Course Outline

Instructor: Dr. Safaneh Mohaghegh Neyshabouri
Office: SS 1226
Email: safaneh.mohagheghney@ucalgary.ca
Office Hours: Zoom by appointment through Calendly link

Land Acknowledgement

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, Bearsawl, 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.

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 focuses on political, theoretical and pragmatic dimensions of feminist consciousness in the Islamic world. First, we critically examine the orientalist representations of women in Muslim societies as repressed and yet sexualized, and how these representations contributed to the stereotype of Muslim women as being in need of liberation. Second, we seek insight from within Islamic societies by looking at the complex and interconnected relationship between these societies’ feminist movements and their nationalist movements within the context of their broader political evolution.

Women’s rights and roles have today gained a prominent place in the theological conversations and political debates that are taking place among the elite and clergy in regards to political and Islamic reform. The Islamic societies that we discuss as case studies (e.g., Algeria, Egypt, Iran, etc.) are diverse and geographically expansive in order to showcase both the unity and diversity within Islam and within feminist currents in those societies.

Prerequisites: There are no prerequisites for this course
Course Learning Outcomes
Through lectures, class discussions, readings, and other material, this course aims to create an inviting and inquisitive learning space for all the participants.

The objectives of this course are:
- To become informed of the issues of orientalism scholarship regarding Islam in general, and women in Muslim societies in particular.
- To identify the theoretical frameworks that enable us to understand gender issues in Muslim societies covered in this class.
- To investigate the feminist movements in different Islamicate societies and learn about their historical context.
- To analyze complex and interconnected relationship between these societies’ feminist movements and their nationalist movements within the context of their broader political evolution.

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

1) Describe the text. What is the text about? What do we know about the author of the text and the historical backdrop of the text? For whom is the author writing?
2) What is the argument? What claims is the author making about Islam and about women? Does the author imply something?
3) What support does the author use in presenting their view? How does the author make their argument and what is their positionality?
4) What is your evaluation of the author’s claims and arguments? Does the author convince you? Do you agree/disagree with their arguments and claims regarding Islam and women?
5) What is new for you in this reading? Do any of the author’s claims, arguments, positions excite or disturb you? Does the reading influence/change/contribute to your own position in any way?

WARNING: Religious texts discussed in this course are examined for their cultural significance and their influence in the societies and countries covered in this course, and not studied as sacred scripture. Discussion of issues pertaining to religion can be of sensitive nature for some, so we ask that all students maintain a respectful tone in class discussions. This class respects difference and diversity while welcoming thoughtful, critical debate and discussion.

Required/Recommended Texts (including electronic resources):
All texts are available online through the University of Calgary Library or on D2L. For more details check the course outline.

Grade scale:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Grade</th>
<th>Range</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>A+</td>
<td>96 – 100%</td>
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<tr>
<td>A</td>
<td>90 – 95.99%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>A -</td>
<td>85 – 89.99%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>B+</td>
<td>80 – 84.99%</td>
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<tr>
<td>B</td>
<td>75 – 79.99%</td>
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<tr>
<td>B -</td>
<td>70 – 74.99%</td>
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<tr>
<td>C+</td>
<td>65 – 69.99%</td>
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<tr>
<td>C</td>
<td>60 – 64.99%</td>
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<td>C -</td>
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<td>D+</td>
<td>53 – 54.99%</td>
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<tr>
<td>D</td>
<td>50 – 52.99%</td>
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<tr>
<td>F</td>
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Grade Breakdown:

<table>
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<tr>
<th>Assessment</th>
<th>Weight</th>
</tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Participation/Discussion</td>
<td>15%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Quiz 1</td>
<td>5%</td>
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</tbody>
</table>
Quiz 2 5% Oct 18
Group presentation 15% Between Nov 17 - Dec 1
Group Presentation Report 25% Dec 17
Peer Evaluation 10% Dec 10
Group test based on texts 20% Nov 15
Group test based on presentations 5% Dec 6

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 to discussion

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:
This class has 4 sections. There are two quizzes after the end of the first two sections. The quizzes are in multiple choice format and the students will take them in class. The first quiz is on October 4, 2022; and the second one is on October 18, 2022.

