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(email electronic copy to [fysenat@uaf.edu](mailto:fysenat@uaf.edu))

**REQUEST FOR CORE WRITING INTENSIVE DESIGNATOR**

**SUBMITTED BY:**

Department	ENGL	College/School	CLA
Prepared by	Alla Ivanchikova	Phone	474-5996
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See <http://www.uaf.edu/uafgov/faculty/cd> for a complete description of the rules governing curriculum & course changes.

**1. COURSE IDENTIFICATION:**

Dept	ENGL	Course #	460	No. of Credits	3
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<b>COURSE TITLE</b>	Studies in Comparative/ World Literature
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Existing Course	<input type="checkbox"/>	New Course Pending Approval*	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
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\*Must be approved by appropriate Curriculum Council.

**2. CURRENT CATALOG DESCRIPTION AS IT APPEARS IN THE CATALOG: including dept., number, title and credits**

ENGL F460 W, O/2 Studies in Comparative/ World Literature (h)  
3 Credits Offered Every Third Fall  
Intensive study of variable topics in Comparative/ World Literature studies. May focus on themes, such as gender and race in world literature; a specific period, such as World Literature after 1945; a particular region, such as Africa; an important author; or an aspect of contemporary literary theory and criticism. Intensive readings and research in contemporary literary theory and criticism will foster in-depth understanding of chosen topic. Course may be repeated **once** for credit when content varies. **Prerequisites:** COMM F131X or COMM F141X; ENGL F211X or F213X, or permission of instructor

**JUSTIFICATION FOR ACTION REQUESTED**

The purpose of the department and campus-wide curriculum committees is to scrutinize course designator applications to make sure that the quality of UAF education is not lowered as a result of the proposed change. Please address this in your response. This section needs to be self-explanatory. Use as much space as needed to fully justify the proposed change and explain what has been done to ensure that the quality of the course is not compromised as a result.

This course is being developed to utilize the expertise of recent English department faculty and to incorporate current disciplinary developments in English studies in the English Department curriculum. The course is designed to intensely engage English students in the study of comparative and world literature by focusing on specific topics. This will supplement the knowledge and expertise of English students who are primarily interested in world literature. Both departmentally and institutionally, the quality of UAF education will increase with the addition of this course.

This course has been conceived from the outset to fulfill the requirements of the W designator. All written assignments are designed to advance students' learning of the course's subject matter, and will only enhance the quality of their education at UAF.

The attached syllabus must clearly reflect the following basic elements for a class to be **WRITING INTENSIVE**. Please note them directly on the syllabus, using the corresponding letter. (See Guidelines in this manual.)

- A** A majority of the final grade is derived from writing activities
- B** A research paper/project
- C** Personal conference with the student

D Drafts/revisions/Feedback

**APPROVALS:**

*R Scan* Date *9-28-10*  
Signature, Chair, Program/Department of: English

*Y. T. C.* Date *10-13-10*  
Signature, Chair, College/School Curriculum Council for: CLA

*Christa Hartmann* Date *10-14-10*  
Signature, Dean, College/School of: CLA

**ALL SIGNATURES MUST BE OBTAINED PRIOR TO SUBMISSION TO THE GOVERNANCE OFFICE**

\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature, Chair, Senate Core Review Committee

Date \_\_\_\_\_

University of Alaska Fairbanks

**ENGL 460 – Studies in Comparative/World Literature:  
“Fundamentalism and Literature”  
(h) (0/2) (w)**

<b>Term:</b> Fall 2011	<b>Professor:</b> Dr. Alla Ivanchikova
<b>Time:</b> TBA	<b>Office:</b> 814 Gruening
<b>Room:</b> TBA	<b>Phone:</b> 907-474-5996
<b>Office hours:</b> Tue/Thur 2.30-3.30 pm	<b>Email:</b> aivanchikova@alaska.edu

**Course description and goals**

While fundamentalism insists on the literal reading of *the Supreme Book* (the Bible, the Quran), it frequently finds itself threatened by various *books* and literary texts. When Salman Rushdie published his novel titled *Satanic Verses*, he found himself in danger as he became subject to *fatwa* (the Supreme Leader of Iran, Ayatollah Ruhollah Khomeini, issued a “death penalty” against the author for the book’s supposed blasphemy). Banned in India, the book was burned in demonstrations in the United Kingdom, and was the subject of a violent riot in Pakistan. The “Rushdie Affair” exposed the vulnerability of arts and the authors in the face of religious censorship and persecution; at the same time, it revealed the vulnerability of religious movements in the face of literature. Why is fundamentalism threatened by literature? Does this mean that books, not just the Book, are seen to have great power over people? Join us in this discussion based course and learn about the clashes and turf wars between fundamentalism and literature in today’s world.

