

**UNIVERSITY OF CALGARY**  
**DEPARTMENT OF COMMUNICATION AND CULTURE**

*COMMUNICATION AND CULTURE CMCL 501 – L20*

**MODERNITY**

Spring 2013

MW 3:00pm-5:45pm

Dr. Glenn R. Wilkinson

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**COURSE DESCRIPTION**

This course is designed to be 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 within the time frame of the nineteenth and twentieth centuries.

**OBJECTIVES OF THE COURSE**

- (1) Give students an overview of a cultural configuration in which we, to some extent, all live;
- (2) Learn how to interpret classic texts in an inter-cultural context;
- (3) Understand Modernity from a critical perspective and come up with 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 communication skills

**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:

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**

(A) Essay #1	20%
(B) Essay #2	30%
(C) Final Exam	40%
(D) Participation	10%
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	100%

**(A) Essay # 1**

Due Date: June 3, 2013

Length: 5-10 pages double-spaced

Goal: Way of Life and Death Emphasized via Modernity

Method:

- (i) Find an advertisement, TV show, piece of music, or some cultural artifact that reflects the ideal way of life associated with modernity;
- (ii) Justify your choice;
- (iii) Compare the foregoing ideal with a modernist ideal appearing in one or two of the texts you have read so far;
- (iv) Conclude by considering if you feel that this ideal way of life is 'meaningful' or worthwhile.

**(B) Essay #2**

Due Date: June 24, 2013

Length: 12-15 pages double-spaced

Goal: Critique of Modernity

Method: Developing your own definition of modernity on the basis of what you have read in the course and discussed in class, write an essay with the following elements:

- (i) Your definition of modernity;
- (ii) What you base your definition on;
- (iii) Which of the course texts best represents that definition; which least;
- (iv) What is right and what is wrong with modernity
- (v) Use an example or two that exemplify your point

**N.B.:** While there is no upper limit on the number of course texts you can use in the essay, you should include at least three. Proper footnoting is expected. Please note that you should keep a copy of all your assignments and also that you should hand in a physical copy **and** an electronic version in the digital dropbox on Blackboard.

### **(C) Final Exam (Registrar Scheduled)**

Time: 3 Hours

The exam will be in two parts: Part A (worth 20%) will be based on identification of short excerpts from the readings. Part B (worth 80%) will consist of one essay chosen from two topics. These two topics will be given to students ahead of the exam and will be part of a list of three. Hence students need to prepare two from the list unless, of course, they feel really lucky. In any case, they can take into the exam a sheet of paper with whatever notes they deem helpful.

### **(D) Class Participation**

Class participation is more than just showing up in class, but it is also more than merely talking a lot also. Your contribution to the course will be gauged by the quality of your contribution and the degree to which you demonstrate your understanding and engagement with the texts and with others in the class.

### **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://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: CWT,III = *Classics of Western Thought*, Vol. III  
 WLT,III = *World Literature and Thought*, Vol. III  
 C&V,II = *Culture and Values*, Vol. II

#### **Day 1: May 15**

Introduction – Basic Concepts and Background

#### **(A) Life and Death**

#### **Day 1: May 15**

Romantic Poetry: C&V,II, 423-426; 451-452;705-707; CWT,III, 260-270; WLT,III, 617-620

Poetry In A Traditional Vein – The Americas: WLT,III, 499-512

#### **Day 2: May 22**

Goethe’s *Faust*: C&V,II, 450-451; CWT,III, 221-259

Wang Shih-chen, *The Golden Lotus*: WLT,III, 259-269; C&V,II, 502-503

#### **Day 3: May 27**

Kate Chopin, *The Story Of An Hour* and *The Awakening*: C&V,II, 724-727; C&V,II, 492

Sartre, *Existentialism*: CWT,III, 616-634; C&V,II,562-563

**(B) Freedom and Slavery**

**Day 4: May 29**

Oulaudah Equiano, *The Interesting Narrative*: WLT,III, 428-441  
Frederick Douglass, *My Bondage and My Freedom*: WLT,III 668-687  
Burke, *Reflections on the Revolution in France*: CWT,III, 202-220

**Day 5: June 3**

Marx and Engels, *The Communist Manifesto*: C&V,II, 427-429; CWT,III, 367389  
Bakunin, *Anarchism*: CWT,III, 390-404

\*\*\* Essay # 1 Due\*\*\*

**Day 6: June 5**

J.S. Mill, *On Liberty and Utilitarianism*: CWT,III, 321-337  
Alexis de Tocqueville, *Democracy in America*: CWT,III 280-298  
Thoreau, *Civil Disobedience*: CWT,III, 310-322

**Day 7: June 10**

Ibsen, *Hedda Gabler*: CWT,III, 458-534; C&V,II, 491-492  
Ibsen, *A Doll's House*: C&V,II, 722-724

**(C) Wisdom and Folly**

**Day 8: June 12**

Smith, *Wealth of Nations*: CWT,III, 166-177; C&V,II, 393-398  
Condorcet, *The Progress of the Human Mind*: CWT,III, 178-201; C&V,II, 418-420  
Hegel, *Reason in History*: CWT,III, 338-349  
Darwin, *The Origin of Species* and *The Descent of Man*: CWT,III, 350-366

**Day 9: June 17**

Einstein, *My Views*: CWT,III, 535- 545  
Freud, *Why War?* CWT,III, 546-559; C&V,II, 545-546  
Jung, *Approaching the Unconscious*: CWT,III, 560-576

**(D) Good and Evil**

**Day 10: June 19**

Pascal, *Thoughts*: CWT,III,43-58  
Thoreau, *Walden*: CWT,III, 299-310

**Day 11: June 24**

Lo Kuan-chung, *The Water Margin*: WLT,III, 198-207  
Tulsi Das, *Ramcharitmanas*: WLT,III, 334-351  
Nietzsche, *The Genealogy of Morals*: CWT,III, 443-457

\*\*\* Essay #2 Due \*\*\*

**Day 12: June 26**

Leo XIII, *Concerning New Things*: CWT,III, 405-420  
Hitler, *My Struggle*: CWT,III, 597-615; C&V,II, 531-534

\*\*\*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 (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 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/cfreb>