Group Project:
All the different components of the group project make for 50% of your final grade. You are required to work in groups of 5 people (depending on the size of the class this can change) to work on one of the topics suggested on a list available on D2L. No two groups can work on the same topic, and topics are allocated to whichever group first requests them. You should check your choice with the instructor before starting to work on it. A representative of your group should email the instructor and provide her with the names of all the members of the group and the country/topic you have chosen to research on. The division of the 50% is as follows: 15% is given to the presentation. The presentation should be between 15-20 minutes; 25% of the grade is given to the report written by the group; and 10% is given to each person individually based on peer evaluation.

Presentations=>
Each presentation should take between 15-20 minutes, and extra 5 minutes is given for Q and A.

Presentation Report=>
The report of the presentation should be in the format of a paper with introduction, body structured with appropriate headings and subheadings, conclusion and references. It should be no less than 1250 words, and no more than 2500 words.

Peer evaluation=>
After your group project is over, group members may submit a numerical evaluation of the contribution of their fellow team members on a scale of 0 to 10 to the instructor (10
being the best). Your average evaluation out of 10 will be the percentage out of 10 you get on this grade item. Submitting peer evaluations is optional. Anyone who does not submit an evaluation is assumed to be giving a 10 out of 10 evaluation for all of their fellow team members. The deadline to submit peer evaluations (by email to the instructor) is indicated in the course timetable.

In order to send your peer evaluation, simply email the course instructor with the subject line “WMST 303.1 L1 Peer Evaluation” and in the body of your email use the following template:

Overall evaluation of FIRST TEAM MEMBER FIRST NAME LAST NAME: X/10
Overall evaluation of SECOND TEAM MEMBER FIRST NAME LAST NAME: X/10
…
Overall evaluation of LAST TEAM MEMBER FIRST NAME LAST NAME: X/10
Comments: _________________________________

The instructor reserves the right to adjust peer evaluation grades based on her own investigation into issues of team conflict etc.

Note: Your papers and reports should follow MLA in referencing and format, typed in Times New Roman size 12 font, double-spaced, with one inch margins on all sides. The group representative should submit the report to D2L. Make sure to write the full names of all members on the first page of the report.

Group Tests: On November 15 a test with 3 questions will be handed to each group. The questions are based on readings from the course. Each group picks 2 questions and works on the answers together. On December 6, a test with 2 questions based on presentations will be handed to each group. Each group picks one question and works on the answer together.

This course does not have a registrar-scheduled final exam.

WOMEN’S STUDIES COURSE CONDUCT

Student Conduct

A Student Code of Conduct Agreement, available on D2L, is part of this course. It is a required component of the class (see “Engagement”). Students are expected to attend class regularly. They must come prepared and ready to work.

Responsibility for fulfilling the requirements for all aspects of the course resides with the student. The professor will not give out lecture notes, repeat information, nor provide replacement copies of material provided during regular class meetings.

Students must adhere to the Principles of Conduct, both Academic and Non-Academic, as outlined in the University of Calgary Calendar: ucalgary.ca/pubs/calendar/current/k.html

Course Technology

Students are welcome to bring portable word processing devices (tablets, laptops, etc.) 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. If the instructor directs you to put away your
devices, you must do so promptly. All sounds and notifications must be turned off during class time, unless you have a private agreement with the instructor.

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 of 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.* If you don’t receive a response within three business days, you can likely find the answer yourself. The instructor may respond to your email query with the request that you meet 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: [ucalgary.ca/pubs/calendar/current/academic-schedule.html](http://ucalgary.ca/pubs/calendar/current/academic-schedule.html)

**IMPORTANT PROGRAM, DEPARTMENTAL, FACULTY AND UNIVERSITY INFORMATION**

**Women’s Studies Program Course Policies**

Respect difference and diversity while welcoming thoughtful, critical debate and discussion. No one person’s right to their beliefs may supersede another person’s right to security and dignity.

When in a classroom dedicated to social justice education, conflict will happen. That is part of a healthy, dynamic, questioning space of learning and discovery. You are encouraged to hold onto your own personal beliefs, but recognize that there will be differences of opinion and experience.

A university classroom holds high standards of research, evidence, and analytical proof. Students need to listen attentively, respectfully, and critically to the evidence provided in class lectures, readings, discussions, and other materials.