The course is an excellent opportunity to broaden your horizons, and learn new facts about various cultures worldwide. It is also an opportunity to acquire valuable critical thinking skills through an encounter with complex literary texts.

**Student learning outcomes**

After this course, students should be able to:

- Provide a definition of the term “fundamentalism” and explain the difference between fundamentalism and closely related concepts, such as “orthodoxy,” “tradition,” “extremism.”
- Provide examples of at least 5 literary texts that engage with the issues of fundamentalism.
- Discuss the controversy surrounding Salman Rushdie’s novel *Satanic Verses*.
- Explain how globalization and the rise of fundamentalist movements worldwide are interrelated.
- Demonstrate sensitivity to the biases and limitations of their own point of view regarding fundamentalism.

**Prerequisites**

- ENGL 111X
- ENGL 211X or ENGL 213X
- COMM 131X or COMM 141X

**Instructional methods and (w) (o/2) designators**

This is a discussion-based course: although I will offer mini-lectures to introduce the basics, the emphasis will be on class discussions and small group activities. Because the course is listed as an oral communication intensive (O/2), each student will also be required to deliver 2 oral presentations.

A	15 % of the final grade will be based on oral communication
B	1 oral presentation (minimum of 5 minutes), and
C	1 oral presentation of 8-10 minutes with Question & Answer
D	Instructor will provide evaluation/feedback on all presentations

Since this is also a writing-intensive course (w), writing activities will determine a significant portion of your grade (up to 75 %).

A	A majority of the final grade will be derived from writing activities
B	A research paper/project is required to pass this course
C	Personal conference with the instructor will be required
D	Instructor will provide feedback on your writing; an earlier draft of each paper and at least one subsequent revision will be required.

See below for detailed explanations of all assignments.

**Required texts**

- Rushdie, Salman. Satanic Verses Ed. Beth Newman. New York: Random House, 1998. ISBN-13: 978-0-8129-7671-7
- Kureishi, Hanif. The Black Album with My Son the Fanatic: A Novel and a Short Story. New York: Scribner, 2009. ISBN 978-1439131091
- Ali, Monica. Brick Lane. New York: Oxford UP, 2003. ISBN 978-0743243315
- LaHaye, Tim, and Jerry B. Jenkins. Left Behind: A Novel of the Earth's Last Days. Wheaton: Tyndale House Publishers, 1997. ISBN: 978-0-8423-2911-8
- Ruthven, Malise. Fundamentalism: A Very Short Introduction. New York: Oxford UP, 2004. ISBN 978-0-19-921270-5.
- Articles posted on E-Reserve. The password for all these readings is "worldlit". Students are responsible for printing these materials out before the class and bringing them to class.

*A Note about the Texts:*

- All texts listed above are required texts and will be used extensively. If you are unable to buy any of the books, copies of all the readings will be available in the Rasmuson Library (course reserve). You will not be permitted to take them home, but you can check them out for 2 hours at a time.
- E-Reserve reading should be printed out and brought to class. Since laptop computers are not allowed during regular classes, you will not be able to read off a screen.

### Communication

**Blackboard:** If I need to contact a particular student or if I have to reach the whole class, I will use Blackboard e-mail system. Establish or maintain an e-mail account and check your e-mail messages on a regular basis. Make sure you are able to receive messages I send through Blackboard. I will send out a TEST message during the first two weeks of the semester. You are required to notify me if you were unable to receive my e-mails.

**Contacting me:** The best way to reach me is via email. I have a lot of students and sometimes you have to wait for my response. Usually, I respond to all email requests within 24 hours. Feel free to e-mail me again if you do not hear back from me within this time frame.

