

Communication & Culture CMCL303 L01
Roads to Modernity
Fall 2013
T/R 11:00-12:15

Instructor: Christine Mains
Office Location: SS307
Office Phone: n/a
E-Mail: cmains@ucalgary.ca
Web Page: Blackboard
Office Hours: TBA

Course Description

The course is a critical and interdisciplinary examination, via classic texts, of Western, Oriental, and Islamic civilizations in terms of their fundamental cultural assumptions as these have evolved from the formative period (1500 B.C to 400 A.D) covered in CMCL 301 toward the threshold of the modern world explored in CMCL 501 (17th to early 20th centuries). The time span of the course is thus centered on the Medieval and Early Modern epochs (6th to 16th centuries), and the goal is to understand how and why civilizations transform themselves in the direction of a 'modernist identity' characterized by a loss and/or revision of foundational traditions. The key themes by which the texts will be explored are as follows: life-death, freedom-slavery, wisdom-foolly, and good-evil.

Prerequisite: CMCL 301

Objectives of the Course

- (a) Learn how to read and interpret classic texts in a comparative manner;
- (b) Gain a synthetic overview of world civilizations;
- (c) Improve writing skills in the context of developing and supporting arguments;
- (d) Explore how 'culture' is 'communicated' into existence via discourse pertaining to fundamental questions.

Textbooks and Readings

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

Donald S. Gochberg, Sujit Singh Dulai, Edward. D. Graham, Kenneth W. Harrow, Priscilla Melendez, Anibal, Gonzalez, *World Literature and Thought*, Vol. II, The Middle Periods (Mason, Ohio: Cengage Learning, 2012)

Karl F. Thompson, ed. *Classics of Western Thought*, Vol. II, 4th Edition, Middle Ages, Renaissance, and Reformation (Boston: Wadsworth, 1988)

Assignments and Evaluation

Reflective Journal	Submission #1	Oct.1	10%
	Submission #2	Oct. 22	10%
	Submission #3	Nov. 7	10%
	Submission #4	Dec. 3	10%
Small Group Presentation		on sign-up date	30%
Registrar-scheduled Exam		TBD	30%

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

Reflective Journal: The purpose of this assignment is to reflect on each reading in order to prepare for participation in class discussion and to study for the final exam. The journal will be composed of one entry for each day's assigned reading; each entry should be ~ 250-500 words and touch on some of the following themes:

- (a) How does the text embody fundamental cultural assumptions?
- (b) How does the text embody 1 of the 4 course themes?
- (c) What quote do you think exemplifies the message of the text?
- (d) What is your personal reaction to the text in view of lectures, class discussions, your own life experience, etc.?
- (e) What piece of music, film, ad, etc. reflects the essence of the text and why?
- (f) What cultural differences are particularly striking to you and why?
- (g) How could you express the message of the text in a medium in which you like to work (e.g., photography, comic strip art, etc.)?

Students are expected to submit the entire journal at 4 points during the course (Oct. 1, Oct. 22, Nov. 7, and Dec. 3). The instructor will normally look at one entry of his/her own choosing, but will also read any entry that the student wishes to have examined. However, the grade for each submission will be based not only on the entries marked but also on how comprehensive the journal actually is. In other words, marks will be deducted as the number of entries falls below 75% of assigned readings. That is, if the journal contains fewer than $\frac{3}{4}$ of the readings assigned by the date of submission, the student risks failing. While comprehensiveness is crucial, originality and depth, according to the aforementioned criteria, are also important.

Small Group Presentation: Each group of 4-6 students will present (within 20 minutes max.) to the entire class what they think is the most important thing they have learned so far in the course. However, the emphasis should be on what is being developed in the journals – i.e., fundamental cultural assumptions, comparison between cultures, critical evaluation of cultural assumptions, conflicts between and within different cultural configurations, and/or light shed on current assumptions. Any kind of media or original mode of presentation will be allowed. All members of the tutorial will get the same grade except for those who made no viable contribution. A written summary and PowerPoint slideshow is also expected. Early in the year groups will be created and presentation dates will be assigned by lottery.