Some of the materials and topics may include explicit content (violence; sexuality; profanity; blasphemy; objectionable or illegal conduct). If you feel any materials may cause you distress or severe discomfort, you are encouraged to speak with the professor and/or to take measures to ensure that you feel braver in the classroom. You will not be exempt from any assigned work, but we will work together to accommodate your concerns.

If you feel that you need more support than can be provided by the classroom or the instructor, you are encouraged to take advantage of some of these resources:

- **SU Student Wellness Services**
  [ucalgary.ca/wellnesscentre](http://ucalgary.ca/wellnesscentre) 403-210-9355 / 403-266-4357
- **Alberta Mental Health Help Line**
- **Calgary Communities Against Sexual Abuse Hotline**
  [calgarycasa.com](http://calgarycasa.com) 403-237-5888
Trained peer supporters are also available on campus:

- **Women’s Resource Centre**
  
  ucalgary.ca/women

  4th Floor, MacEwan Student Centre, in The Loft

- **Q Centre for Gender and Sexual Diversity**
  
  su.ucalgary.ca/programs-services/student-services/the-q-centre

  2nd Floor, MacEwan Hall, near The Den

- **Faith and Spirituality Centre**
  
  ucalgary.ca/fsc

  3rd Floor, MacEwan Student Centre

- **Writing Symbols Lodge**
  
  https://live-ucalgary.ucalgary.ca/student-services/writing-symbols/home

  3rd Floor, MacEwen Student Centre

For more resources, you are encouraged to consult the Campus Mental Health Strategy:

ucalgary.ca/mentalhealth

If you have a serious concern about the instructor’s conduct, you may speak in full confidence to the Department of Philosophy phildept@ucalgary.ca. Please note, the Women’s Studies program is administered by the Department of Philosophy.

**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!)

**Braver Space Guidelines**

“Braver Space” principles recognize that everyone brings different resiliencies and capacities to a group setting. We must all bring our personal bravery into the classroom space, and be mindful of what that means specifically to us. This does not mean sharing or participating in a way that violates personal boundaries (yours or another person’s), nor cajoling others into participating in ways that are not conducive to their personal bravery. It means **being respectful, self-aware, and mindful of the classroom dynamic and your place in it.** Some guidelines include:

- Do not make assumptions about other people’s identities and life experiences. That includes (but is not limited to) race, gender, sexuality, physical ability, mental and emotional well-being, spirituality or religiosity, age, citizenship status, and reproductive capabilities.

- Recognize that language is a powerful tool in social justice education. It also changes as new issues and greater clarity develop. If you need to correct language use, do so respectfully; if you are corrected, accept that correction respectfully.
• Becoming self-aware is a continual process, and everyone is at a different point on their personal journey. Individuals make mistakes. Our assumption in this classroom is that we are all moving forward with our best intentions. If someone says something that may be construed to be problematic, we will raise questions and/or concerns about the language, not about the person.

• Make an effort to speak from the position of “I” (not the generalized “you” or “people”) and to clarify any statements you make, using verifiable evidence and experience. Making a sweeping judgment on a class or group of people is unacceptable.

• Address people without assuming their gender. Some ways to do this:
  o Don’t refer to groups as guys, ladies, women, men, etc. Instead, use gender-neutral terms like “folks,” “all,” “everyone,” etc.
  o Refer to individuals whose gender has not been disclosed to you in gender-neutral ways such as “the person who said…”

• Address people using the gender pronouns they have indicated for themselves. Offer your gender pronouns to others to make it a braver space to talk about gender pronouns. Some gender pronouns include, but are not limited to:
  o they/them/theirs
  o she/her/hers
  o ze/hir/hirs
  o he/him/his
  o ey/em/eirs

• Similarly, if you are unsure about any aspect of a person’s identity and how they would prefer to be addressed, ask respectfully. This can apply to Indigeneity, race or ethnicity, faith or spirituality, physical or mental ability, or other vectors of their identity. When speaking in more general terms, if you are corrected, accept the correction graciously. If you are questioned about your choice of general or self-identification, provide a succinct and respectful explanation.

