

**Canadian Studies (CNST) 333-Lecture 01**  
**A Comparison of Canadian and American Cultures**  
**Winter 2013**  
**TR 9:30-10:45 A.M.**

**Instructor:** Dr. Lorry W. Felske  
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**Web Page:** [blackboard.ucalgary.ca](http://blackboard.ucalgary.ca)  
**Office Hours:** TR 11-12:00 PM; W 11-12:00 PM; or by appointment.

### **Course Description**

This course compares Canadian and American culture from an interdisciplinary perspective. A number of different concepts, historical and contemporary, concerning Canadian and American cultures are examined as well as their expression in a variety of different issues and venues. These areas include our different histories in North America, our conceptions about society, social values and citizenship, the impact of globalization, issues such as law and order, government intervention in society, our attitudes and policies towards immigration, pluralism, continental defense, urban development, climate change, health care, and the First Nations.

A Blackboard site will be available for the course. The site will explain assignments, provide resources and give groups a venue for discussions about their presentation topics.

### **Objectives of the Course**

To introduce students to the depth and breadth of academic work on the comparison of Canadian and American cultures.

To enable students to bring an increased awareness of Canadian experiences and perspectives to their study of all academic subjects.

To improve the writing and research skills of students.

To introduce students to the concept of interdisciplinary studies.

To make students aware of the cultural contexts in which they think and live.

To encourage students to think critically about information and perspectives concerning Canadian identity.

To emphasize the importance of continental perspectives.

To promote the idea of good citizenship.

To engage students in addressing contemporary issues of concern to Canadians.

### **Textbooks and Readings:**

Electronic readings from the library holdings will be assigned during the course. Other readings may be posted on Blackboard.

### **Assignments and Evaluation**

#### **1.Exams**

- a) **In-class Exam: 30%, Thursday, February 14<sup>th</sup>, 2013**
- b) **Take Home Exam: 25%, Tuesday, April 16<sup>th</sup>, 2013.** The exam will be handed out in class (and posted on Blackboard) on April 16<sup>th</sup>; it is due back on Friday, April 19<sup>th</sup>, 2012. Exams must be returned by 4 P.M. to the instructor's office, SS212.

These exams will cover material from lectures, films, class discussions and assigned readings. There will be an essay question with a choice of topics on which to write. Providing brief descriptions of concepts and responses to short answer questions (some multiple choice questions) will also form part of the exams.

#### **2. Group Presentation and Blackboard Assignment: 20%**

Students will be divided into groups to undertake research on a topic area to be decided in consultation with the instructor. 15% of the mark will be based on the group presentation before the class (everyone in the group will share this grade); 5% of the group presentation grade will be devoted to the group handout for the class.

**Groups 1 through 4 will present on January 29th and 31st, 2013**

**Groups 5 through 8 will present on March 5<sup>th</sup> and 7th, 2013**

**Groups 9 through 12 will present on March 26<sup>th</sup> and 28th, 2013**

#### **3. Research Paper: 25%**

Students will undertake a research paper on a topic comparing Canada and the United States. The paper requires the use of primary and secondary (academic) sources. More detail will be posted on the Blackboard site. The paper will be from 6-8 pages in length (1,500 to 2,000 words), plus reference list. An acceptable referencing system must be

used (APA, MLA, or Chicago Manual of Style). There are three due dates for the research papers based on your group membership:

**Groups 1 through 4: Research Paper due date: February 26<sup>th</sup>, 2013**

**Groups 5 through 8: Research paper due date: March 21<sup>st</sup>, 2013**

**Groups 9 through 12: Research paper due date: April 11<sup>th</sup>, 2013**

All assignments must be completed or a grade of F may be assigned at the discretion of the instructor.

Copies of this document, with assignment descriptions and resources, will be available on a Blackboard site (<http://blackboard.ucalgary.ca/>). You will need to know your Information Technology username and password.

It is the student's responsibility to keep a copy of each submitted assignment.

Note: Please hand in your essays directly to your tutor or instructor if possible. If it is not possible to do so, a daytime drop box is available in SS110; a date stamp is provided for your use. A night drop box is also available for after-hours submission. Assignments will be removed the following morning, stamped with the previous day's date, and placed in the instructor's mailbox.

**Registrar-scheduled Final Examination:** No

### **Policy for Late Assignments**

Assignments submitted after the deadline may be penalized with the loss of a grade (e.g.: A- to B+) for each day late.

### **Writing Skills Statement**

Faculty policy directs that all written assignments (including, although to a lesser extent, written exam responses) will be assessed at least partly on writing skills. For details see [www.comcul.ucalgary.ca/info](http://www.comcul.ucalgary.ca/info). Writing skills include not only surface correctness (grammar, punctuation, sentence structure, etc) but also general clarity and organization. Research papers must be properly documented.

