/office-disability-access>).

Academic Integrity Policy:

Plagiarism, cheating, and other academic integrity violations 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, using Gen AI against our course policy (cited above), 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 Cardi B songs claiming to be her--this is plagiarism. If you are caught cheating or plagiarizing, you may be expelled from UNT. I have a *zero-tolerance* policy when it comes to cheating. If you are still unsure at any time during the semester as to what plagiarism is, please come and talk to me. You may read more about academic integrity here: <https://policy.unt.edu/policy/06-003>

Acceptable Student Behavior

Student behavior that interferes with an instructor's ability to conduct a class or other students' opportunity to learn is unacceptable and disruptive and will not be tolerated in any instructional

forum at UNT. Students engaging in unacceptable behavior will be directed to leave the class environment and the instructor may refer the student to the Dean of Students to consider whether the student's conduct violated the Code of Student Conduct. The University's expectations for student conduct apply to all instructional forums, including University and electronic classroom, labs, discussion groups, field trips, etc. Visit [UNT's Code of Student Conduct](#) to learn more.

Sexual Assault Prevention

UNT is committed to providing a safe learning environment free of all forms of sexual misconduct, including sexual harassment, sexual assault, domestic violence, dating violence, and stalking. Federal laws (Title IX and the Violence Against Women Act) and UNT policies prohibit discrimination on the basis of sex, and therefore prohibit sexual misconduct. If you or someone you know is experiencing sexual harassment, relationship violence, stalking, and/or sexual assault, there are campus resources available to provide support and assistance. UNT's Survivor Advocates can assist a student who has been impacted by violence by filing protective orders, completing crime victim's compensation applications, contacting professors for absences related to an assault, working with housing to facilitate a room change where appropriate, and connecting students to other resources available both on and off campus. The [Survivor Advocates](#) can be reached at SurvivorAdvocate@unt.edu or by calling the Dean of Students Office at 940-565-2648. Additionally, alleged sexual misconduct can be non-confidentially reported to [the Title IX Coordinator](#) at oeo@unt.edu or at (940) 565 2759.

Mandatory Reporting of Potential Title IX Violations:

As employees of UNT, Dr. Stockdale and Ms. Berry are both mandatory reporters of any potential Title IX violations. These include, but are not limited to sexual harassment and assault, interpersonal and domestic violence, and forbidden consensual relationships. We will also report alleged crimes and threats. Please keep this in mind before talking with us but also know that we are here to help you and direct you toward the resources that will keep you safe. We are non-biased and will approach issues as such.

Important Notice for F-1 Students taking Distance Education Courses Federal Regulation

To read detailed Immigration and Customs Enforcement regulations for F-1 students taking online courses, please go to the [Electronic Code of Federal Regulations website](#). The specific portion concerning distance education courses is located at [Title 8 CFR 214.2](#) Paragraph (f)(6)(i)(G).

The paragraph reads:

"(G) For F-1 students enrolled in classes for credit or classroom hours, no more than the equivalent of one class or three credits per session, term, semester, trimester, or quarter may be counted toward the full course of study requirement if the class is taken on-line or through distance education and does not require the student's physical attendance for classes, examination or other purposes integral to completion of the class. An on-line or distance education course is a course that is offered principally through the use of television, audio, or computer transmission including open broadcast, closed circuit, cable, microwave, or satellite, audio conferencing, or computer conferencing. If the F-1 student's course of study is in a language study program, no on-line or distance education classes may be considered to count toward a student's full course of study requirement."

University of North Texas Compliance

To comply with immigration regulations, an F-1 visa holder within the United States may need to

engage in an on-campus experiential component for this course. This component (which must be approved in advance by the instructor) can include activities such as taking an on-campus exam, participating in an on-campus lecture or lab activity, or other on-campus experience integral to the completion of this course.