Final Exam: The exam will be in two parts. The first part (25%) will be short answer and passage identification. The second part (75%) will require a short essay in response to a choice of topics. Students will be permitted to bring into the exam a page of notes (8 1/2x11 single-sided).

All written assignments will be submitted and returned through Digital Dropbox on Blackboard. No assignments will be submitted in hardcopy, whether handed to the instructor, dropped at the main office, or slid under office doors, nor will assignments be accepted through email attachment. It is the student's responsibility to keep a copy of each submitted assignment, and to check email regularly for notices of missing assignments.

Registrar-scheduled Final Examination: Yes

Policy for Late Assignments

Assignments are due through Digital Dropbox on the stated due date. Assignments may be submitted after the deadline only with the emailed permission of the instructor, and may be penalized with the loss of a grade (e.g.: A- to B+) for each day late. Requests for brief extensions must be emailed to the instructor before the assignment due date.

Grading System

In this class, you will receive grades in the 4-point GPA scale *rather than* percentages.

	Grading Scale	GPA
A+	96-100	4.0
A	90-95.99	4.0
A -	85-89.99	3.7
B+	80-84.99	3.3
B	75-79.99	3.0
B-	70-74.99	2.7
C+	65-69.99	2.3
C	60-64.99	2.0
C-	55-59.99	1.7
D+	53-54.99	1.3
D	50-52.99	1.0
F	0-49	0

Internet and electronic communication device information

Students may use laptops to take notes, but not to do any other personal work (such as Facebook or checking email); laptop use must not distract other students. At no time may students use cell phones for any reason whatsoever.

Writing Skills Statement

All written assignments (including written exam responses) will be assessed at least partly on writing skills. Writing skills include not only surface correctness (grammar, punctuation, sentence structure, etc) but also general clarity and organization. Essays and Research papers must be properly documented, using either MLA or APA style correctly and consistently.

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>

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 (3rd 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>

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>

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 using 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.

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

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 fourteen (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

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.

Schedule of Readings

CWT, II: Classics of Western Thought Vol. 2 *WLT, II: World Literature and Thought, Vol. 2*

Week of...	Topics	Important Dates
Sept. 10 12	Introduction to Course Concepts <i>Everyman</i> : CWT, II, 183-200	
17 19	Song of Roland/De Troyes: CWT,II, 14-51 Chaucer: CWT, II, 140-171	
24 26	Castiglione: CWT,II, 294-315 Petrarch: CWT,II, 231-251	
Oct. 1 3	Ko Hung: WLT,II, 43-50 Lady Nijo: WLT, II, 383-392 Benedict: CWT,II, 1-13	Oct. 1 Submission #1
8 10	Christine de Pisan: CWT, II, 201-214 Sei Shonagan: WLT, II, 332-337 Pico Della Mirandola: CWT,II, 252-262	
15 17	More and Machiavelli: CWT,II, 278-293; 316-328 Po Hsing-chien: WLT,II, 249-260	
22 24	Ibn Khaldun: WLT,II,670-682 St Thomas Aquinas: CWT,II, 78-84	Oct. 22 Submission #2
29 31	Erasmus: CWT,II, 263-277 Montaigne: CWT,II, 371-387	
Nov. 5 7	Ch Hsi: WLT,II, 425-431 Kamo no Chomei: WLT,II, 369-376	Nov. 7 Submission #3
12 14	Reading Break: No Classes St. Catherine: CWT,II, 128-135	Nov. 12 Reading Break
19 21	Dante: CWT, II, 99-127 Luther: CWT,II, 518-534	
26 28	Calvin: CWT,II, 535-549 <i>The Koran</i> : WLT,II, 89-116	
Dec. 3 5	Al-Hallaj: WLT,II, 117-127 Exam Review	Dec. 3 Submission #4
Dec. 9-19	Exam Period: Please do not make travel plans until the date of the final exam is confirmed.	