

Communication & Culture (CMCL) 503 - Lecture 3
Contemporary Culture
Winter 2013
Monday and Wednesday 15:30 – 16:45

Instructor: Dr. Mark Wolfe
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Office Hours: By Appointment

Course Description

This course is an interdisciplinary engagement with the major ideas, concepts and themes that underscore the twentieth as a particularly pivotal century. The primary focus in the first half of the course on mass society and technology from historical, existential, cultural and creative perspectives provides the context for focus in second part of the course on the emerging dynamics, pressures and opportunities facing the world -- such as globalization, shifting economic and political power, and sustainability. Individual student reading presentations throughout the term add perspective and insight, and drive seminar discussions.

Additional Information

This is a reading-heavy course in which active participation is an absolute requirement. Students will be challenged to keep up with readings in order to engage in class discussion and carry its seminar format. Clear rubrics, guidelines and grading criteria are provided for all assignments and class participation components.

Objectives of the Course

To enrich students' intellectual perspective on how the events and factors at play in the 20th century have shaped the world we now experience in the 21st.

Internet and electronic communication device policy

Laptops are allowed. However, students camped behind laptops or on tablets/handhelds and never or rarely contributing to class discussion are apt to perform poorly in the mid-

term exam, and the final group project where students may be graded individually for poor performance.

Textbooks and Readings:

Donald S. Gochberg, ed. *Classics of Western Thought, Vol. IV, The Twentieth Century*. Michigan State University: Wadsworth, 2003.

Selected readings and external content sources made available through student reading presentations and/or Blackboard.

Assignments and Evaluation

- Final group project proposal 10%
- Annotated bibliography 15%
- Individual Class Reading Presentation 20%
- Mid-term in-class essay 20%
- Final group project (class presentation/skit/video/website/etc. OR paper) 35%

You do not need to complete all assignments to receive a passing grade in this course.

Final group project proposal (10%) – Comprising two or three pages, the proposal identifies the topic and explains why it’s relevant, discusses the specific interest or angle that will be taken to explore it, and outlines how the group will tackle the project, including rules of engagement for completing the work (who will do what) and resolving any conflicts that arise between group members and/or their expectations. The final group project proposal is due February 10.

Annotated Bibliography (15%) – Students will complete an annotated literature review of an issue, topic, event, etc. that relates to the final group project. The annotated bibliography (literature review) will be conducted during both classes in the week of February 11, with a guest lecturer leading the exercises. This is a group assignment due February 25 that comprises a minimum of 15 short (250-word) summaries of articles and other scholarly material relevant to your final group project. Final group projects typically comprise 3 or 4 students, so each student can expect to be responsible for finding and summarizing about 5 articles for this exercise.

Individual Class Reading Presentation 20% -- Students early in the term will sign up to lead one regular class in discussion of a key reading, typically using a PowerPoint or other media to illustrate the key concepts/themes/ideas/etc. at work in the reading. Students can and should avail themselves of instructor help in preparing for this

assignment, as grading will weigh as much on the quality of the communicative performance as it will on the quality of the content and synthesizing of ideas. Students particularly self-conscious about language abilities or speaking in public should approach the instructor for guidance as soon as possible.

Mid-term in-class essay (20%) – This essay-format examination will be held on March 6 and cover course themes up to and including March 4. Students will have the entire class to complete the exam.

Final group project (35%) – Students will work in their groups to complete a final project for submission by April 16. Final projects can take many forms, as long as the emphasis on the quality of the thinking and analysis relating to the topic is maintained. Projects in the past have included skits, videos, debates, mock UN reports, presentations and papers. Performative projects, such as skits and videos, will get ample class time during the final days of classes in April to make their presentations but these must also be accompanied by a short written synopsis of the work, including references and solid argumentative sections. Non-performative projects such as formal papers, reports, etc. have until April 16th to submit but must do a short (5-10 minute) presentation of their topics and findings to the rest of the class during the final days of classes in April. There is no minimum or maximum number of pages that written submissions must meet.

Registrar-scheduled Final Examination: No

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

Faculty 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 www.comcul.ucalgary.ca/info. 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: www.efwr.ucalgary.ca

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](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

TBA first days of classes