If you need help with your writing, you may use the Writing Centre. Visit the website for more details: [www.efwr.ucalgary.ca](http://www.efwr.ucalgary.ca)

### **Grading System**

In this class, you will receive grades in the 4-point scale (2.7, 3.0, 3.3) for essays, and essay type exam questions, and percentages for short answer questions. Sometimes you may receive grade points between letter grades. 3.5 is the mathematical mid-point between a B+ (3.3) and an A- (3.7) and 3.15 is the mid-point between a B (3.0) and a B+ (3.3), etc. Similarly, using the percentage scale, the mid-point between an A- and an A is 87.5. F will be converted to zero.

The following grading system is used in the Faculty of Arts (Revised, effective September 2008)

Letter Grade	Grading Scale	Grade Point Value (see <a href="#">U of C Calendar: Academic Standing</a> )
A+	96-100	4
A	90-95.99	4
A -	85-89.99	3.7
B+	80-84.99	3.3
B	75-79.99	3
B-	70-74.99	2.7
C+	65-69.99	2.3
C	60-64.99	2
C-	55-59.99	1.7
D+	53-54.99	1.3
D	50-52.99	1
F	0-49	0

## Schedule of Lectures and Readings

**To be provided in class.**

### Ethical Research Standards

Whenever you perform research with human participants (e.g. surveys, interviews, observation) as part of your university studies, you are responsible for following university research ethics guidelines. Your instructor must review and approve of your research plans and supervise your research. However, in this course, there is no research to be conducted with human participants. Information about ethical research approvals can be found at: <http://arts.ucalgary.ca/research/for-researchers/ethics> However, no research with human subjects is scheduled for this class; this includes interviews.

### Plagiarism

Using any source whatsoever without clearly documenting it is a serious academic offense. Consequences include failure on the assignment, failure in the course and possibly suspension or expulsion from the university.

You must document not only direct quotations but also paraphrases and ideas where they appear in your text. A reference list at the end is insufficient by itself. Readers must be able to tell exactly where your words and ideas end and other people's words and ideas begin. This includes assignments submitted in non-traditional formats such as Web pages or visual media, and material taken from such sources.

Please consult your instructor if you have any questions regarding how to document sources.

### **Internet and electronic communication device information**

Laptop/Tablet etc. use is for class purposes only. Cell phones and other entertainment devices must be turned off unless there is an appropriate justification.

### **Academic Misconduct**

For information on academic misconduct and the consequences thereof please see the current University of Calgary Calendar at the following link;  
<http://www.ucalgary.ca/pubs/calendar/current/k.html>

### **Academic Accommodation Policy**

If you are a student with a disability who may require academic accommodation, it is your responsibility to register with the Disability Resource Centre (220-8237) and discuss your needs with your instructor no later than fourteen (14) days after the start of the course. For further information, please see <http://www.ucalgary.ca/drc/node/46>

### **Emergency Evacuation and Assembly points**

Please note the evacuation points for this particular classroom. All classrooms on campus exit to specific places in case of emergency. The emergency assembly points differ depending upon where your classroom is located. For information on the emergency evacuation procedures and the assembly points see <http://www.ucalgary.ca/emergencyplan/assemblypoints>

### **"SAFEWALK" Program**

Campus Security will escort individuals day or night -- call 403-220-5333 for assistance. Use any campus phone, emergency phone or the yellow phone located at most parking lot booths.

### **Student Representation**

There are now four Arts reps because of the amalgamation, with the email addresses being [arts1@su.ucalgary.ca](mailto:arts1@su.ucalgary.ca), [arts2@su.ucalgary.ca](mailto:arts2@su.ucalgary.ca), [arts3@su.ucalgary.ca](mailto:arts3@su.ucalgary.ca), and [arts4@su.ucalgary.ca](mailto:arts4@su.ucalgary.ca). Please contact if you have questions related to Students Union matters, events, or concerns.

For your student ombudsman, please see

<http://www.su.ucalgary.ca/services/student-services/student-rights.html>

### **Faculty of Arts Program Advising and Student Information Resources**

- Have a question, but not sure where to start? The new Faculty of Arts Program Information Centre (PIC) is your information resource for everything in Arts! Drop in at SS110, call us at 403-220-3580 or email us at [artsads@ucalgary.ca](mailto:artsads@ucalgary.ca). You can also visit the Faculty of Arts website at <http://arts.ucalgary.ca/undergraduate> which has detailed information on common academic concerns.
- For program planning and advice, contact the Student Success Centre (formerly the Undergraduate programs Office) at (403) 220-5881 or visit them on the 4<sup>th</sup> Floor of MacEwan Student Centre.
- For registration (add/drop/swap), paying fees and assistance with your Student Centre, contact Enrolment Services at (403) 210-ROCK [7625] or visit them at the MacKimmie Library Block.