

Communication and Culture (CMCL) 503 –Lecture 01

Contours of Contemporary Culture

Winter 2013

MWF 1:00 – 1:50

Instructor: R. Glasberg
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Office Hours: Tuesdays and Thursdays 1:00-2:00

Course Description

The course looks at the contemporary world as a discursive interface between different cultural traditions as they struggle to formulate a global perspective. Classic texts and scholarly commentary will be interpreted and analyzed by way of the following themes: life-death, freedom, slavery, wisdom-folly, and good-evil.

Additional Information

Lecture Schedule and Assignment Guide at end of syllabus.

Objectives of the Course

- (1) Develop and enhance interpretative and critical thinking skills in the context of written and spoken discourse;
- (2) Give students the opportunity to formulate the principles of a viable global civilization;
- (3) Creatively synthesize material from a variety of disciplinary perspectives.

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 websites.

Textbooks and Readings:

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

Gochberg, Donald, ed. *Classics of Western Thought – The Twentieth Century* (Mason, Ohio: Cengage Learning, 2003).

Hallman, Max O. *Traversing Philosophical Boundaries*, 4th Ed. (Boston: Wadsworth, 2012).

Assignments and Evaluation

(A) Essay #1	= 25%
(B) Group Project	= 40%
(C) Final Exam	= <u>35%</u>
	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

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://www.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 (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/cfreb>

Schedule of Lectures and Readings

Lecture Schedule CMCL 503 L01 2013

Abbreviations: CWT = *Classics of Western Thought – The Twentieth Century*
 TPB = *Traversing Philosophical Boundaries*

Jan. 9: Introduction: Basic Principles of the Course

Good -Evil

Jan. 11: Bettelheim, Wiesel: CWT 3-29; 416-421

Jan. 14: Arendt: CWT 30-46

Jan. 16: Solzhenitsyn: CWT 75-116

Jan. 18: Robinson: CWT 422-437

Jan. 21: Daly: TPB 415-422

Jan. 23: Radhakrishnan: TPB 377-382

Jan. 25: Carol Christ: TPB 663-673

Jan. 28: C.W. Mills: CWT 204-221

Jan. 30: Huxley: CWT 184-203

Essay #1 Due In Class

Wisdom-Folly

Feb. 1: C.P. Snow: CWT 119-130

Feb. 4: Farber, Brustein: CWT 467-485

Feb. 6: Heisenberg: CWT 303-313

Feb. 8: Hawking: TPB: 163-168

Feb. 11: Dobzhanski: CWT 261-270

Feb. 13: Dennett: TPB 70-80

Feb. 15: Benally: TPB 292-297

Feb. 17-24: Reading Break

Feb. 25: Anderson: TPB 336-344

Feb. 27: Gandhi: TPB 541-545

Freedom-Slavery

Mar. 1: Ellul: CWT 131-145

Mar. 4: Marcuse: CWT 60-74

Mar. 6: DeBeauvoir: CWT 486-505

Mar. 8: Hooks: TPB 564-571

Mar. 11: Fanon: CWT 506-521

Mar. 13: Abu'l A'la Maududi: TPB 506-516

Mar. 15: Wiredu: TPB 689-698

Mar. 18 Frye: TPB 225-237

Mar. 20: Foucault: TPB 58-63

Life-Death

Mar. 22: Kafka, Camus: CWT 321-338

Mar. 25: Breton: CWT 522-532

Mar. 27: Beckett: CWT 339-334

Mar. 29 Good Friday – University Closed

Apr. 1: Heller: CWT 345-370

Apr. 3: Maslow: CWT 604-614

Apr. 5: Toffler: CWT 640-660

Apr. 8: Schweitzer: TPB 383-388

Apr. 10: Starhawk: TPB 635-642

Apr. 12 : The Earth Charter: TPB 408-414

Apr. 15 Final Review and Discussion of Exam

Assignment Guide:

(A) Essay #1	= 25%
(B) Group Project	= 40%
(C) Final Exam	= <u>35%</u>
	100%

(A) Essay #1

Length: approx 5-6 pages

Due Date: Jan. 30, 2013

Goal & Method:

A personal reflection on your own experience of good and evil in comparison with that portrayed in two course texts discussed up to the point of the due date. Specifically, you are encouraged to analyze (a) the source of evil, (b) the nature of evil, (c) compare your response to that of the figure(s) in the texts under discussion, and (d) possible remedies or coping strategies.

(B) Group Project

Length: 15-25 pages

Due Date: 4 days of presentation toward the end of the course (April 2013)

Goal and Method:

Class will be divided up by the third week of January into 4 working groups of 10-12 students. Each of these groups will focus on one of the four course themes (life-death, freedom-slavery, wisdom-foolly, good-evil) and will do a critical summary of the texts featured in their respective sections. The goal is to devise a document that will (a) identify the problems associated with the chosen theme, (b) develop a solution to the problems identified.

Apart from the written document (on which the grade will be based), each group is expected to give a class presentation summarizing the results of their investigations. The 4 presentation dates will all be in April, 2013. Everyone in the group will receive the same mark.

(C) Final Exam:

Length: 2 hours

Date: Registrar Scheduled

Format: 2 essays with questions given out in advance; cheat sheet will be allowed