



Faculty of Arts
School of Languages, Linguistics, Literatures and Cultures

ALMC 360.2
Topics in Muslim Literatures (Literature of Muslim Societies)
Fall 2019
TR 14:00 – 15:15 (ST 055)
COURSE OUTLINE

INSTRUCTOR'S NAME: Safaneh Mohaghegh Neyshabouri

OFFICE LOCATION: C220

OFFICE HOURS: Thursdays 3:20 – 4:20 pm or by appointment

TELEPHONE NUMBER: Please email

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DESCRIPTION

This is an interdisciplinary course that focuses on representations of **life in times of crisis, war, and major sociopolitical change** in modern novel, short story, and poetry by writers and poets in Muslim majority countries. Not all the authors are believers or practitioners of Islam, but their work is influenced by their experience of living in, or in close proximity to, cultures informed by Islam. The "texts" chosen are from a wide range of geographical areas, and all but one (Al-Qaeda's Kitchen), are translations from Arabic, Urdu, Turkish and Persian. This class is discussion heavy, and **it is important that you come to class having read the assigned readings.**

OBJECTIVES and OUTCOMES

The main objectives of this course are, for students to:

- To become acquainted with the diverse range of contemporary Literature from Muslim societies
- To understand the range of history and cultural nuances of Islamic cultures
- To identify the ways in which modern literature from Muslim societies reflects the complex and interconnected relationship between religion, colonialism, despotism and suffering
- To be able to contextualize literature
- To analyze texts through various theoretical lenses
- To evaluate texts in comparative terms
- To formulate their analysis of a text using multiple sources and theories
- To compose essays demonstrating their understanding of a text through close reading

To arrive at these objectives, students are asked to think about the following questions while reading the texts required for each session:

- 1) What do we know about the historical backdrop of the text?
- 2) What major sociohistorical events make up for the backdrop of this narrative?
- 3) How do major sociopolitical events affect the characters?
- 4) How do characters handle different situations?
- 5) What are the characters' relationship to their faith?
- 6) Does faith play a part in the way characters react to/ face adversities?
- 7) What sections of the text do you find more illuminating in terms of enhancing your understanding of a certain character/major event?
- 8) Did the text influence/change/ contribute to your own understanding of a specific Muslim society in any way?



Faculty of Arts

School of Languages, Linguistics, Literatures and Cultures

DISTRIBUTION OF GRADES

- 20% Participation/Discussion
- 15% Quizzes (5% each)
- 30% Reflection papers (15% each)
- 35% Final paper

GRADING SCALE

A+	97 – 100%	B+	84 – 87.99%	C+	71 – 74.99%	D+	58 – 61.99%
A	92 – 96.99%	B	79 – 83.99%	C	66 – 70.99%	D	50 – 57.99%
A-	88 – 91.99%	B-	75 – 78.99%	C-	62 – 65.99%	F	49.99% and below

REQUIRED TEXTS

Of these texts, the three novels are available at the university bookstore. The rest are short stories and poems that are available on D2L.

- *Woman at Point Zero* by Nawal El Saadawi (novel)
- *The Corpse Washer* by Sinan Antoon (novel)
- *Little Mountain* by Elias Khoury (novel)

- *Return to Haifa* by Ghassan Kanafani (short story)
- *Other Cities* by Liana Badr (short story)
- *Al-Qaeda; s Kitchen* by Fadia Faqir (short story)
- *Such a Story* by Sait Faik Abasiyanik (short story)
- *The Room with the Blue Light* by Ghulam Abbas (short story)
- *The Last Night* by Atoosa Afshin Navid (short story)
- *My China Doll* by Houshang Golshiri (short story)
- *The Corn Seller* by Zayd Muti' Dammaj (short story)
- *The Quilt* by Ismat Chughtai

- *My Beloved* by Forugh Farrokhzad (poem)
- *Wind up Doll* by Forugh Farrokhzad (poem)
- *Identity Card* by Mahmoud Darwish (poem)
- *Kiss* by Ramin Mazhar (poem)

RECOMMENDED TEXTS

COURSE NOTES

Warning: The texts that we discuss in this class can be disturbing to some for different reasons. The texts that we are reading sometimes describe war, violence, torture and rape, or controversial ideological and geopolitical issues.

Policy for Late Assignments:

Unless otherwise stated, no extensions will be granted on assignments except in cases of medical or personal distress. Failure to submit on time will result in a grade of F (zero).



