

Communication and Culture (CMCL) 303 L02
Roads to Modernity
Winter 2014
Monday/Wednesday 8.00-9.15am

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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-foolly, and good-evil.

Additional Information

Lecture Schedule and Assignment Guide at end of this syllabus.

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.

Internet and electronic communication device information

No restriction 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.

Textbooks and Readings:

The following texts are all 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: Cenage 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) Study Guides: Due in the first tutorial after each course thematic section.

1 st Submission	10%
2 nd Submission	10%
3 rd Submission	10%
4 th Submission	10%

(B) Mid-Term Exam (Feb 24) 15%

(C) Final Exam (Reg.Sch.) 35%

(D) Tutorial Contribution 10%
100%

For details, please see Assignment Guide at end of Syllabus.

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 (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.

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	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

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 (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.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/cfweb>

SCHEDULE OF LECTURES AND READINGS

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

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

Life and Death

Jan. 13: *Everyman*: CWT, II, 183-200

Jan. 15: Roland/De Troyes: CWT, II, 14-51

Jan. 20: Chaucer: CWT, II, 140-182

Jan. 22: Petrarch: CWT, II, 231-251

Jan. 27: Castiglione: CWT,II, 294-315

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

(First Set of Study Guides Due in Tutorial)

Freedom and Slavery

Feb. 3: Benedict, *The Rule*: CWT, II, 1-13; *The Lady Who Loved Insects*: WLT,II, 377-382

Feb. 5: Christine de Pisan, *The Book Of The Duke of True Lovers*: CWT,II, 201-214; Murusaki Shikibu, *The Tale of Genji*: WLT,II, 338-357

Feb. 10: Pico Della Mirandola: CWT,II, 252-262

Feb. 12: More and Machiavelli: CWT,II, 278-293; 316-328

(Second Set of Study Guides Due in Tutorial)

Feb. 16-23: Reading Break

Feb. 24: Mid-term Exam

Wisdom and Folly

Feb. 26: St Thomas Aquinas: CWT,II, 78-84

Mar. 3: Erasmus: CWT,II, 263-277

Mar. 5: Montaigne: CWT,II, 371-387

Mar. 10: Han Yu and Wang An-Shih: *The Confucian Revival*: WLT,II, 415-425

Mar. 12: Kamo no Chomei, *Life In A Ten Foot Square Hut*: WLT,II, 369-376

Mar. 17: Al-Maari, *Meditations*: WLT,II, 128-134

(Third Set of Study Guides Due in Tutorial)

Good and Evil

Mar. 19: Dante: WLT, II, 510-546

Mar. 24: St. Catherine: CWT,II, 128-135

Mar. 26: Luther: CWT,II, 518-534

Mar. 31: Calvin: CWT,II, 535-549

Apr. 2: Loyola: CWT II, Selections from Loyola's *The Spiritual Exercises*

Apr. 7: *The Koran*: WLT,II, 89-116

Apr. 9: Al-Hallaj, *The Crucifixion of A Mystic*: WLT,II, 117-127

Apr. 14: Review and Discussion of Exam

(Fourth Set of Study Guides Due in Tutorial)

Assignment Guide:

Assignments and Evaluation

(A) Study Guides: Due in the first tutorial after each course thematic section.

1 st Submission	10%
2 nd Submission	10%
3 rd Submission	10%
4 th Submission	10%

(B) Mid-Term Exam (Feb. 24) 15%

(C) Final Exam (Reg.Sch.) 35%

(D) Tutorial Contribution 10%
100%

(A) *Study Guides:*

For all of the readings in each section, you are expected to write a one and a half to two page (single-spaced) entry that discusses the fundamental cultural assumptions (FAC's) in the text. The discussion should relate the FCAs to the theme of the submission unit (i.e., life-death, freedom-slavery, etc.), illustrate with quotes how the assumption appears and is articulated, offer some kind of personal and a critical response to that assumption. A detailed guide will be posted on Blackboard.

(B) *Mid-Term Exam:*

There will be a mid-term exam that will encourage the careful reading of texts through an examination of quotations and ask brief short answer questions. The structure of the mid-term will be reflected in part of the final exam.

(C) *Registrar Scheduled Exam:*

Time: 3 hours

Format: The exam will consist of quotation identification, and either two short essays or one large one.

(D) *Tutorial Contribution:*

Students will be rewarded for their contributions to the tutorials. Mere attendance is not enough to gain full marks here.