Thematic Questions: Cities of Salt (pp. 223-418)

Instructions: names in **bold** will prepare a 3-4 minutes response to the question.

1. If a typical novel in the western literary tradition follows a main character through a linear narrative ("the plot"), how is Cities of Salt like or unlike other novels you’ve read? How would you describe the narrative structure of this novel, and what conceptual purpose might it serve? (**Caroline, Kent**)

2. What sort of class structure emerges in Harran? What remnants of indigenous authority are preserved in the new order, and what transformations do they undergo? (**Firas, Alia**)

4. Having surrendered their bedouin identity – defined largely through networks of kinship and geographical solidarity – how do the indigenous Arab workers formulate a new community? (**Salma, Vivian**)

5. What role does the spoken word (singing, poetry, storytelling, etc.) play in this novel? (**Katie, Jack**)

5. How does Abd al-Rahman Munif portray the interaction of foreign academics with the Arab workers? How does this resonate with Said’s “Orientalism” thesis? (**Freshta, Tom**)

6. Who is Ibn Naffeh and what social perspective does he articulate? In general, what role does religion play in this novel? (**Cameron, Alex**)

7. How does Abd al-Rahman Munif portray the Americans and the sentiment directed by the Arab workers towards them? (**Laura, Allie**