**Phone:** If you choose to contact me via the phone, please do so during my office hours only. Please do not leave messages asking me to call you back as **I normally do not call students back on their home or mobile phones.**

### Evaluation and grading criteria

Overall, both the success of this course and your final mark will depend of each your individual contribution to class discussions and on your willingness to work on improving your writing and analytical thinking skills. This is a discussion-based course in which class discussions and group activities will be essential to your success. In-class assignments will vary, but will include brief responses to the assigned readings, quizzes, and discussion summaries. It is therefore extremely important to come prepared and to do your readings at home. Though there will be lectures to introduce the basics, the course will stress student participation in group discussions.

In order to earn credit for ENG200, you **must** complete the following components of the course: two response papers, the midterm, and the final examination. This course will **not** be graded on a curve. Missing assignments will receive a 0 mark. Late assignments are subject to penalty (see details below).

Categories	Dates	Value
Paper 1 (an analytical essay)	Week 6	15 points
Paper 2 (a research paper)	Week 12	25 points
Final examination	Week 15	35 points

Oral presentation 1	To be scheduled individually	5 points
Oral presentation 2	Week 14	10 points
Participation	Daily in class	10 points
<b>Total</b>		<b>100 points</b>

**REMEMBER:** You are responsible for your success in this course. If at any point in the year you have questions or concerns, it is up to you to consult the professor. You are always welcome to visit during office hours or to make an appointment to discuss any aspect of the course.

### **Attendance/ Participation**

**Attendance:** Your attendance and participation are central to your success of this course. Students are required to attend the classes they signed up for. Attendance will be taken **BEFORE** each class begins. You are allowed 4 non-penalized absences (2 weeks of classes). Every absence over 2 weeks of classes will cause your final grade to be lowered by a minimum of 4 points. Absences in the excess of 3 classes will also automatically disqualify you from writing the extra credit assignment and thus will have an adverse effect on your overall grade.

Your 2 weeks of non-penalized absences should be used for personal illness, family illness, travel, automobile problems, etc. **Please do not use all your absences early in the semester, as I do not distinguish between excused and unexcused absences.**

If you miss a class, it is your responsibility to contact someone in the class to find out what you missed. You are encouraged to make arrangements with your group if you are to miss group work. The best practice would be: contacting your group leader in advance and notifying him/her of your expected absence; volunteering to contribute to the group work from home (through discussion notes or otherwise).

**Lateness:** Students are expected to be in class on time. Lateness of 10 minutes or more will be counted as half an absence (the same policy applies to leaving early). Please allow extra time for road delay and/ or parking problems. If you have to arrive late or to leave early due to a legitimate reason, please arrange this with me before the class: no 1/2 unexcused absence note will be added.

**Participation:** Regular participation is required for this course. Students are expected to participate every time (or close to that). While participating, all students are expected to show evidence of time spent with the material, and an ability to demonstrate understanding of all concepts discussed in the assigned readings.

Some students like to participate in discussions without having read the assigned materials. While participating when unprepared is not going to hurt you, it is not going to help you earn a better grade.

To earn the full participation points (5) you will need to produce work that far exceeds my normal expectations. Students who earn the full 5 points usually prepare notes at home and are not only prepared to respond to my questions, but are eager to start their own discussion topics. Preparedness to respond to my questions about the text is my normal expectation in this course.

Participation will not be graded on a curve. It is your sole responsibility to take initiative during discussion times, even if everyone else is quiet. In a quiet class, everyone might get a 0 for participation; in an active class, everyone might get a full score.

### Assignments

There will be two 4-5 page essays that you will write for this course. The first paper is an analytical essay. The second paper is a research paper. Please note that a 4 page essay is the **minimum** requirement. Essays under 4 pages will be subject to penalties. You will be required to conduct library/ internet research for the research paper.

Essays will be due BEFORE the class on the date marked in the outline. Electronic submissions will not be accepted; it is your responsibility to print out your work and submit it on time! Handwritten papers will not be accepted. Please use Microsoft Word or a comparable word processing program and submit clearly printed, proofread essays. All essays will require a title page with your name, student number, the course number, the date, and the essay title clearly printed. Use Times New Roman font (12 pt.), double-spaced formatting, with 1 inch margins. Each page should be numbered. Handwritten essays will not be accepted. Improperly formatted assignments will result in penalties.