If such an on-campus activity is required, it is the student's responsibility to do the following:

- (1) Submit a written request to the instructor for an on-campus experiential component within one week of the start of the course.
- (2) Ensure that the activity on campus takes place and the instructor documents it in writing with a notice sent to the International Student and Scholar Services Office. ISSS has a form available that you may use for this purpose. Because the decision may have serious immigration consequences, if an F-1 student is unsure about his or her need to participate in an on-campus experiential component for this course, s/he should contact [the UNT International Student and Scholar Services Office](#) (telephone 940-565-2195 or email internationaladvising@unt.edu) to get clarification before the one-week deadline.

Student Verification

UNT takes measures to protect the integrity of educational credentials awarded to students enrolled in distance education courses by verifying student identity, protecting student privacy, and notifying students of any special meeting times/locations or additional charges associated with student identity verification in distance education courses. [See UNT Policy 07-002 Student Identity Verification, Privacy, and Notification and Distance Education Courses.](#)

Emergency Notification & Procedures

UNT uses a system called [Eagle Alert](#) to quickly notify students with critical information in the event of an emergency (i.e., severe weather, campus closing, and health and public safety emergencies like chemical spills, fires, or violence). In the event of a university closure, please refer to Canvas for contingency plans for covering course materials. [Campus Closures Policy](#) (<https://policy.unt.edu/policy/15-006>).

Retention of Student Records

Student records pertaining to this course are maintained in a secure location by the instructor of record. Course work completed via the Canvas online system, including grading information and comments, is stored in a safe electronic environment for one year. Students have the right to view their individual record; however, information about student's records will not be divulged to other individuals without proper written consent. Students are encouraged to review the [Public Information Policy](#) and the [Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act](#) (FERPA) laws and the [University's policy on Records Management and Retention](#) for additional information.

Course Schedule

Because this is an asynchronous online course delivered through Canvas, all your required materials are available and/or listed on our Canvas course pages. Below is the information about your materials and deadlines for assignments. Please feel free to work ahead, turn in assignments early, and stay on top of things, so that you do not fall behind. Reach out to me and/or Ms. Berry for any help you may need.

Module 1: Introduction to Imperialism and Islamic Empires (January 12-January 30, 2026)

Read through all the PPT files in the Module and watch any assigned videos.

Assignments Due: Introduction, due 16 Jan 2026 by 11:59 PM
Discussion Board #1, due 30 Jan 2026 by 11:59PM

Module 2: European Empire arrives in the Middle East (February 2-February 20, 2026)

Read through all the PPT files in the Module and watch any assigned videos.

Read the book *Baghdad Burning* by Riverbend.

Assignment Due: Discussion Board #2, due 20th Feb 2026 by 11:59PM

Midterm Unessay Preparation (February 23-February 27, 2026)

Assignment Due: One-Page Description of your Unessay plans, due 27 Feb 2026 by 11:59 PM.

Module 3: World War I and its Aftermath (March 2-March 20, 2026)

Read through all the PPT files in the Module and watch any assigned videos.

Assignment: Discussion Board #3, due 20 Mar 2026 by 11:59PM

Module 4: Independence Movements, the Fight for Postcolonialism, and New Forms of Imperialism (March 23-April 10, 2026)

Read through all the PPT files in the Module and watch any assigned videos.

Watch the film *The Battle of Algiers*.

Read the book *One Day, Everyone Will Have Always Been Against This* by Omar el Akkad.

Assignment: Discussion Board #4, due 10 April 2026 by 11:59PM

Module 5: Endless Imperial Wars (April 13-May 1, 2026)

Read through all the PPT files in the Module and watch any assigned videos.

Watch the film *Lessons of Darkness*.

Read the book *The Complete Persepolis* by Marjane Satrapi.

Assignment: Discussion Board #5, due 1 May 2026 by 11:59 PM

Final Unessay Project is due 6 May 2026 by 11:59 PM.

Good luck this semester!

Please note: Dr. Stockdale reserves the right to change this syllabus.