

**Communication and Culture (CMCL) 501 (L03):**  
***Modernity***

**Fall 2013**  
**T/Th 3.30 – 4.45pm**

**Instructor:** GR Wilkinson  
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**Office Hours:** T/Th 2.30-3.20pm

**Course Description**

A critical and inter-disciplinary examination, via classic texts, of the meaning of Modernity in Western and non-Western contexts. Focus will be on the major ideas, principles, and their implications with the time-frame of the 17<sup>th</sup> and early 20<sup>th</sup> centuries.

**Additional Information**

Please see end of syllabus for outline of readings and assignment guide.

**Objectives of the Course**

- (1) Give students an overview of the cultural configuration known as ‘Modernity’;
- (2) Learn how to interpret classic texts in an inter-cultural context;
- (3) Develop cultural strategies that may help to heal some of the dysfunctions associated with Modernity;
- (4) Explore Modernity from the perspectives of Life-Death, Freedom-Slavery, Wisdom-Folly, and Good-Evil;
- (5) Develop writing and presentation skills.

**Internet and electronic communication device information**

No restriction on the use of laptops in class provided that they are used to take notes and there is no disturbance of other students by visiting inappropriate websites. Please ensure that all your electronic devices are turned off during lectures and tutorials.

**Textbooks and Readings:**

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

D. Gochberg, Surjit Dulai, Anibal Gonzalez, Edward Graham, Kenneth W. Harrow and P. Melendez, eds. *World Literature and Thought, Vol. III, The Modern World to 1900* (Fort Worth: Harcourt, 2001).

E. Knoebel, ed., *Classics of Western Thought, Vol. III, The Modern World* (n.p.: Wadsworth, Thomson Learning, 1988).

L.S. Cunningham and John J. Reich, *Culture and Values, Vol. II, 7<sup>th</sup> ed. With Readings* (Boston: Wadsworth, 2010).

### Assignments and Evaluation

Please see Assignment Guide at end of syllabus for details.

#### Reflective Journal Entries

1. First set of entries	15
2. Second set	15
3. Third set	15
4. Fourth set	15
5. Final Exam, 3 hours (Registrar Scheduled)	40
	100%

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
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 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/cfreh>

### Schedule of Lectures and Readings

Abbreviations:

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

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

C&V,II = *Culture and Values, Vol. II*

Sept.9 Introduction – Basic Concepts and Course Themes.

#### (A) Life and Death

Sept. 10 Cervantes, *Don Quixote* C&V,II, 388; 673-678; WLT, 245-258;

Sept. 12 Romantic Poetry: C&V,II, 423-426; 451-452; 705-707

Sept. 17 Goethe, *Faust*, C&V,II, 450-451; CWT,III, 221-259

Sept. 19 Dickens, C&V,II, 452-454; 707-713; Ts'ao Hsueh-ch'in, *The Dream of the Red Chamber*, WLT,III, 270-278

Sept. 24 Ibsen, C&V,II, 491-492; 722-724 (*A Doll's House*)

Oct. 1 Kate Chopin, C&V,II, 724-727; Virginia Woolf, CWT,III, 635-649; C&V,II, 535-536

First Set of Journal Entries Due

**(B) Freedom and Slavery**

Oct. 3 Hobbes C&V,II , 383-386; CWT,III, 31-42

Oct. 8 Swift & Rousseau C&V,II, 393-397; 412-420; 687-689; CWT,III, 131-140

Oct. 10 Condorcet CWT,III, 178-201

Oct. 14 Monday University Closed for Thanksgiving Day

Oct. 15 Equiano, Douglass WLT,III, 428-441; 668-687

Oct. 17 Marx C&V,II, 427-429; CWT,III, 367-389

Oct. 22 Dostoevsky C&V,II, 490-491; CWT,III, 421-442

Oct. 24 Sartre C&V,II, 562-563; CWT,III, 616-634

Second Set of Entries Due

**(C) Wisdom and Folly**

Oct. 29 Bacon & Descartes CWT,III, 10-30

Oct. 31 Locke & Voltaire CWT,III, 59-67; 95-130

Nov. 5 Rousseau WLT,III, 569-589; Smith CWT,III, 166-177

Nov. 7 Burke & Lo Kuan-chung, *The Water Margin* CWT,III, 202-220; WLT,III, 198-207

Nov. 9-12 University Closed -- Remembrance Day

Nov. 14 Hegel CWT,III, 338-349; Darwin CWT,III, 350-366; C&V,II, 430

Nov. 19 Mill & Thoreau CWT,III, 332-337; 299-310

Nov. 21 Freud & Einstein C&V,II, 545-546; CWT,III, 535-559

Third Set of Entries Due

**(D) Good and Evil**

Nov. 26 Pascal CWT,III, 43-58; Pope CWT,III, 83-94

Nov. 28 Beccaria; CWT, III 154-165; Leo XIII, CWT,III, 405-420

Dec. 3 Tolstoy C&V,II, 453-454;711-713; Chekhov C&V,II, 491; 720-722

Dec. 5 Nietzsche C&V,II, 465-468; WLT,III, 722-737; Hitler CWT,III, 597-615

Fourth set of entries due or major essay

**Assignment Guide – 2013****(A) Reflective Journal**

The purpose of this assignment is to get you, the students, to do all the course readings and reflect on each reading with 1 to 1 ½ page entry (single-spaced) that touches on some of the following themes:

- (a) How does the text reflect modernity?
- (b) How does the text embody 1 of the 4 course themes (life-death, wisdom-folly, etc.) and/or fundamental cultural assumptions?
- (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 at the end of each theme.

The marker will normally look at one entry of his 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 the entries marked, but also on how comprehensive the journal actually is. While comprehensiveness is crucial, originality and depth, according to the aforementioned criteria, are also important.

The advantage of doing this is that the journal is a record of what you learned in the course and allows you to avoid cramming for the final.

Students are also encouraged to share their journal entries with the class and incorporate whatever feedback they receive.

**(B) Final Exam:**

Time: 3 hours

Format: The exam will be in two parts. Part A (worth 20%) will consist of quotation identification and explanation. Part B (worth 80%) will be a choice of two essays from questions given to you during the exam OR one larger essay written with a theme of your choice. 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