

Community Engagement Project – Gender and Politics in the Islamic World

Overview

This major project bridges theory and practice by connecting course concepts to real-world advocacy, research, or policy efforts related to gender and politics in Islamic societies. Students will collaborate—individually or in small groups—with a **community organization**, advocacy network, or research initiative focused on themes such as women’s political participation, gender-based violence, refugee rights, or access to education. The project emphasizes **experiential learning, applied research, and civic responsibility** within a comparative political framework.

Learning Objectives

By completing this project, you will:

1. Apply course theories of gender, power, and democracy to real policy or advocacy contexts.
2. Conduct independent or collaborative research with community relevance.
3. Translate academic findings into clear, accessible recommendations or awareness materials.
4. Reflect on how community engagement enhances understanding of gender justice and political inclusion.

Project Structure and Timeline (4-Week Term)

Week	Task	Deliverable
Week 1	Explore organizations or causes related to gender and politics (e.g., immigrant women’s centers, policy NGOs, online advocacy campaigns).	Submit a 1-paragraph proposal describing your topic, community partner (real or simulated), and planned output. <i>Due Sunday, 11:59 PM.</i>
Week 2	Conduct preliminary research (read policy briefs, interview a staff member, or analyze campaign materials).	Post a Progress Update (200 words) on Canvas discussion board summarizing insights and challenges. <i>Due Friday, 11:59 PM.</i>
Week 3	Draft report and, if applicable, awareness product (infographic, blog post, or policy memo).	Upload Draft Report (4–5 pages) for peer feedback via Canvas. <i>Due Sunday, 11:59 PM.</i>
Week 4	Finalize report and presentation. Record a short (5-minute) video or PowerPoint summary connecting project outcomes to course themes.	Submit Final Report (6–8 pages) + Presentation Video or Slides . <i>Due Sunday, July 10 at 11:59 PM.</i>

Project Components

1. Proposal (5 pts)

A brief statement identifying:

- The issue or organization you will study.
- Why it matters for understanding gender and politics in Islamic contexts.
- Expected format of your final deliverable (policy brief, awareness toolkit, or case study).

2. Progress Update (5 pts)

Post a short reflection highlighting key findings, questions, and how you're engaging with your community partner or sources.

Respond to one peer post with constructive feedback.

3. Final Report (25 pts)

A **6–8-page** analytical paper that includes:

- Introduction & background of the issue.
- Contextual analysis linking theory to practice.
- Discussion of the community engagement process and findings.
- Recommendations or implications for gender equity and policy.
- References (APA style).

4. Presentation (5 pts)

A **5-minute recorded presentation** (video, narrated slides, or audio) summarizing your project's purpose, findings, and reflections on civic engagement. Upload via Canvas or share a link (YouTube unlisted, or Loom).

Grading Rubric (40 points total)

Criteria	Excellent (A)	Good (B)	Satisfactory (C)	Needs Improvement (D/F)
Connection to Course Concepts (10 pts)	Deeply integrates course readings and theories; strong conceptual framing.	Good use of course ideas; minor gaps.	Some conceptual relevance but limited integration.	Minimal or no theoretical connection.
Research & Engagement (10 pts)	Demonstrates active collaboration, interviews, or substantive field research.	Adequate engagement with limited depth.	Minimal outreach or reliance on secondary data only.	No evidence of engagement or research.
Analysis & Recommendations (10 pts)	Insightful, well-supported conclusions; realistic and relevant recommendations.	Sound conclusions; limited critical depth.	Mostly descriptive; vague recommendations.	Weak or missing analysis.
Organization & Clarity (5 pts)	Clear structure, polished writing, strong visuals if used.	Generally well organized with minor issues.	Adequate but uneven clarity.	Disorganized or unclear writing.
Presentation & Reflection (5 pts)	Engaging, concise, connects experience to learning outcomes.	Clear summary; minor delivery or timing issues.	Superficial or incomplete reflection.	Missing or poor presentation.

Submission Details

- **All written work:** Submit via Canvas as PDF or Word document.
- **Presentation:** Upload video or share a viewable link in the assignment submission.
- **Due Date: Sunday, July 10 by 11:59 PM (Final Day of Class).**
- **Late Policy:** Deduction of 2 points per day for up to 3 days; after that, work not accepted without prior instructor approval.

Academic Integrity & Ethics

All projects must follow ethical standards when engaging communities or using online materials. Obtain consent before quoting interviews or sharing identifiable information. Plagiarism or use of AI-generated content without acknowledgment will result in a zero and formal reporting.