

**UNIVERSITY OF CALGARY**  
**Department of Communication, Media and Film**

**Communication and Culture CMCL 503 L03**

**Winter 2015**

**January 13 – April 14, 2015**

**Tuesdays and Thursdays 9:30 – 10:45am**

**Instructor:** Dr. Glenn Wilkinson  
**Office:** SS 646  
**Office Phone:** 403.220.6405  
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**Web Page:** D2L  
**Office Hours:** T/Th 12.30 – 1.30pm, by appointment, or drop in and see if I'm free

**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.

**Textbooks and Readings**

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

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

**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.

## Assignments and Evaluation

**Study Guides:** Due at the end of each thematic section, on the first day of the next section. Value: 10% each or 40% in total. These study guides are designed to ensure a close reading of the texts and to encourage thinking beyond the superficial with respect to their meaning and relevance for us today. The study guides will act as the basis for answering questions in the mid-term and final examinations. **Due Jan. 29, Feb. 24, March 19, and April 14.**

**Mid-term-Examination (Feb. 12):** 20% The mid-term will evaluate the degree to which students absorb and understand the ideas, thinking, and meaning behind each of the readings. It will also give students the skills and practice to expand their ideas for the final examination.

**Final Examination (Registrar-scheduled):** 30% The final examination will follow the same structure as the mid-term, but will give students the chance to encapsulate and to synthesize the ideas that they found particularly poignant throughout the course through readings and class discussions.

**Participation:** 10% Students will be rewarded for active participation – that is, more than just showing up to class. The texts should be read at least once before class – and possibly once again after class – in order to fully grasp the meaning and importance of each reading.

See the ‘Schedule of Lectures, Readings, and Assessments’ section at the end of this syllabus for exact due dates.

**Registrar-scheduled Final Examination:** Yes (3 hours)

All assignments and exams must be completed or a course grade of F may be assigned at the discretion of the instructor.

**Submission of Assignments:** 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.

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.)

### 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.

### 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 and percentage 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%

<b>1.00</b>		<b>D</b>	50 - 52.99%	51.5%
<b>0.00</b>	Fail – unsatisfactory performance or failure to meet course requirements.	<b>F</b>	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 <http://www.ucalgary.ca/ssc/node/208> . If you have questions about how to document sources, please consult your instructor or the Writing Centre (3<sup>rd</sup> 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/research/research-ethics>

### Important information, services, and contacts for students

For information about . . .	Visit or contact . . .
<b>ARTS PROGRAM ADVISING (PIC)</b>	SS 102 403-220-3580 <a href="mailto:picarts@ucalgary.ca">picarts@ucalgary.ca</a>
<b>CAMPUS SECURITY</b>	<a href="http://www.ucalgary.ca/security/">http://www.ucalgary.ca/security/</a> 403-220-5333
• <b>Calgary Police Service</b>	403-266-1234 <b>Emergency: call 911</b>
• <b>Emergency Text Messaging</b>	<a href="http://www.ucalgary.ca/emergencyplan/textmessage">http://www.ucalgary.ca/emergencyplan/textmessage</a>
• <b>Emergency Evacuation &amp; Assembly</b>	<a href="http://www.ucalgary.ca/emergencyplan/assemblypoints">http://www.ucalgary.ca/emergencyplan/assemblypoints</a>

