

UNIVERSITY OF CALGARY
DEPARTMENT OF COMMUNICATION AND CULTURE

COMMUNICATION AND CULTURE CMCL 303 – L02:
ROADS TO MODERNITY

Winter 2013

Dr. Glenn R. Wilkinson

Office: SS 615	Telephone: (403) 220-2987
E-mail: grwilkin@ucalgary.ca (best)	Office Hours: T/Th 10.00-10.50am or by appointment
Course Times: T/Th 2.00-3.15pm	

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 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/folly, and good/evil.

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
- (d) Explore how ‘culture’ is ‘communicated’ into existence via discourse pertaining to fundamental questions

INTERNET AND ELECTRONIC COMMUNICATION DEVICE INFORMATION

No restrictions on use of laptops in class if they are used to take notes and there is no disturbance of other students by visiting inappropriate web sites. Please ensure that your phones are switched off during lectures, unless it is required for extenuating circumstances, such as medical emergencies. If this is the case, you should let your instructor know.

TEXTBOOKS AND READINGS:

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

Cunningham, L.S. and Reich, John S. *Culture and Values*, Vol. I, 7th Ed. (Boston: Wadsworth, 2010)

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

(A) 4 ten-minute quizzes @ 5%	= 20%
(B) Essay # 1	= 15%
(C) Essay #2	= 30%
(D) Student Contribution	= 10%
(E) Registrar-Scheduled Exam	= 25%
—————	100%

(A) Quizzes:

Quizzes are there to ensure you do the readings. If you have done them, they will be an easy way of earning 20% of your final grade. They are not obscure or meant to trap you. Try not to miss them because make-up quizzes will not normally be possible.

They are given in the last 10 minutes of the tutorial at the end of each thematic section.

(B) Essay #1:

Due Date: January 31, 2013

Page Length: approx. 5 pages double-spaced

Goal: Find a contemporary (from our own time) manifestation of the Life-Death theme and compare the fundamental cultural assumptions associated with those appearing in one or two course texts.

Method:

- (a) Articulate your own understanding of the life/death theme;
- (b) Identify how that theme appears in one or two course texts
- (c) Interpret the fundamental cultural assumption being expressed
- (d) Compare that assumption with a contemporary counterpart from our own times, indicating where you found it and why you think it is fundamental with respect to this time.

Most of your analysis will be of the document you chose and supporting work, but linked to a piece of contemporary culture from our own times.

N.B.: Always support your argument with properly footnoted textual material from the course and elsewhere.

(C) *Essay #2:*

Due Date: March 28, 2013 in class

Page Length: 10-12 typed pages double-spaced

Goal: Compare two documents from with respect to one of the 4 course themes.

Method:

- (a) Discuss your understanding of one of the course themes (i.e., life-death, freedom-slavery, wisdom-folly, and good-evil);
- (b) Indicate how that theme can be seen in two of the three cultures explored in this course (with at least one from the West);
- (c) Develop and support a thesis as to the major similarities or differences that the given theme manifests between the two cultures under analysis and also with respect to your own understanding

N.B.: Always support your argument with properly footnoted textual material from the course and elsewhere.

It is the student's responsibility to keep a copy of each submitted assignment and also send an electronic copy to the course digital dropbox on Blackboard.

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.

(D) *Student Contribution:*

Students will be given a grade commensurate with their active participation in the tutorials. This is not merely attending, but actively contributing to the tutorial discussions. We are not looking for quantity, but quality of contributions.

(E) *Registrar-Scheduled Exam*

Time: 3 hours

Format: The exam will be in two parts. Part A will consist of quotation identification and Part B will be an essay. Students can take into the exam a sheet of paper with whatever notes they think will be helpful. In other words, the goal is thinking and not memorization.

Registrar-scheduled Final Examination: (3 hours)

Please note: If your class is held in the evening, the Registrar's Office will make every attempt to schedule the final exam during the evening; however, there is NO guarantee that the exam will NOT be scheduled during the day.