Both in-text citing and the Works Cited page should be done according to MLA style (Rasmuson Library and the Writing Center both have copies of the *MLA Handbook*, which explains MLA Style.)

Essays will be evaluated based on their content, structure, technical aspects and improvement.

- Content component includes originality, clarity, arguments, the use of sources.
- Essay structure component includes the overall design of the essay (intro, thesis statement, body paragraphs, conclusion, etc), stylistic components (such as connections between the paragraphs or individual sentences), and a sense of audience.
- Technical aspects include grammar, style, typos, bibliography and referencing, formatting.
- Improvement aspect – overall development as compared to earlier efforts (e.g. drafts shared with me during my office hours).

Late Assignment Penalties: Submitting an essay late will result in marks being deducted (normally, half letter grade for each day the paper is late, including weekends). To avoid penalties, you must speak with me in advance if you anticipate handing an assignment in late due to special circumstances, such as illness or a personal/family emergency. **Remember that having a lot of work to do for your other courses is not a reasonable excuse for a late assignment in this course.** Unless prior arrangements have been made or you present a medical/legal note explaining why your assignment has been handed in late, points will be deducted. **No unexplained late assignments will be accepted after they are 7 days late.** All requests for extensions should be made in person or, if you are unable to attend class or office hours, by phone. Email requests for

extensions will not be acknowledged. No late assignments will be accepted after the last day of classes. Late assignments will receive a grade only (no written comments).

*Essay Guidelines:*

For both essays, I will provide detailed guidelines containing essay topics and instructions at least 3 weeks before each essay is due. You should consider Essay Guidelines to be extensions of this syllabus.

*Revision Process:*

Before you start writing your essay, you will submit an outline for approval. You will be required to submit a draft of the essay and will then revise it (for appropriate dates, see class schedule). At least one personal conference will be devoted to the discussion of student's writing.

NOTE: While students will be developing and handing in their research project in stages, they will only receive a grade for the final draft. Prior drafts will receive written and/or oral comments. Furthermore, any student who does not complete any one stage of the draft/revision process will receive a full letter grade penalty on their research essay final grade (for instance, they would drop from a B+ to a C+), and any student failing to complete more than stage will not receive credit for the research essay and hence will not receive credit for this course.

*A Note on Writing a Research Paper*

**Research paper: What does it mean?** A research paper is similar to a response paper in many ways. Just like your response paper, it should also have a thesis statement and an argument. It should have a title, an intro, a conclusion. Just like your response paper, it has to engage with the primary source (the book). A research paper, however, will present your reading of the primary source as a result of your engagement with and your evaluation of secondary sources (commentaries, articles, reviews). Your major secondary source will be a scholarly commentary. Each research paper MUST contain at least two references to scholarly commentaries. To locate scholarly resources, you will have to perform an online search or a library search. Library catalogue keyword searches are usually most effective.

**Step one:** Read the novel at least once before you start writing. Write down your ideas while you are reading as they tend to evaporate the moment the book is over. Read critically, ask questions. Select scenes that you think are important, use a pencil to mark the page so you can find it later. After you finish reading, look over the ideas you've put down on the paper and make an outline for your future essay. Start with the title, write it down even if you are not sure about it – you can change it later. Put down ideas for each paragraph. Achebe's novel is very complex in part because it does not have a single, easily identifiable point of view, but exposes different aspects of life in a traditional African village through multiple perspectives. The ultimate meaning of the novel, then, is something you develop as you read along, something for which you have to take the final responsibility.



**Step two:** For your research paper, you will be required to do library/ internet research. Find reviews, articles, blog entries and other materials for this paper. Select and save the most interesting ones. Make sure you have all necessary exit data to properly quote these electronic sources you are going to use in your essay. Reading other people's reviews will give you more ideas for your paper.

**Step three: Prepare a bibliography page.** Your essay should contain a research bibliography (your "Works Cited" page). It should list at least two scholarly publications closely related to the novel and at least three other (non-scholarly) publications. All materials, including the novel itself and all the non-scholarly materials should be cited according to MLA standards. This is your chance to really learn how to do it: marks will be deducted for incorrect referencing. You will need to indicate which sources are scholarly. Your "Works Cited" page will look like this:

Works Cited:

The novel (full reference)

Scholarly publications: (list)

Other Materials: (list)

**NOTE:** An online resource is, most likely, not a scholarly publication! Some exceptions to this rule include: Online copies of scholarly articles also available in print format; Articles published in online academic journals associated with major universities. Remember that many online sources (Wikipedia, for example) may resemble scholarly sources because they sound serious. Don't be misled: they aren't.

