

**Communication & Culture CMCL501 L01**  
**Modernity**  
**Winter 2014**  
**T/R 14:00 – 15:15**

**Instructor:** Christine Mains  
**Office Location:** TBA  
**Office Phone:** n/a  
**E-Mail:** cmains@ucalgary.ca  
**Web Page:** Blackboard  
**Office Hours:** Monday's and Tuesday's 12:30pm-1:30pm

**Course Description**

The course is a critical and interdisciplinary examination, via classic texts, of the meaning of Modernity in Western and non-Western contexts. The focus will be on the major ideas and principles, and their implications within the time-frame of the 17<sup>th</sup> through the early 20<sup>th</sup> centuries.

**Objectives of the Course**

- (1) Gain 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.

**Textbooks and Readings**

The following texts are 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).

**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.

## Assignments and Evaluation

Reflective Journal	Submission #1	Jan. 31	10%
	Submission #2	Feb. 28	10%
	Submission #3	March 26	10%
	Submission #4	April 11	10%
Online Task		March 18-20	10%
Small Group Presentation		on sign-up date	20%
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 readings; 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 journal at 4 points during the course (Jan. 31; Feb. 28; March 26; April 11). 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 quality of the entries marked but also on how comprehensive the journal actually is. Marks will be deducted for missing or unsubstantial entries. If the journal contains fewer than  $\frac{3}{4}$  of the readings assigned by the date of submission, the student risks failing.

**Online Task:** The instructor will be attending a professional conference in March, but classes for that week will not be cancelled. Instead, students will complete an online task using Blackboard's Discussion Board and testing features. The task will require students to make connections between the assigned readings for the week and respond briefly to questions that will prepare them for the types of questions that will be asked on the final exam.

**Small Group Presentation:** Each group of 3-5 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. The emphasis should be on 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, and creativity is encouraged. All members of the group will get the same grade except for those who made no viable contribution, based on the observation of the instructor and other group members. A written summary and PowerPoint slideshow is 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 single page of notes (8 1/2x11 single-sided). This page will be submitted along with the exam booklet.

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

## **Writing Skills Statement**

All written assignments (including 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. 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 (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>

## **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 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>.

## **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: *Classics of Western Thought Vol. 3*;

WLT: *World Literature and Thought, Vol. 3*

Date	Topics	Deadlines
Jan. 9	Introduction to Course Concepts	
14 16	Cervantes, <i>Don Quixote</i> WLT 245-258 Goethe, <i>Faust</i> CWT 221-259	
21 23	Ts'ao Hsueh-ch'in, <i>Dream of the Red Chamber</i> WLT 270-278 Ghalib, <i>Diwan</i> WLT 647-656 Lo Kuan-chung, <i>The Water Margin</i> WLT 198-207 Wang Shi-chen, <i>The Golden Lotus</i> WLT 259-269	
28 30	Virginia Woolf, CWT 635-649 Ibsen, <i>Hedda Gabler</i> CWT 460-534	Jan. 31 Submission #1
Feb. 4 6	Hobbes CWT 31-42 & Rousseau CWT 131-140 Condorcet CWT 179-201 & Varis Shah WLT 628-646	
11 13	Equiano WLT 428-441 & Douglass WLT 668-687 Marx CWT 367-389	
18 20	READING WEEK NO CLASSES	
25 27	Dostoevsky CWT 421-442 Sartre CWT 616-634	Feb. 28 Submission #2
March 4 6	Bacon CWT 10-19 & Descartes CWT 20-30 Locke CWT 59-67 & Voltaire CWT 95-130	
11 13	Rousseau WLT 569-589 & Smith CWT 166-178 Burke CWT 202-220	
18 20	Hegel CWT 338-349 & Darwin CWT 350-366 Mill CWT 332-337 & Thoreau, <i>Walden</i> CWT 299-310	March 18-20 Online Task
25 27	Einstein CWT 535-545 & Freud CWT 546-559 B. de las Casas WLT 745-748 & Native American Lit. WLT 499-512	March 26 Submission #3
April 1 3	Pascal CWT 43-58 & Pope CWT 83-94 Beccaria CWT 154-165 & Leo XIII CWT 405-420	
8 10	Nietzsche WLT 722-737 & Hitler CWT 597-615 Primal Book WLT 320-333	April 11 Submission #4
April 17-29	Exam Period: Please do not make travel plans until the date of the final exam is confirmed.	Date TBA: Final Exam