

## University of Calgary

### Department of Communication and Culture

#### Communication and Culture (CMCL) 301 L01 Cultural Foundations

Spring 2014 (Tues., May 15 – Thurs., June 26)  
TR 08:30 - 11:15; Tutorial TR 11:30 - 12:15

**Instructor:** Shane Halasz

**Office Location:** SS 301

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**Web Page:** Desire2Learn

**Office Hours:** Monday and Wednesday 10:30 – 11:30 or by appointment

### Course Description

A critical and inter-disciplinary examination, via classic texts, of Western (Greco-Roman and Judaeo-Christian), Indian, and Chinese civilizations in terms of their fundamental cultural assumptions. The time span is the formative period of these civilizations from about 2500 B.C to approximately 400 A.D. The key themes by which the texts will be explored are as follows: life-death, freedom-slavery, wisdom-foolly, and good-evil.

### Additional Information

This course will employ a team-based learning strategy in which students work together in groups of 5 to 7 (groups to be determined in the first class and will remain intact for the semester) in order to unpack, discuss, and make sense of the assigned readings. Therefore, it is essential that students not only complete the readings prior to class but also attend class regularly and fully participate during in-class exercises and assignments. Students will be held personally accountable for their level of preparedness and contributions to group discussion and exercises by way of a peer evaluation form to be completed at the end of the term. Group assignment scores will be adjusted according to these peer evaluations (see Assignments and Evaluation section below).

### Objectives of the Course

- a) Learn how to read and interpret classic texts in a comparative manner
- b) Gain a synthetic overview of world civilization
- c) Improve writing skills in the context of developing and supporting arguments

### Internet and Electronic Communication Device Information

No restrictions on use of laptops in class if they are used to take notes or perform sanctioned research during an in-class activity and if there is no disturbance of other students by visiting inappropriate web sites. Cell phones must be POWERED OFF and put away during class time.

## **Textbooks and Readings:**

The following texts are all required and have been 'bundled' together to reduce costs:

D.S. Gochberg, S.S. Dulai, E.D. Graham, and K.W. Harrow, *World Literature and Thought*, Vol. 1, The Ancient Worlds (Belmont, Calif.: Wadsworth, Thomson Learning, 2002)

L.S. Cunningham and J.J. Reich, *Culture and Values*, Vol. 1, 7<sup>th</sup> ed. With Readings (Boston: Wadsworth, 2012).

## **Assignments and Evaluation**

1. Reading Quizzes (Individual)      20% (10 @ 2% each) Beginning of every class

At the beginning of each class students will complete a brief readiness assessment test based on that day's assigned readings. The format will include some mix of multiple choice, true/false, and quotation identification. The goal with these quizzes is to ensure that students have completed the assigned readings and are coming prepared to participate in whatever group activities and class discussion are planned for that day. The quizzes will take place in the first 15-20 minutes. They cannot be written at another time nor made up for any reason, so please ensure that you attend class regularly and arrive on time.

2. Reading Quizzes (Group)              15% (10 @ 1.5% each) Beginning of every class

As soon as students submit their individual reading quizzes, they will receive another copy of the same quiz to be completed collaboratively by their group. The intention here is that students will learn from hearing each other support their arguments as to which is the correct answer, and thereby enrich their understanding of the material covered that class. These group quizzes will be collected, scored, and immediately returned along with the individual quizzes. The instructor will then address by way of mini-lecture or discussion areas that need clarification or elaboration before moving to scheduled activities.

3. 10-min Presentations (Group)      30% (3 @ 10% each) May 27; June 10; June 24

The bulk of class time will be spent in groups working to answer questions or respond to prompts posed by the instructor. At three points in the semester student groups will distill and briefly present (roughly 10 minutes) to the class what they feel is the most important thing that they have learned in the preceding classes based on their group discussions. Particular attention should be paid on where individual differences of opinion existed, the extent to which consensus could be reached, and where and why differences persisted following the discussion. More information will be provided on Desire2Learn.

4. Final Exam (Individual)              35%                              TBA by Registrar

The final exam will be cumulative and have two parts. Part A (worth 25%) will consist of objective identifications of 10 selected quotations to the correct author or title of the work. Part B (worth 75%) will be an essay chosen from three topics given on the day of the exam.

NB: At the end of the semester all students will fill out a peer evaluation form for everybody in their group (except themselves). Each student's scores for the group reading quizzes and group presentations will be adjusted based on peer evaluations so that those who contributed most will be rewarded accordingly, and those who contributed least will likewise receive relatively less.

Except for the individual and group quizzes, all assignments must be completed or a grade of F may be assigned at the discretion of the instructor.

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 SS320; 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: YES**

### **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.

### **Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act**

This course is conducted in accordance with the Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act (FOIP). As one consequence, **students should identify themselves on all written work by placing their name on the front page and their ID number. Also you will be required to provide a piece of picture identification in order to pick up an assignment or look at a final exam from SS320 after classes have ended.**

For more information see also <http://www.ucalgary.ca/secretariat/privacy>.