A **scholarly commentary** is usually 1) a book published by a university press, 2) an article published in a scholarly magazine, 3) a textbook. **Non-scholarly** secondary sources are numerous and can include book reviews, newspaper articles, non-scholarly online publications, web pages, blog entries, Wikipedia entries and so forth. Use such sources with caution and verify the information they contain: remember that online sources are not verified by experts and are often unreliable. They are useful, however, as a pool of ideas, interpretations, etc providing a multiplicity of ways of reading. Use them as inspiration and engage them in a dialogue. Select and save the most interesting ones. Make sure you have all necessary exit data to properly quote all the electronic sources you are going to use in your essay. Include at least three of them in your "Works Cited" page.

### **Final examination**

The cumulative final exam will be based on the material covered both in the readings and in class discussions. The exam will contain short and long answer questions; there will be one short essay question (1000 words). No textbooks, notes, or electronic devices will be allowed during the exam. Please note that registering in this course commits you to the date and time of the course final examination. If you are aware of possible conflicts with that date, please see me immediately during the first week of the course, in case you need to register in another course to accommodate the conflict. For appeals for deferred exams, please see the Calendar. Students may be asked for identification when writing a test or examination.

### **Oral presentations**

- This course requires you to give two oral presentations. Presentation topics will be assigned by the instructor. You will not be able to change topics. Presentation #1 will be at minimum 5 minutes; presentation #2 must be at minimum 8-10 minutes and include a question and answer segment. You will receive feedback from me on both presentations. All presentations must have a clear introduction-body- conclusion organization, appropriate to the discipline.
- All presentations will receive evaluation by the instructor on oral communication competency (including responsiveness to audience questions), as well as on subject mastery.
- Students will receive, as part of the course structure, information/instruction on effective speaking, on organization of material for effective presentation, and on development and use of media and visual aids.

### Grade definitions as suggested by the University of Alaska Fairbanks

Each of you begin as an “average” student, i.e. with a C grade and proceed to work from there. To obtain an “A” grade you will need to produce work that far exceeds my normal expectations. My normal expectations are regular attendance, hard work, evidence of time spent with the material, and an ability to demonstrate understanding of all concepts.

This course will **not** be graded on a curve.

	UAF definition
A	An honor grade, indicates originality and independent work, a thorough mastery of the subject, and the satisfactory completion of more work than is regularly required
B	Indicates outstanding ability above the average level of performance
C	Indicates a satisfactory or average level of performance
D	The lowest passing grade, indicates work of below average quality and performance
F	Indicates failure to meet lowest standards

### Plagiarism

**Plagiarism** is a serious offence and will not be tolerated in this course. Students are encouraged to familiarize themselves with the **UAF standards** and policies concerning plagiarism. In general, plagiarism involves borrowing someone else’s ideas, sentences, phrases, or terms without referencing them in the text. Improper referencing, quoting or paraphrasing can result in plagiarism.

In this class, we will discuss the basic differences between quoting, paraphrasing, and plagiarizing and learn how to avoid plagiarism. Word for word plagiarizing will always result in a 0 mark for an assignment. Any student who will submit a paper not written by him or herself (such as a paper purchased or downloaded from the web) will fail the entire course, even if parts of the downloaded paper were modified. If unsure what constitutes plagiarism, take a look at a short PowerPoint on our class website:

<http://www.lectureguru.net/courses/worldlit11/service/plagiarism.html>

Students are advised to consult the UAF Student Code of Conduct for the rules regarding Registration, Voluntary Withdrawals, Academic Misconduct including plagiarism, and appeals.

### **Sharing your work with the class**

**Let me know if you're unwilling to share your work.** I assume that most students are willing to share their work and thus assist other students. To help clarify standards, I'll usually select one or two strong examples of "A" work and will have copies available in my office. I will cover the names of the students whose work I've selected. If you're unwilling to share your work with others, please let me know early in the semester and I will exclude your assignments from consideration.