• Provide discrete and succinct content warnings if you will be talking about topics that may be traumatic for some and the content is not already apparent. Examples of such topics include abuse, violence, addiction, suicide, mental health, transphobia/homophobia/other forms of discriminatory behaviours. An example of wording could be, “Please note that there will be (x) content in my discussion.”

• Respect your own and others’ physical, mental, and emotional boundaries. Please speak up in a respectful way if you are uncomfortable, seek support if you want/need it, and engage in self-care as required, while still maintaining your commitment and focus on the participatory classroom.

About the Women’s Studies Program

The Women’s Studies Program offers Major, Minor, and Honours undergraduate degrees. Housed in the Department of Philosophy, the program is dedicated to offering students a feminist social justice classroom where we can bravely explore issues relating to gender and sexual equity and diversity from many perspectives. For more information, contact the program coordinator (wmstprog@ucalgary.ca) and check out our listing on the Faculty of Arts website: arts.ucalgary.ca/womens-studies.

The University of Calgary has a number of student clubs and campus centres dedicated to issues of gender and sexual equity and diversity.

Consent Awareness and Sexual Education Club
Faith and Spirituality Centre
Writing Symbols Lodge
Queers on Campus
Q: The SU Centre for Gender and Sexual Diversity
Women in Leadership Club
Women’s Resource Centre
Women’s Studies and Feminism Club

The Women’s Studies program is administered by the Department of Philosophy. The Women’s Studies Program Coordinator is Joe Kadi (jkadi@ucalgary.ca / wmstprog@ucalgary.ca). The Head of the Department of Philosophy is Nicole Wyatt (nicole.wyatt@ucalgary.ca).

**Academic Accommodations**

It is the student’s responsibility to request academic accommodations according to the University policies and procedures. The student accommodation policy can be found at [ucalgary.ca/policies/files/policies/student-accommodation-policy.pdf](ucalgary.ca/policies/files/policies/student-accommodation-policy.pdf).

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/procedure-for-accommodations-for-students-with-disabilities.pdf](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.

**Absence or Missed Course Assessments**

Students who are absent from class assessments (tests, participation activities, or other assignments) should inform their instructors as soon as possible. Instructors may request that evidence in the form of documentation be provided. If the reason provided for the absence is acceptable, instructors may decide that any arrangements made can take forms other than make-up tests or assignments. For example, the weight of a missed grade may be added to another assignment or test. For information on possible forms of documentation, including statutory declarations, please see [ucalgary.ca/pubs/calendar/current/n-1.html](ucalgary.ca/pubs/calendar/current/n-1.html)

**Student Support and Resources**

Full details and information about the following resources can be found at [ucalgary.ca/Registrar/registration/course-outlines](ucalgary.ca/Registrar/registration/course-outlines)

- Wellness and Mental Health Resources
- Student Success Centre
- Student Ombuds Office
- Student Union (SU) Information
- Graduate Students’ Association (GSA) Information
- Emergency Evacuation/Assembly Points
- Safewalk

**Academic Advising**

If you are a student in the Faculty of Arts, you can speak to an academic advisor in the Arts Students’ Centre about course planning, course selection, registration, program progression and more. Visit the Faculty of Arts website at [arts.ucalgary.ca/advising](arts.ucalgary.ca/advising) for contact details and information regarding common academic concerns.
For questions specific to the philosophy program, please visit phil.ucalgary.ca. Further academic guidance is available by contacting David Dick (Undergraduate Program Director dgdick@ucalgary.ca) or Jeremy Fantl (Honours Advisor jfantl@ucalgary.ca). If you have questions regarding registration, please email Rebecca Lesser (Undergraduate Program Administrator phildept@ucalgary.ca).

You may find answers to your more specific questions about a degree in Women’s Studies at the University of Calgary at https://arts.ucalgary.ca/womens-studies or contact the Coordinator of the WMST Program, Joe Kadi at jkadi@ucalgary.ca.

Writing Assessment and Support

The assessment of all written assignments—and, to a lesser extent, written exam responses—is based in part on writing skills. This includes correctness (grammar, punctuation, sentence structure, etc.), as well as general clarity and organization. Research papers must include a thorough and accurate citation of sources. Students are also encouraged to use Writing Support Services for assistance (one-on-one appointments, drop-in support and writing workshops). For more information, and other services offered by the Student Success Centre, please visit ucalgary.ca/ssc.

