**Scopes and Methods - Final Course Reflection**

Throughout the semester, I believe I have completely engaged with the course material and tasks, resulting in substantial personal and academic improvement. This is reflected in my new viewpoint on research methodologies and enhanced critical thinking abilities. I appreciated the hands-on projects that allowed me to apply academic principles in real-world situations, which helped me better comprehend the subject. My application and acceptance into the GUQ Media and Politics Certificate is the most significant indicators of my personal and intellectual development. During the early phases of the course, I became very interested in exploring research possibilities in topics that interested me and would allow me to utilise my newly acquired research abilities in a real-world situation. This is not restricted to the certificate; I have developed an appreciation and passion for the political research field, which has inspired me to explore other academic and professional options in this area.

**Class Engagement and Participation**

First, I would like to share my interaction with the course material through weekly reflections. Throughout the fourteen weeks of the course, I have never missed a class discussion post. Furthermore, my discussion postings have highlighted what I found most effective or thought-provoking in the readings and lectures, demonstrating my critical thinking and analytical abilities. This active participation with the course content has not only improved my comprehension of research methodologies, but it has also helped me to explore new viewpoints and create my own thoughts about the issues addressed. Furthermore, I made an effort to comment on my classmates' posts when I thought their ideas were especially intriguing or had a different viewpoint to offer, promoting a collaborative and dynamic learning environment outside of class. This interchange of ideas has enhanced my learning experience and widened my comprehension of the subject matter beyond what I could have accomplished alone.

Second, as I think about my class participation in discussions and activities, I have attended all sessions but the one remake session throughout the entire semester, which was a recorded session and I was able to catch up smoothly. I was most involved in in-class group activities that required active engagement and cooperation with my peers. I was actively involved in this aspect of the course, providing thoughts and listening to others' viewpoints in order to have a better comprehension of the content. To ensure equitable participation in class group activities, my team members and I needed to divide tasks and responsibilities among ourselves evenly . Including who spoke up in class group discussions, where we took turns to ensure that everyone had a chance to speak. Also, I made an effort to express my thoughts in class when I felt they contributed value to the debate and helped us better comprehend the subject at issue. Also, I avoided making unnecessary remarks or delaying the conversation, because class time is incredibly precious, and I wanted to respect the time limits and maximise our learning chances. In addition, I carefully listened to my classmates' thoughts and ideas, which I highly valued and absorbed into my own comprehension of the content.

**Research Tasks**

The survey report analysis task, in which my team and I examined the responses to the survey question "How do you perceive your professors' attitudes towards AI?" We worked together to answer all of the required analytical questions. Aside from the questions, we generated seventeen graphs and tables that presented the data in a visually appealing and easy-to-read way. This visual depiction enabled us to detect trends and patterns that were not obvious from the raw data alone. I feel that our contributions, together with our classmates' analysis, considerably improved the overall knowledge of the survey data and provided useful suggestions for future study in this field. Furthermore, our group received favourable feedback from our peers on the comprehensiveness and clarity of our presentation, proving the effectiveness of our visual aids in presenting complicated material.

The ethnography task, in which our group chose souq waqif as our social setting and immersed ourselves in the culture to collect rich data, enabled us to provide a comprehensive analysis that went beyond surface-level observations and create an informative podcast that not only highlighted our findings but also engaged the listeners in a unique and interactive way. I feel that our performance in this work demonstrated our knowledge, abilities, and creativity in ethnographic research, since we chose to cover four distinct aspects of Qatar's largest open-air museum: the gold souq, textile stores, animal souq, and spice markets. This method of covering four social settings in one, enabled us to capture the various facets of everyday life in Souq Waqif and offer a comprehensive picture of the cultural value of this dynamic bazaar. Furthermore, in our podcast and comparative analysis, we discussed all of the ethnographic study findings that we discovered to be essential in comprehending the multifaceted nature of Souq Waqif, such as social interactions, commercial activity, and cultural customs. This provides podcast listeners with a comprehensive grasp of Souq Waqif's position in Qatari society and culture as an open-air museum. Furthermore, this podcast displayed our growth from the first podcast episode we recorded to now, showcasing our improved research skills and ability to analyse complex cultural phenomena in a clear and engaging manner.

The discourse content analysis task was one of the most demanding yet rewarding projects we completed this semester. We chose Nelson Mandela's speech, "An Ideal for Which I am Willing to Die," for our study. This was the first time I learnt to apply discourse analysis tools to a real-world speech, which gave me a better grasp of how language and rhetoric shape public opinion. Furthermore, using AI tools in this assignment allowed me to experiment with new methods of analysing and interpreting textual material, which improved my research abilities. As a result, our investigation provided additional insights beyond AI technologies, diving into the historical and sociological background of Mandela's speech and its influence on society. This innovative traditional/modern dual approach to our study displayed our mastery of quantitative and qualitative ways of analysis, demonstrating a thorough and well-rounded research process. By combining AI methods with historical context, we were able to give a more nuanced and analytical assessment of Mandela's speech and its impact on public opinion.

**Areas for improvement**

I acknowledge that there were some areas for improvement in my role in the course, although I would have to say they are minor. As I have put forth my complete dedication and effort from the very beginning of the course, I believe that with some additional time and practice, I can further enhance my contributions to the class setting. I would have liked to have participated more in class discussions; however, my fear of interrupting class time or speaking out of turn sometimes held me back. Another aspect I believe has been an area of improvement for me in the course is repetition until I have mastered the material completely. For example, doing the podcast twice, I witnessed me and my teammates vast progress in our delivery and overall quality from the first podcast to the next. Thus, I believe that if I had repeated other research tasks, I would definitely have seen similar improvements in my work.

**Conclusion and Self-Assessment Grade**

My self assessed grade for this course, based on my reflections and growth throughout the semester, would be an ‘**A**’. I am confident that I have put in the effort and dedication necessary to excel in this course, and I am proud of the progress I have made in my communication skills. Overall, I am satisfied with my performance and believe that I have met and exceeded the expectations set for this course.