Faculty of Arts
School of Languages, Linguistics, Literatures and Cultures

Failure to complete all of the required exams and assignments (including Engagement) may result in a grade of F (zero) in the course. If you complete all assignments but receive more than two Fs, the professor reserves the right to give you a final grade of F.

It is the student's responsibility to keep a copy of all assignments in case of loss by any cause.

Participation/Discussion:

This course is discussion heavy, which means that your presence in the class is required. The criteria for class participation grades include:

- Preparedness in having read assigned readings before class
- Reasonable frequency and quality of valuable and constructive participation in class discussions and debates
- Quality of analysis and contribution when speaking or asking questions in class

It is recommended that you place a clearly readable nametag in front of you during class sessions, so that the instructor can better associate your name with your participation and give you the participation grades you deserve. If a student feels that they have not participated enough in class discussions or did not get the chance to voice their opinion in class, they can supplement their participation by writing and emailing meaningful and well thought-out notes to the instructor.

Quizzes:

Quizzes are multiple choice questions that are handed out at the beginning of the session and cover the readings for that session plus any previous readings.

Reflection Papers:

You are required to write **two reflection papers** on two of the texts listed in the course timetable. You decide which of the texts you would like to write your reflection papers on. The papers should be two pages, double-spaced, with Times New Roman size 12 font, one inch margin on all sides and not less than 400, or more than 500 words. Each paper makes up for 15% of your grade. Each of your reflection papers should be submitted online through D2L's dropbox section **before the deadlines marked on the course outline**. You should submit your first reflection paper no later than **October 15**, and your second one no later than **Nov 26**.

Final Paper:

You are required to write a **paper** on a topic of your choice (but still based on one of the texts discussed in class). It is highly recommended that you check the appropriateness of your chosen topic with the instructor through email before writing on it. The final paper has to have at least one primary and three secondary academic sources. The primary source is a literary/artistic work that is the main subject of analysis, and secondary sources are any academic works that you use to strengthen your argument, for example by providing evidence, historical context, or theoretical frameworks. If you are confused about the acceptability of a secondary source, contact instructor.

Students are encouraged to start thinking about their subject for the final essay as soon as possible and discuss their ideas with me if they are unsure. The deadline for setting your topic is **Nov 7**.

The paper should be between 1250 to 1750 words. This is approximately between 5 to 7 pages, double-spaced, Times New Roman size 12 font, with one inch margins on all sides. This paper makes for 35% of your grade and is due on **December 5, 2019**. If for any reason you need an extension, you should notify me by email before the assignment is due, any such requests sent after the deadline will not be granted. Extensions are only given once and cannot be renegotiated. The penalty for late submission of assignments is 5% of the grade per day. Papers submitted more than five days later than the due date will receive "0".

The essays are graded based on the rubric that is available on D2L.

This course does not have a final exam.



Faculty of Arts

School of Languages, Linguistics, Literatures and Cultures

Course Technology

Students are welcome to bring portable word processing devices (tablets, laptops, airbooks, Acer, anything you got) to take notes in class. Using your device to go online for any reason – unless the instructor gives you direction to do so for class-related purposes – is prohibited and may result in having your privileges to use your device in class revoked and/or you being removed from the class. See the Student Code of Conduct Agreement for more details.

A D2L portal has been set up for this course that allows for group correspondence, course announcements, class materials, assignment submissions and grading, and other forms of communication. Students are expected to check D2L before class time for any last minute changes or cancellations. D2L only uses @ucalgary email addresses.

Student-Instructor Communication:

Appropriate communication procedures are described in detail in the Student Code of Conduct Agreement. The instructor's preferred means of communication is first by scheduled office hours, then by a pre-arranged meeting time (only if the professor's office hours conflict with another course), and then by email.

The instructor will endeavor to respond to emails within three business days after receiving the message. If the student emails a question that is fully addressed by the syllabus, Student Code of Conduct, or posted on D2L, the instructor will not reply. Therefore, if you don't receive a response within three business days, that probably means you can find the answer somewhere yourself. The instructor may respond to your email query with the request that you come meet with them in person to discuss. Please note, that the university's regular business hours are 8:30-4:30, Monday through Friday and excludes recognized holidays. See the Academic Schedule for more details:

<https://ucalgary.ca/pubs/calendar/current/academic-schedule.html>

Children in Class:

All exclusively breastfeeding babies are welcome in class as often as it is needed and the parent is welcome to nurse however is best for baby.