### **Writing Skills Statement**

Department 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 <http://comcul.ucalgary.ca/needtoknow>. 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: <http://www.ucalgary.ca/ssc/writing-support>

## Grading System

The following grading system is used in the Department of Communication and Culture:

	Grading Scale
A+	96-100
A	90-95.99
A -	85-89.99
B+	80-84.99
B	75-79.99
B-	70-74.99
C+	65-69.99
C	60-64.99
C-	55-59.99
D+	53-54.99
D	50-52.99
F	0-49

Where a grade on a particular assignment is expressed as a letter grade, it will normally be converted to a number using the midpoint of the scale. That is, A- would be converted to 87.5 for calculation purposes. F will be converted to zero.

## 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 or the Writing Centre (3<sup>rd</sup> Floor Taylor Family Digital Library, <http://www.ucalgary.ca/ssc/writing-support>) if you have any questions regarding how to document sources.

## 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>

## **Students with Disabilities**

If you are a student with a disability who may require academic accommodation, it is your responsibility to register with the Student Accessibility Services (220-8237, <http://www.ucalgary.ca/access/>) and discuss your needs with your instructor no later than 14 days after the start of the course.

## **Students' Union**

For details about the current Students' Union contacts for the Faculty of Arts see <http://www.su.ucalgary.ca/governance/elections/home.html>

## **Student Ombudsman**

For details on the Student Ombudsman's Office see <http://www.ucalgary.ca/provost/students/ombuds>

## **Emergency Evacuation and Assembly points**

For information on the emergency evacuation procedures and the assembly points see <http://www.ucalgary.ca/emergencyplan/assemblypoints>

## **"SAFEWALK" Program -- 220-5333**

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

## **Ethics**

Whenever you perform research with human participants (i.e. 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. For more information about your research ethics responsibilities, see

The Department of Communication and Culture Research Ethics site:  
<http://www.comcul.ucalgary.ca/ethics>

or the University of Calgary Research Ethics site:  
<http://www.ucalgary.ca/research/ethics/cfreb>

## Schedule of Lectures and Readings

Abbreviations: C&V,I = *Culture and Values*, Vol. I, 7<sup>th</sup> Ed. with Readings  
WLT,I = *World Literature and Thought*, Vol. I, The Ancient Worlds

### (A) Foundations of Life-Death In Myth and Music

May 15

- Introduction
  - What This Course Is About?
  - Key Concepts:
    - (A) Life-Death
    - (B) Freedom-Slavery
    - (C) Wisdom-Folly
    - (D) Good-Evil
  - Introductions and Group Formation

May 20

- *The Epic of Gilgamesh*: C&V,I, 1-10; 295-296
- Ancient Greece – *The Iliad* (Homer): C&V,I, 29-36; 297-305;
- The Great Roman Myth – *The Aeneid* (Virgil): C&V,I, 83-98; 332-341

May 22

- India and the *Mahabharata* – C&V,I, 113-122; WLT,I, 430-451;
- China and *The Book of History* and *The Book of Songs* – C&V,I, 122-126; WLT,I, 203-222

### (B) Freedom and Slavery

May 27

- The Classical Ideal in Ancient Greece and the Nature of Fate: C&V,I 53-61; *Oedipus the King* (Sophocles) 308-321;
- Aristotle, *Politics*: C&V,I, 62-63; 329-331

May 29

- Herodotus, *The Histories* and Thucydides, *History of the Peloponnesian War*: WLT,I, 281-309

June 3

- Kautilya, *Arthashastra*: WLT,I, 417-429
- Mencius, *The Mencius*, WLT,I, 466-474

June 5

- Hsun Tzu, *The Hsun Tzu*: WLT,I, 475-481
- Han Fei Tzu, *The Han Fe Tzu*; WLT,I, 499-505
- Confucius, *The Analects*, WLT,I, 452-459

### (C) Wisdom and Folly

June 10

- Socrates & Plato, *Apology, Phaedo, Republic*: C&V,I, 62-63, 321-327
- Aristotle & Sappho, *Nicomachean Ethics*, C&V,I, 327-329; Selected Poems, C&V,I, 305

June 12

- Marcus Aurelius and Stoicism: C&V,I, 92-93; 343-345
- Lucius Apuleius, *The Golden Ass*, WLT,I, 523-535
- Lao Tzu, *The Tao Te Ching*: WLT,I, 482- 490

### (D) Good and Evil

June 17

- *The Old Testament* (Genesis; Job; Exodus; Amos): C&V,I, 131-137, 352-358
- *The New Testament* (Matthew; Acts; Corinthians): C&V,I, 137-141, 358-361

June 19

- Augustine: C&V,I, 149-152; *Confessions* and *The City of God*: C&V,I, 149-152, 366-374
- *Upanishads*: C&V,I, 347-350

June 24

- Buddhism: *The Life of Buddha*: WLT,I, 380-398; *The Diamond Sutra*: WLT,I, 399-407

June 26

- Review and discussion of exam