

University of Calgary
Department of Communication, Media and Film

Communication and Culture CMCL503 L01
Contours of Contemporary Culture
Summer 2015

Mon., July 6 – Wed., August 12 (excluding August 3 Heritage Day)
M/W 12:00–14:45

Instructor: Christine Mains
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Office Phone: n/a
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Web Page: D2L available through MyUofC portal
Office Hours: M 10:45–11:45

Course Description

This course is a critical exploration of how Modernity has been transformed within an evolving global culture. The focus is on major ideas, principles and their implications in the later 20th and 21st centuries. Students will explore our recent past and our complex present, and examine perspectives on basic issues that have always confronted humanity but are even more pressing as technology moves us into the future – what it means to be human; how technological progress shapes ethics, morality, justice, and the social order; what rights and responsibilities come with knowledge and power; how the collapse of truth and “grand narratives” affects religion and science, work, economics, and politics.

***Prerequisite:* CMCL 501**

Objectives of the Course

- familiarize students with the experience of learning how to read, critically evaluate, and creatively explore classic texts which articulate fundamental cultural assumptions
- learn how to develop and defend intellectual positions concerning those fundamental life questions to which classic texts address themselves
- strengthen abilities to discuss and present insights gained in the course

Textbooks and Readings

There is no required textbook to purchase for this course. Links to required readings and a schedule of assigned readings is posted to D2L. Please review the reading schedule weekly and complete all assigned readings before the start of class in order to participate fully in class discussion and activities.

Internet and electronic communication device information

Students may use laptops to take notes and refer to assigned readings during class, but not to do any other personal work (such as Facebook or checking email); laptop use must not distract other students. Cellphones must be turned to silent and should not be used during class time.

Assignments and Evaluation

Reflective Journal	Submission #1	July 13	10%
	Submission #2	July 20	10%
	Submission #3	July 27	10%
	Submission #4	August 5	10%
Reading Quizzes	Quiz #1	July 22	10%
	Quiz #2	August 10	10%
Comparative Essay		August 8	25%
Small Group Presentation		August 12	15%

Registrar-scheduled Final Examination: NO

All assignments and exams must be completed or a course 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 regular participation in class discussion and to study for the quizzes. The journal will be composed of one entry for each day's assigned readings; each entry must be no less than 250 words and no more than 500 words. Journals will be submitted at 4 points during the course. 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. The grade will be based on the quality of the entries marked and on the number of entries completed; marks will be deducted for missing or unsubstantial entries. See the grading rubric on D2L.

Reading Quizzes: The purpose of the quizzes is to test the student's mastery of the assigned readings. The quizzes will be short answer. The instructor will provide a number of passages drawn from the readings and class discussion, and students will be required to identify the author of each passage and answer a few content-related questions about each passage.

Small Group Presentation: Each group of 3-4 students will present (~15 min. per group) to the entire class. The emphasis should be on exploring cultural assumptions through making connections between readings. 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 the report of other group members. A written summary and PowerPoint slideshow is expected. Groups will be created by the instructor. See the grading rubric on D2L.

Comparative Essay: The essay of ~2000 words will require students to make connections between 4-5 readings from the textbook, and explore how those readings relate to a developing understanding of a particular fundamental cultural assumption. No secondary research will be required, but the textbook readings must be properly cited using MLA. Essays will be evaluated on content, structure & organization, grammar & expression, and citation. See the grading rubric on D2L.

Submission of Assignments

All written assignments will be submitted and returned through Dropbox on D2L. 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.

Please include your name and ID number on all assignments, and be prepared to provide picture ID to pick up assignments or look at final exams in SS 320 after classes have ended. Personal information is collected in accordance with the *Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy (FOIP) Act*. For more information, see <http://www.ucalgary.ca/secretariat/privacy>

Note: It is the student's responsibility to keep a copy of each submitted assignment. For courses in which assignments are submitted electronically, it is the student's responsibility to ensure that the correct copy of the assignment is submitted. (Including the version date or version number in your file name may help you avoid submitting the wrong version of your written assignments.)

Late Assignments

Assignments are due through 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.

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 14 days after the start of the course.

