



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

ALMC 360.3  
Literature of Muslim Societies

Winter 2020  
TR 15:30-16:45  
COURSE OUTLINE

**Instructor's Name:** Dr. Safaneh Mohaghegh Neyshabouri

**Office location:** SS1226

**Office hours:** Thursdays 12:00 – 1:00 pm

**Telephone number:** Please email

**E-mail:** [safaneh.mohagheghney@ucalgary.ca](mailto:safaneh.mohagheghney@ucalgary.ca)

### **Land Acknowledgment**

The University of Calgary resides upon the traditional territories of the people of the Treaty 7 region in Southern Alberta, which includes the Blackfoot Confederacy (comprising the Siksika, Piikani, and Kainai First Nations), the Tsuut'ina First Nation, and the Stoney Nakoda (including the Chiniki, Bearspaw, and Wesley First Nations). The City of Calgary is also home to Métis Nation of Alberta, Region III. The University of Calgary is situated on land adjacent to where the Bow River meets the Elbow River, and that the traditional Blackfoot name of this place is "Moh'kins'tsis", which we now call the City of Calgary.

*ii' taa'poh'to'p*, the Blackfoot name of the University of Calgary's Indigenous Strategy, was bestowed and transferred in ceremony by Kainai Elder, Andy Black Water on June 21, 2017. The name signifies a place to rejuvenate and re-energize while on a journey. Traditionally, these places are recognized as safe, caring, restful - and offer renewed energy for an impending journey. In a traditional naming ceremony, transitioning into the new name is a journey of transformation towards self-actualization.

### **Course Description**

This course looks into a number of texts by contemporary writers from the Muslim diaspora. The texts focus on experiences of immigration, displacement and growing up brown in North America and Europe. Not all the authors are believers or practitioners of Islam, but their work is influenced by Islamicate cultural heritage and traditions. The texts are all written in English, except for *Persepolis* which was originally written in French. 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 by writers from the Muslim diaspora
- To understand the range of cultural nuances of various Muslim diasporic cultures
- 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 sociopolitical backdrop of the text?
- 2) How do major sociopolitical events affect the characters?



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- 3) What are the characters' relationship to their faith?
- 4) What do "home" and "belonging" mean to the characters?
- 5) How do the characters understand/define their identities?
- 6) Did the text influence/change/ contribute to your understanding of the meaning of "home"?

Distribution of Grades

- 15% Participation/Discussion
- 10% Quizzes (5% each)
- 20% Reflection papers (10% each)
- 20% Final Paper Proposal
- 35% Final paper

Grade 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

- *Out of Place* by Edward W. Said (bookstore)
- *Funny in Farsi* by Firoozeh Dumas (bookstore)
- *Intolerable* by Kamal Al-Solaylee (buy it yourself)
- "Playing Metal Gear Solid V: the Phantom Pain" by Jamil Jan Kochai (short story)  
<https://www.newyorker.com/magazine/2020/01/06/playing-metal-gear-solid-v-the-phantom-pain>
- "Other Mothers, Other Sons" by Mehdi Tavana Okasi and "Fixer Karim" by Salar Abdoh from *Tremors* (Available on D2L)
- *Persepolis* by Marjane Satrapi (bookstore)
- *Lipstick Jihad* by Azadeh Moaveni (bookstore)
- "The Other Iran-Iraq War" by Ibrahim Al-Marashi from *Salaam Love: American Muslim Men on Love, Sex and Intimacy* (Available on D2L)
- *What We Owe* by Golnaz Hashemzadeh Bonde (bookstore)
- *No Friend but the Mountains* by Behrouz Boochani (Bookstore/Buy it yourself)

Recommended Texts

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Course Notes

All assignments must be submitted to Dropbox on D2L. The assignments must be submitted in word or Pdf format. Please keep in mind that it is your responsibility to make sure you have access to D2L and to solve any technical issues you may have.

If you need extension on any of the deadlines, make sure to let the instructor know at least two weeks in advance of the deadline (this does not apply to cases of medical or personal distress).



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#### 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.

#### 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. The first one is on **February 4**, 2020. The second quiz is on **March 31**, 2020.

#### 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 10% of your grade. Each of your reflection papers should be submitted online through D2L's dropbox section. You should submit your first reflection paper no later than **February 13, 2020 (11:59 pm)** and your second one no later than **April 7, 2020 (11:59 pm)**.

#### Final Paper:

You are required to write a **paper** on a topic of your choice (but still based on one or more 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 text 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 the instructor if they are unsure. **The deadline for setting your topic and submitting your final paper proposal and literature review is March 24.** Suggested topics are available on D2L. Instruction on writing a proposal are also available on D2L.

The final 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 **April 21, 2020**. 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.**



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#### 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;



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- 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."

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.



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#### 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

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).

#### 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	Reading	Assignment
Jan 14	Class Introduction	
Jan 16	<i>Out of Place</i>	
Jan 21	<i>Out of Place</i>	
Jan 23	<i>Out of Place</i>	
Jan 28	<i>Funny in Farsi</i>	
Jan 30	<i>Funny in Farsi</i>	
Feb 4	<i>Intolerable</i>	Quiz 1
Feb 6	<i>Intolerable</i>	



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Feb 11	<i>Playing Metal Gear Solid V</i>	
Feb 13	“Other Mothers, Other Sons”	Reflection paper 1 due
Feb 18	Reading week	
Feb 20	Reading Week	
Feb 25	<i>Persepolis</i>	
Feb 27	<i>Persepolis</i>	
Mar 3	<i>Persepolis</i>	
Mar 5	“Fixer Karim”	
Mar 10		Paper writing Workshop
Mar 12		Paper writing Workshop
Mar 17	<i>Lipstick Jihad</i>	
Mar 19	<i>Lipstick Jihad</i>	
Mar 24	“The Other Iran-Iraq War”	Paper Proposal and Literature Review due
Mar 26	<i>What We Owe</i>	
Mar 31	<i>What We Owe</i>	Quiz 2
Apr 2	<i>No Friend but the Mountains</i>	
Apr 7	<i>No Friend but the Mountains</i>	Reflection paper 2 due by this date
Apr 9	<i>No Friend but the Mountains</i>	
Apr 14	Recap	