



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

ALMC 359  
Literature of Muslim Societies  
Fall 2018

COURSE OUTLINE

**INSTRUCTOR'S NAME:** Safaneh Mohaghegh Neyshabouri

**OFFICE LOCATION:** CHC 202

**OFFICE HOURS:** TBA

**TELEPHONE NUMBER:** 403-210-7650

**E-MAIL:** safaneh.mohagheghney@ucalgary.ca

**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, poetry and film by writers, poets and film makers 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 and Persian. This class is discussion heavy, and **it is important that you come to class having read the assigned readings.**

**OBJECTIVES**

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

**DISTRIBUTION OF GRADES**

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

**Note:** there are no group / team projects in this course

**This course does not have a final exam.**



Faculty of Arts

School of Languages, Linguistics, Literatures and Cultures

**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)
  
- *Zaabalawi* by Naguib Mahfouz (short story)
- *Return to Haifa* by Ghassan Kanafani (short story)
- *Other Cities* by Liana Badr (short story)
- *Al-Qaeda's Kitchen* by Fadia Faqir (short story))
  
- *My Beloved* by Forugh Farrokhzad (poem)
- *Identity Card* by Mahmoud Darwish (poem)
  
- *The Patience Stone* by Aqiq Rahimi (film)
- *A Separation* by Asghar Farhadi (film)

**RECOMMENDED TEXTS**

**COURSE NOTES**

To achieve the course 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?

**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. *The Patience Stone* movie is R rated for sexual content, some violence and language. The film "*A Separation*" is PG-13. If you find that you are unable to work with this content, please consider not taking/dropping this class.

**Participation/Discussion:**

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



## Faculty of Arts

### School of Languages, Linguistics, Literatures and Cultures

- 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 (or the films) 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, printed on white letter sized paper, 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 beginning of the session** in which your chosen text is discussed. You should submit your first reflection paper no later than **October 23**, and your second one no later than **Nov 27**.

#### 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 the 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 8**.

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 6, 2018**. 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.

#### 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



## Faculty of Arts

### School of Languages, Linguistics, Literatures and Cultures

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."

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.

#### **ACADEMIC ACCOMMODATIONS**

The student accommodation policy can be found at: [ucalgary.ca/access/accommodations/policy](http://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 [ucalgary.ca/policies/files/policies/student-accommodation-policy](http://ucalgary.ca/policies/files/policies/student-accommodation-policy).

Students needing an Accommodation based on a Protected Ground other than Disability, should communicate this need, preferably in writing, to the course instructor.

#### **EMERGENCY EVACUATION ASSEMBLY POINTS**

Craigie Hall: Professional Faculties food court (alternate: Education Block food court)

Education Block and Tower: Scurfield Hall atrium (alternate: Professional Faculties food court)

Kinesiology: north courtyard, MacEwan Student Centre (alternate: University Theatres lobby)

For the complete list of assembly points please consult

<http://www.ucalgary.ca/emergencyplan/assemblypoints>

#### **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.

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



## Faculty of Arts

### School of Languages, Linguistics, Literatures and Cultures

Location: Social Sciences Room 102  
Phone: 403-220-3580  
Email: [ascarts@ucalgary.ca](mailto:ascarts@ucalgary.ca)  
Website: [arts.ucalgary.ca/undergraduate](http://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](mailto:arts1@su.ucalgary.ca), [arts2@su.ucalgary.ca](mailto:arts2@su.ucalgary.ca), [arts3@su.ucalgary.ca](mailto:arts3@su.ucalgary.ca), [arts4@su.ucalgary.ca](mailto:arts4@su.ucalgary.ca).

#### **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 <http://www.ucalgary.ca/secretariat/privacy> for complete information on the disclosure of personal records.

#### **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.

#### **SAFEWALK**

To request a Safewalk escort anywhere on campus, 24 hours a day and seven days a week, please call 403-220-5333 or use one of the Help Phones.

Web: <http://www.ucalgary.ca/security/safewalk>

#### **STUDENT UNION INFORMATION**

Representatives and contact details: <http://www.su.ucalgary.ca/home/contact.html>

Student Ombudsman: <http://www.su.ucalgary.ca/services/student-services/student-rights.html>

#### **WRITING ACROSS THE CURRICULUM**

Writing skills should cross all disciplines. Students are expected to do a substantial amount of writing in their courses and, where appropriate, instructors can and should use writing and the grading thereof as a factor in the evaluation of student work. The services provided by the Writing Centre in the Effective Writing Office (<http://www.efwr.ucalgary.ca/>) can be utilized by all undergraduate and graduate students who feel they require further assistance.

#### **Class Schedule:**

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

Date	Subject	Reading	Assignment
Thursday, Sep 6	Class Introduction		
Tuesday, Sep 11	Egypt	<i>Woman at Point Zero</i> (El Saadawi)	
Thursday, Sep 13	Egypt	<i>Woman at Point Zero</i> (El Saadawi)	
Tuesday, Sep 18	Egypt	<i>Woman at Point Zero</i> (El Saadawi)	



Faculty of Arts

School of Languages, Linguistics, Literatures and Cultures

Thursday, Sep 20	Egypt	<i>Zaabalawi</i> (Mahfuz)	Quiz 1
Tuesday, Sep 25	Lebanon	<i>Little Mountain</i> (Khoury)	
Thursday, Sep 27	Lebanon	<i>Little Mountain</i> (Khoury)	
Tuesday, Oct 2	Lebanon	<i>Little Mountain</i> (Khoury)	Quiz 2
Thursday, Oct 4	Lebanon	<i>Little Mountain</i> (Khoury)	
Tuesday, Oct 9	Palestine	<i>Return to Haifa</i> (Kanafani)	
Thursday, Oct 11	Palestine	<i>Return to Haifa</i> (Kanafani)	
Tuesday, Oct 16	Palestine	<i>Identity Card</i> (Darwish)	
Thursday, Oct 18	Palestine	<i>Other Cities</i> (Badr)	
Tuesday, Oct 23	Jordan	<i>Al-Qaeda's Kitchen</i> (Faqir)	Reflection paper 1 due
Thursday, Oct 25	Iraq	<i>The Corpse Washer</i> (Antoon)	
Tuesday, Oct 30	Iraq	<i>The Corpse Washer</i> (Antoon)	
Thursday, Nov 1	Iraq	<i>The Corpse Washer</i> (Antoon)	Quiz 3
Tuesday, Nov 6	Iraq	<i>The Corpse Washer</i> (Antoon)	
Thursday, Nov 8	Catch up	Set final paper topic by this date	
Tuesday, Nov 13	Reading Week	No Class	
Thursday, Nov 15	Reading Week	No Class	
Tuesday, Nov 20	Afghanistan	Film: <i>The Patience Stone</i> (Rahimi)	
Thursday, Nov 22	Afghanistan	Film: <i>The Patience Stone</i> (Rahimi)	
Tuesday, Nov 27	Iran	<i>My Beloved</i> (Forugh)	Reflection paper 2 due
Thursday, Nov 29	Iran	Film: <i>A Separation</i> (Farhadi)	
Tuesday, Dec 4	Iran	Film: <i>A Separation</i> (Farhadi)	
Thursday, Dec 6	Recap		Final paper due