It is understood that occasionally childcare arrangements for toddlers and older children can fall through, and therefore you may bring your child to class. There is no need to inform the instructor beforehand. Bringing the child to class should be a last resort, not a permanent solution. If the child is sick, it is preferable that they do not come to class.

In all cases when a student brings a child to class, you must make every effort to arrive to class early, sit near the back and by a door, so that the child is settled before class begins. If they need attention or are disrupting the class, you can easily step outside with them. Once the child is settled again, you are most welcome to return to class.

Other students are asked not to interrupt the parent or attempt to draw the child's attention as this can end up being very disruptive and may upset the child (not to mention the parent!).

ACADEMIC MISCONDUCT

1. **Plagiarism** is a serious offence, the penalty for which is an F on the assignment and possibly also an F in the course, academic probation, or requirement to withdraw. Plagiarism exists when:

- a) the work submitted or presented was done, in whole or in part, by an individual other than the one submitting or presenting the work (this includes having another impersonate the student or otherwise substituting the work of another for one's own in an examination or test);
- b) parts of the work are taken from another source without reference to the original author;
- c) the whole work (e.g., an essay) is copied from another source, and/or
- d) a student submits or presents work in one course which has also been submitted in another course (although it may be completely original with that student) without the knowledge of or prior agreement of the instructor involved.

While it is recognized that scholarly work often involves reference to the ideas, data and conclusions of other scholars, intellectual honesty requires that such references be explicitly and clearly noted."



Faculty of Arts

School of Languages, Linguistics, Literatures and Cultures

Plagiarism occurs not only when direct quotations are taken from a source without specific acknowledgement but also when original ideas or data from the source are not acknowledged. A bibliography is insufficient to establish which portions of the student's work are taken from external sources; footnotes or other recognized forms of citation must be used for this purpose.

2. **Cheating** at tests or examinations includes but is not limited to dishonest or attempted dishonest conduct such as speaking to other candidates or communicating with them under any circumstances whatsoever; bringing into the examination room any textbook, notebook, memorandum, other written material or mechanical or electronic device not authorized by the examiner; writing an examination or part of it, or consulting any person or materials outside the confines of the examination room without permission to do so, or leaving answer papers exposed to view, or persistent attempts to read other students' examination papers.

3. **Other academic misconduct** includes, but is not limited to, tampering or attempts to tamper with examination scripts, class work, grades and/or class records; failure to abide by directions by an instructor regarding the individuality of work handed in; the acquisition, attempted acquisition, possession, and/or distribution of examination materials or information not authorized by the instructor; the impersonation of another student in an examination or other class assignment; the falsification or fabrication of clinical or laboratory reports; the non-authorized tape recording of lectures.

4. Any student who voluntarily and consciously aids another student in the commission of one of these offences is also guilty of academic misconduct.

COPYRIGHT LEGISLATION

All students are required to read the University of Calgary policy on Acceptable Use of Material Protected by Copyright (<https://www.ucalgary.ca/policies/files/policies/acceptable-use-of-material-protected-by-copyright.pdf>) and requirements of the copyright act (<https://laws-lois.justice.gc.ca/eng/acts/C-42/index.html>) to ensure they are aware of the consequences of unauthorised sharing of course materials (including instructor notes, electronic versions of textbooks etc.). Students who use material protected by copyright in violation of this policy may be disciplined under the Non-Academic Misconduct Policy.

FREEDOM OF INFORMATION AND PRIVACY (FOIP) ACT

Graded assignments will be retained by the Department for three months and subsequently sent for confidential shredding. Final examinations will be kept for one calendar year and subsequently sent for confidential shredding. Said material is exclusively available to the student and to the department staff requiring to examine it. Please see <https://www.ucalgary.ca/legalservices/foip> for complete information on the disclosure of personal records.

ACADEMIC ACCOMMODATIONS

It is the student's responsibility to request academic accommodations according to the University policies and procedures listed below. The student accommodation policy can be found at: <https://www.ucalgary.ca/access/accommodations/policy>.

Students needing an Accommodation because of a Disability or medical condition should communicate this need to Student Accessibility Services in accordance with the Procedure for Accommodations for Students with Disabilities (<https://www.ucalgary.ca/policies/files/policies/procedure-for-accommodations-for-students-with-disabilities.pdf>).