Online Resources and Electronic Devices

Important information and communication about this course may be posted on D2L (Desire2Learn), UCalgary’s online learning management system. Visit ucalgary.service-now.com/it for how-to information and technical assistance.

The instructor reserves the right to establish specific course policies regarding the use of electronic devices. If permitted, the use of devices must be exclusively for instructional purposes, and without disruption to the instructor or fellow students. Devices should be set to silent mode during lectures. Audio or video recording of lectures is not permitted without the written permission of the instructor. Students violating this policy are subject to discipline under the University of Calgary’s Non-Academic Misconduct policy.

Academic Misconduct/Honesty

Cheating or plagiarism on any assignment or examination is as an extremely serious academic offense, the penalty for which will be an F on the assignment or an F in the course, and possibly a disciplinary sanction such as probation, suspension, or expulsion. For information on academic misconduct and its consequences, please see the University of Calgary Calendar at ucalgary.ca/pubs/calendar/current/k.html.

Intellectual honesty requires that your work include adequate referencing to sources. Plagiarism occurs when you do not acknowledge or correctly reference your sources. If you have questions about referencing, please consult your instructor.

University Policies

The Instructor Intellectual Property Policy is available at ucalgary.ca/policies/files/policies/Intellectual%20Property%20Policy.pdf

The University of Calgary is under the jurisdiction of the provincial Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy (FOIP) Act, as outlined at ucalgary.ca/legalservices/foip. The instructor (or TA) must return graded assignments directly to the student UNLESS written permission to do otherwise has been provided.
All students are required to read the University of Calgary policy on Acceptable Use of Material Protected by Copyright (ucalgary.ca/policies/files/policies/acceptable-use-of-material-protected-by-copyright.pdf) and requirements of the copyright act (laws-lois.justice.gc.ca/eng/acts/C-42/index.html).

Class Schedule:

1) **Muslim women and the Geopolitics of Feminism:**

   **Tues Sep 6**  
   Introduction to the course

   **Thurs Sep 8**  
   Edward Said. Orientalism, Introduction (Find in D2L)  
   Malek Alloula, *The Colonial Harem*  
   Book available on U of C library Website. Chapters: 1-4, p 3-36 and Chapter 10, p 105-124

   **Sep 13**  

   **Sep 15**  
   Nima Naghibi, *Rethinking Global Sisterhood, Western Feminism and Iran*, Chapter : “Enlightening the Other: Christian Sisters and Intrepid Adventuresses,” p 1-34. Available online at U of C Library  
   Annie Van Sommer and Samuel Zwemmer, *Our Moslem Sisters*  
   Introduction, page 1-10  
   Chapter 1, “Hagar and Her Sisters,” p 15-23

   **Sep 20**  
   Joan Scott, “Feminisms Difference Problem.” *Arab Feminisms: Gender and Equality in the Middle East*. Available online at U of C Library (part one, chapter 13, pages 190-196)

   **Sep 22**  

   **Sep 27**  

   **Sep 29**  

   **Pick your peers**

2) **Secular and Islamic Feminisms:**

   **Oct 4**  
   **Quiz 1**  
   Margot Badran, *Feminism in Islam: secular and religious convergences*, chapter 10:“Islamic Feminism: What is in a Name?” p 242-252. (Find on D2L)

   **Oct 6**  
   **Deadline for Presentation Topic**

   **Oct 11**  
   Amina Wadud, *Inside the Gender Jihad* (Intro)

3) Muslim Women’s movements and Nationalism: Case studies of Algeria, Egypt, Iran


Nov 3 Iran con. Asef Bayat. Life as Politics; How Ordinary People Change the Middle East, Chapter 5: Feminism of Everyday Life. P 96-114. Available on D2L

Nov 8 Reading Week

Nov 10 Reading Week

Nov 15 Group Test (Based in Texts)

4) Class Presentations:

Nov 17  Presentation Groups A & B
Nov 22  Presentation Groups C and D
Nov 24  Presentation Groups E and F
Nov 29  Presentation Groups G and H
Dec 1  Presentation Groups I and J

Dec 6  Group test (Based on presentations)