### **Classroom courtesies**

- All students are expected to maintain a courteous atmosphere in the classroom treating each other with respect.
- Cell phones and pagers must be turned off before the class starts.
- Laptops will not be allowed and must be turned off and stored away before the class starts. Exception: laptops will be allowed during group project preparation only.

### **Support services**

Students with documented disabilities requiring academic accommodations for tests/exams (e.g., private space) or during lectures/laboratories (e.g., access to volunteer note-takers) are encouraged to contact the Coordinator of Disability Services, 208 Whitaker, at 474-5655 or 474-1827 (TTY) to discuss appropriate options. All information about disability is confidential.

I encourage you to make use of **the Writing Center (8th floor, Gruening Building)** where you can take a draft of any writing which provides excellent advice, tutoring and assistance.

If you need a coach to help you prepare for your oral presentation, or if you simply want to become a more effective speaker, make use of **the Speaking Center** at UAF. **The Speaking Center** is located in the Department of Communication on the fifth floor of Gruening. Come to Room 507 to meet with a Speaking Center coach.

### **Tentative Schedule:**

(Th): Introduction to the course

Week 1

(T): Read: Ruthven, “Ch. 1: Family Resemblances” and “Ch. 2: The Scandal of Difference” from Fundamentalism: A Very Short Introduction

(Th): Read: Rushdie, The Satanic Verses, Ch. 1&2

Week 2

(T): Read: Rushdie, The Satanic Verses, Ch. 3&4

(Th): Read: Rushdie, The Satanic Verses, Ch. 5&6

Week 3

(T): Read: Rushdie, The Satanic Verses, Ch. 7-9

(Th): Class Discussion of Frederic Regard’s “Humanism Restyled: Salman Rushdie, the *Fatwa*, and the Resurrection of the Author”; Catherine Pessoa-Miquel’s “Salman Rushdie’s Confrontation with Fundamentalism” (E-Reserve)

Week 4

(T): Read: Kureishi, The Black Album, pages 1-100

(Th): Read: Kureishi, The Black Album, pages 101-200

Week 5

(T): Read: Kureishi, The Black Album, pages 201-285

(Th): Read: Kureishi, “My Son, the Fanatic”; “Interview with Hanif Kureishi” in Black Album

**\*\*\* Essay 1 outline is due \*\*\***

Week 6

(T): Read: Helga Ramsey-Kurz, “Literature as the ‘Schismatic Other of the Sacred Text’ or Itself Sacred? *The Black Album* by Hanif Kureishi” (E-Reserve: Pages 161-181)

(Th): Film screening: *Paradise Now*

**\*\*\* Essay 1 (First Draft) is due \*\*\***

Week 7

(T): Film screening: *Paradise Now* (continued) and class discussion.

(Th): Read: Malise Ruthven, Fundamentalism: A Very Short Introduction, Ch. 3&4

Week 8

(T): Read: Malise Ruthven, Fundamentalism: A Very Short Introduction, Ch. 5-7

(Th): Read: Monica Ali, *Brick Lane*. Pages 1-90

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**\*\*\* Essay 1 (Final Version) is due \*\*\***

Week 9

(T): Read: Monica Ali, *Brick Lane*. Pages 91-200

(Th): Read: Monica Ali, *Brick Lane*. Pages 201-310

Week 10

(T): Read: Monica Ali, *Brick Lane*. Pages 311-417

(Th): Film screening: *Kadosh* (“*The Holy*”)

Week 11

(T): Film screening: *Kadosh* (“*The Holy*”)

(Th): Film discussion

**\*\*\* Essay 2 draft is due \*\*\***

Week 12

(T): Read LaHaye, Left Behind

(Th): Read LaHaye, Left Behind

Week 13

(T): Read LaHaye, Left Behind

(Th): Read: Kevin L. Cope, "The Left Behind Series and the Incongruities of Fundamentalist Idealism" (E-Reserve: Pages 181-205). Class discussion of Left Behind; drawing connections with other texts discussed in the course; final definitions and clarifications.

Week 14

(T): Final Presentations

(Th): Final Presentations

\*\*\* **Essay 2 (Final Version) is due** \*\*\*

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Week 15

*Final exams.*