Writing Skills Statement

Department policy directs that all written assignments (including, 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. Sources used in 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 & Department of Communication, Media and Film Grade Scale

Work in this course will be graded using letter grades. The following grade scale percentage equivalents are used in the Department of Communication, Media and Film:

Grade Point Value	Description	Grade	Department grade scale equivalents	Letter grade % equivalent for calculations
4.00	Outstanding	A+	96 - 100%	98.0%
4.00	Excellent—superior performance, showing comprehensive understanding of subject matter.	A	90 - 95.99%	93.0%
3.70		A -	85 - 89.99%	87.5%
3.30		B+	80 - 84.99%	82.5%
3.00	Good—clearly above average performance with knowledge of subject matter generally complete.	B	75 - 79.99%	77.5%
2.70		B-	70 - 74.99%	72.5%
2.30		C+	65 - 69.99%	67.5%
2.00	Satisfactory—basic understanding of the subject matter.	C	60 - 64.99%	62.5%
1.70		C-	55 - 59.99%	57.5%
1.30	Minimal pass—marginal performance; generally insufficient preparation for subsequent courses in the same subject	D+	53 - 54.99%	54.0%
1.00		D	50 - 52.99%	51.5%
0.00	Fail – unsatisfactory performance or failure to meet course requirements.	F	00 - 49.99%	0%

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. In-text citations must be provided, and readers must be able to tell exactly where your words and ideas end and other people's words and ideas begin. Wording taken directly from a source must be enclosed within quotation marks (or, for long quotations, presented in the format prescribed by the documentation style you are using). Paraphrased information must not follow the original wording and sentence structure with only slight

word substitutions here and there. These requirements apply to all assignments and sources, including those in non-traditional formats such as Web pages or visual media.

For information on citation and documentation styles (including APA, Chicago, IEEE, MLA, and others), visit the links provided at <https://ucalgary.ca/ssc/resources/writing-support/436>. If you have questions about how to document sources, please consult your instructor or the Writing Centre (3rd Floor TFDL, <http://www.ucalgary.ca/ssc/writing-support>).

Academic Misconduct

For information on academic misconduct and its consequences, please see the University of Calgary Calendar at <http://www.ucalgary.ca/pubs/calendar/current/k.html>

Research 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 <http://arts.ucalgary.ca/research/resources/ethics>

Important information, services, and contacts for students

For information about . . .	Visit or contact . . .
ARTS PROGRAM ADVISING (ASC)	SS 102 403-220-3580 artsads@ucalgary.ca
CAMPUS SECURITY <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Calgary Police Service • Emergency Text Messaging • Emergency Evacuation & Assembly • Safewalk Program 	http://www.ucalgary.ca/security/ 403-220-5333 403-266-1234 Emergency: call 911 http://www.ucalgary.ca/emergencyplan/textmessage http://www.ucalgary.ca/emergencyplan/assemblypoints If you feel uncomfortable walking alone at any time, call Campus Security for an escort (220-5333). For more information, see http://www.ucalgary.ca/security/safewalk
DESIRE2LEARN (D2L) Support <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • IT help line 	http://elearn.ucalgary.ca/desire2learn/home/students 403-220-5555 or itsupport@ucalgary.ca
STUDENT SUCCESS CENTRE <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Writing Support Services • Student Services Mobile App 	http://ucalgary.ca/ssc http://www.ucalgary.ca/ssc/writing-support http://ucalgary.ca/currentstudents

<p>STUDENTS' UNION CONTACTS</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Faculty of Arts Reps • Student Ombudsman 	<p>https://www.su.ucalgary.ca/about/who-we-are/elected-officials/</p> <p>http://www.ucalgary.ca/provost/students/ombuds</p>
<p>SU WELLNESS CENTRE</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Counselling Services • Health Services • Distress centre 24/7 CRISIS LINE • Online resources and tips 	<p>403-210-9355 (MSC 370), M-F, 9:00–4:30 pm</p> <p>http://ucalgary.ca/wellnesscentre/counselling</p> <p>http://ucalgary.ca/wellnesscentre/health</p> <p>403-266-HELP (4357)</p> <p>http://ucalgary.ca/wellnesscentre/healthycampus</p> <p>If you're concerned about a friend or your own well-being, it is important to seek help early. Call or visit the SU Wellness Centre or the 24-hour crisis line.</p>

Schedule of Lectures and Readings

The schedule of readings and due dates is posted on D2L.