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

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://www.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	C+	65-69.99
A	90-95.99	C	60-64.99
A -	85-89.99	C-	55-59.99
B+	80-84.99	D+	53-54.99
B	75-79.99	D	50-52.99
B-	70-74.99	F	0-49

The 'A' range denotes exceptional performance; goes far beyond the standards required by the assignment, examination, or course.

The 'B' range denotes above average performance; exceeds standards required.

The 'C' range denotes average performance; meets standards required.

The 'D' range denotes below average performance; does not meet standards required.

An 'F' denotes incomplete or inadequate performance; unable to show competence.

SCHEDULE OF LECTURES AND READINGS

Abbreviations: C&V I = *Culture and Values*, Vol. I

WLT II = *World Literature and Thought*, Vol. II

CWT II = *Classics of Western Thought*, Vol. II

Week 1:

Jan. 8: Introduction: What This Course Is About – Key Concepts

(A) Life and Death

Jan. 10: *Everyman*: C&V,I, 185-190; 194-195;401-410

Week 2:

Jan. 15: Roland/De Troyes: C&V, 195-197; CWT,II, 14-51

Jan. 17: Chaucer: C&V,I, 242-244; CWT, II, 140-182

Week 3:

Jan. 22: Castiglione: C&V,I, 265-267, 287; CWT,II, 294-315

Jan. 24: Petrarch, C&V,I, 242-243; CWT,II, 231-251

Week 4:

Jan. 29: Ko Hung, *The philosopher Who Embraces Simplicity*: WLT,II, 43-50; Lady Nijo, *The Confessions*: 383-392

Quiz #1

(B) Freedom and Slavery

Jan. 31:Bendict and Hroswitha: C&V,I, 190-192, 195, 388-392; CWT,II, 1-13

Essay #1 Due in class

Week 5:

Feb. 5: Christine de Pisan and Laura Cereta: C&V,I, 244-245, 289, 451-452, 453-456

Feb. 7: Pico Della Mirandola: C&V,I, 287-288; CWT,II, 252-262

Week 6:

Feb. 12: More and Machiavelli: C&V,I, 289-291; CWT,II, 278-293; 316-328

Feb, 14: Po Hsing-chien, *The Courtesan Li Wa*: WLT,II, 249-260

Week 7: Reading Week

Feb. 18-22

Week 8:

Feb. 26: Ibn Khaldun: WLT,II,670-682

Feb. 28: St Thomas Aquinas: C&V,II, 223-230; CWT,II, 78-84

Quiz #2

(C) Wisdom and Folly

Week 9:

Mar. 5: Erasmus: C&V,II, 290-291; CWT,II, 263-277

Mar. 7: Montaigne: CWT,II, 371-387

Week 10:

Mar. 12: Ch Hsi, *The Neo-Confucian Synthesis*: WLT,II, 425-431

Mar. 14: Kamo no Chomei, *Life In A Ten Foot Square Hut*: WLT,II, 369-376

Week 11:

Mar. 19: Al-Maari, *Meditations*: WLT,II, 128-134

Quiz # 3

(D) Good and Evil

Mar. 21: St. Catherine: CWT,II, 128-135

Week 12

Mar. 26: Paul and the Rise of Christianity, *The New Testament*: C&V,I, 359-361

Mar. 28: *Upanishads*: C&V,I, 347-350; WLT,I, 357-380

Essay #2 – Due in class

Week 13:

Apr. 2: Calvin: CWT,II, 535-549

Apr. 4: *The Koran*: C&V,I, 171-176; WLT,II, 89-116; Al-Hallaj, *The Crucifixion of A Mystic*:

WLT,II, 117-127

Week 14:

Apr. 9: Al-Ghazali, WLT,II, 393-406

Quiz #4

Apr. 11: Review

Final examination – date and time determined by the Registrar

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION FOR STUDENTS

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>

Students with Disabilities

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.

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.su.ucalgary.ca/services/student-services/student-rights.html>

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/cfreb>