Students needing an Accommodation in relation to their coursework or to fulfil requirements for a graduate degree, based on a Protected Ground other than Disability, should communicate this need, preferably in writing, to their Instructor or the Department Head/Dean or to the designated contact person in their Faculty.

FACULTY OF ARTS PROGRAM ADVISING AND STUDENT INFORMATION RESOURCES

Have a question, but not sure where to start?

The Arts Students' Centre is the overall headquarters for undergraduate programs in the Faculty of Arts. The key objective of this office is to connect students with whatever academic assistance they may require.



Faculty of Arts

School of Languages, Linguistics, Literatures and Cultures

In addition to housing the Associate Dean (Undergraduate Programs and Student Affairs) and the Associate Dean (Teaching, Learning & Student Engagement), the Arts Students' Centre is the specific home to:

- Program advising
- Co-op Education Program
- Arts and Science Honours Academy
- Student Help Desk

Location: Social Sciences Room 102

Phone: 403-220-3580

Email: ascarts@ucalgary.ca

Website: arts.ucalgary.ca/undergraduate.

For registration (add/drop/swap), paying fees and assistance with your Student Centre, contact Enrolment Services at 403-210-ROCK [7625] or visit them at the MacKimmie Block.

Contacts for the Students' Union Representative for the Faculty of Arts: arts1@su.ucalgary.ca, arts2@su.ucalgary.ca, arts3@su.ucalgary.ca, arts4@su.ucalgary.ca.

INTERNET AND ELECTRONIC COMMUNICATION DEVICES

Devices such as laptops, palmtops and smartbooks are allowed provided that they are used exclusively for instructional purposes and do not cause disruption to the instructor and to fellow students. Cellular telephones, blackberries and other mobile communication tools are not permitted and must be switched off.

SUPPORT AND RESOURCES

A link to required information that is not course-specific related to student wellness and safety resources, can be found on the Office of the Registrar's website: <https://www.ucalgary.ca/registrar/registration/course-outlines>.

Class Schedule:

Note: the details of each week's readings are tentative, and open to minor changes.

Date	Subject	Reading	Assignment
Sep 5	Class Introduction		
Sep 10	Iraq	<i>The Corpse Washer</i> (Antoon) p.1-47	
Sep 12	Iraq	<i>The Corpse Washer</i> (Antoon) p. 48-99	
Sep 17	Iraq	<i>The Corpse Washer</i> (Antoon) p. 99-141	
Sep 19	Iraq	<i>The Corpse Washer</i> (Antoon) p. 142-182	
Sep 24	Jordan	<i>Al-Qaeda's Kitchen</i> (Faqir)	Quiz 1
Sep 26	Turkey	<i>Such a Story</i> (Abasiyanik)	
Oct 1	Palestine	<i>Return to Haifa</i> (Kanafani)	



UNIVERSITY OF
CALGARY

Faculty of Arts

School of Languages, Linguistics, Literatures and Cultures

Oct 3	Palestine	<i>Identity Card</i> (Darwish)	
Oct 8	Palestine	<i>Other Cities</i> (Badr)	
Oct 10	Lebanon	<i>Little Mountain</i> Chapters 1,2 & 3 (Khoury)	
Oct 15	Lebanon	<i>Little Mountain</i> Chapters 4 & 5 (Khoury)	Reflection paper 1 due by this date
Oct 17	Afghanistan	<i>Kiss</i> (Mazhar)	Quiz 2
Oct 22	Pakistan	<i>The Room with the Blue Light</i> (Abbas)	
Oct 24		Writing a paper Workshop at the Library	
Oct 29		Writing a paper Workshop at the Library	
Oct 31	Egypt	<i>Woman at Point Zero</i> (El Saadawi) p.	
Nov 5	Egypt	<i>Woman at Point Zero</i> (El Saadawi) p.	
Nov 7	Catch up	Set final paper topic by this date	Quiz 3
Nov 12	Reading Week	No Class	
Nov 14	Reading Week	No Class	
Nov 19	Iran	<i>The Last Night</i> (Afshin Navid)	
Nov 21	Iran	<i>My China Doll</i> (Golshiri)	
Nov 26	Iran	<i>Wind up Doll and My Beloved</i> (Forugh)	Reflection paper 2 due by this date
Nov 28	Saudi Arabia	<i>Had I Been Male</i> (Khayyat) <i>School Diaries</i> (al-Bishir)	
Dec 3	Yemen	<i>The Corn Seller</i> (Dammaj)	
Dec 5	Recap		Final paper due