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Safewalk Program</b></li> </ul>	<p>If you feel uncomfortable walking alone at any time, call Campus Security for an escort (<b>220-5333</b>). For more information, see <a href="http://www.ucalgary.ca/security/">http://www.ucalgary.ca/security/</a></p>
<p><b>DESIRE2LEARN (D2L) Support</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>IT help line</b></li> </ul>	<p><a href="http://elearn.ucalgary.ca/desire2learn/home/students">http://elearn.ucalgary.ca/desire2learn/home/students</a> 403-220-5555 or <a href="mailto:itsupport@ucalgary.ca">itsupport@ucalgary.ca</a></p>
<p><b>STUDENT SUCCESS CENTRE</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Writing Support Services</b></li> <li>• <b>Student Services Mobile App</b></li> </ul>	<p><a href="http://ucalgary.ca/ssc">http://ucalgary.ca/ssc</a> <a href="http://www.ucalgary.ca/ssc/writing-support">http://www.ucalgary.ca/ssc/writing-support</a> <a href="http://ucalgary.ca/currentstudents">http://ucalgary.ca/currentstudents</a></p>
<p><b>STUDENTS' UNION CONTACTS</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Faculty of Arts Reps</b></li> <li>• <b>Student Ombudsman</b></li> </ul>	<p><a href="http://www.su.ucalgary.ca/governance/elections/home.html">http://www.su.ucalgary.ca/governance/elections/home.html</a> <a href="http://www.ucalgary.ca/provost/students/ombuds">http://www.ucalgary.ca/provost/students/ombuds</a></p>
<p><b>SU WELLNESS CENTRE</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Counselling Services</b></li> <li>• <b>Health Services</b></li> <li>• <b>Distress centre 24/7 CRISIS LINE</b></li> <li>• <b>Online resources and tips</b></li> </ul>	<p><b>403-210-9355</b> (MSC 370), M-F, 9:00–4:30 pm <a href="http://ucalgary.ca/wellnesscentre/counselling">http://ucalgary.ca/wellnesscentre/counselling</a> <a href="http://ucalgary.ca/wellnesscentre/health">http://ucalgary.ca/wellnesscentre/health</a> <b>403-266-HELP (4357)</b> <a href="http://ucalgary.ca/wellnesscentre/healthycampus">http://ucalgary.ca/wellnesscentre/healthycampus</a></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**

Abbreviations: CWT = *Classics of Western Thought – The Twentieth Century*

TPB = *Traversing Philosophical Boundaries*

Jan. 13: Introduction: Basic Principles of the Course

### **Good-Evil**

Jan. 13: Bettelheim: CWT 3-29; Wiesel: 416-421; Arendt: CWT 30-46

Jan. 15: Robinson: CWT 422-437

Jan. 20: Daly: TPB 415-422

Jan. 22: Carol Christ: TPB 663-673

Jan. 27: C.W. Mills: CWT 204-221; Huxley: CWT 184-203

## **Wisdom-Folly**

Jan 29: Farber, Brustein: CWT 467-485

### **First Set of Study Guides Due**

Feb. 3: C.P. Snow: CWT 119-130; Heisenberg: CWT 303-313

Feb. 5: Hawking: TPB: 163-168; Dobzhanski: CWT 261-270

Feb. 10: Anderson: TPB 336-344; Gandhi: TPB 541-545

Feb. 12: **Mid-Term Exam**

Feb. 16-20: **Reading Break**

## **Freedom-Slavery**

Feb. 24: Ellul: CWT 131-145; Marcuse: CWT 60-74

### **Second Set of Study Guides Due**

Feb 26: DeBeauvoir: CWT 486-505

Mar. 3: Hooks: TPB 564-571

Mar. 5: Fanon: CWT 506-521; Abu'l A'la Maududi: TPB 506-516

Mar. 10: Wiredu: TPB 689-698

Mar. 12: Frye: TPB 225-237

Mar. 17: Foucault: TPB 58-63

## **Life-Death**

Mar. 19: Kafka, Camus: CWT 321-338

### **Third Set of study Guides Due**

Mar. 24: Breton: CWT 522-532; Beckett: CWT 339-334

Mar 26: Heller: CWT 345-370

Mar 31: Maslow: CWT 604-614

Apr. 2: Toffler: CWT 640-660

Apr. 7: Schweitzer: TPB 383-388;

Apr. 9: Starhawk: TPB 635-642

Apr. 14: Final Review and Discussion of Final Exam

## **Fourth Set of Study Guides Due**