

**University of Calgary  
Department of Communication, Media and Film**

**Communication and Culture CMCL 503 L01  
Contours Of Contemporary Culture**

**Winter 2016**

**Monday, Jan. 11 – Wednesday, April 13 (excluding Feb. 15, 17, 19 and March 25)**

**Lecture MWF 1:00 -1:50 p.m.**

**Instructor: R. Glasberg**

**Office: SS 314**

**Office Phone: 220-7124**

**E-Mail: [rglasber@ucalgary.ca](mailto:rglasber@ucalgary.ca)**

**Web Page: NA**

**Office Hours: By appointment**

**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

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: Cenage 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

(A) First Set of Reflective Journals	= 15% (Feb. 1)
(B) Second Set of Reflective Journals	= 15% (Feb. 29)
(C) Third Set of Reflective Journals	= 20% (Mar. 21)
(D) Fourth Set of Reflective Journals	= 25% (Apr. 13)
(E) Final Exam (open book)	= <u>25%</u> (Reg. Sch.)
	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.

**Registrar-scheduled Final Examination:** Yes (2 hours)

**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

## Student Accommodations:

Students seeking an accommodation based on disability or medical concerns should contact Student Accessibility Services; SAS will process the request and issue letters of accommodation to instructors. For additional information on support services and accommodations for students with disabilities, visit [www.ucalgary.ca/access/](http://www.ucalgary.ca/access/).

Students who require an accommodation in relation to their coursework based on a protected ground other than disability should communicate this need in writing to their Instructor. The full policy on Student Accommodations is available at [http://www.ucalgary.ca/policies/files/policies/student-accommodation-policy\\_0.pdf](http://www.ucalgary.ca/policies/files/policies/student-accommodation-policy_0.pdf).

Please note:

1. Students seeking accommodations for transient illnesses (e.g., the flu) should contact their instructors directly. Whenever possible, students should advise their instructors in advance if they will be missing quizzes, presentations, in-class assignments, or group meetings.
2. When accommodations are granted, they may take forms other than make-up tests or assignments. For example, the weight of a missed grade may be added to another assignment or test.
3. For information on Deferrals of Final Exams and Term Work, see sections G.6 and G.7 of the *University Calendar* at <http://www.ucalgary.ca/pubs/calendar/current/g-6.html> and <http://www.ucalgary.ca/pubs/calendar/current/g-7.html>

## 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 & Grade Scale of the Department of Communication, Media and Film

Final grades are reported as letter grades. Assignments, exams, and other work in this course will also be graded using letter grades.

The following grade scale percentage equivalents are used in the Department. If letter grades are used for an assignment or other course component, the percentage equivalent in the final column will be used for calculating the final grade:

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 (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/resources/ethics>

## Important information, services, and contacts for students

For information about . . .	Visit or contact . . .
<b>ARTS PROGRAM ADVISING (ASC)</b>	SS 102 403-220-3580 <a href="mailto:artsads@ucalgary.ca">artsads@ucalgary.ca</a>
<b>CAMPUS SECURITY</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Calgary Police Service</li><li>• Emergency Text Messaging</li><li>• Emergency Evacuation &amp; Assembly</li><li>• Safewalk Program</li></ul>	<a href="http://www.ucalgary.ca/security/">http://www.ucalgary.ca/security/</a> <b>403-220-5333</b> <b>403-266-1234</b> <b>Emergency: call 911</b> <a href="http://www.ucalgary.ca/emergencyplan/textmessage">http://www.ucalgary.ca/emergencyplan/textmessage</a> <a href="http://www.ucalgary.ca/emergencyplan/assemblypoints">http://www.ucalgary.ca/emergencyplan/assemblypoints</a> If you feel uncomfortable walking alone at any time, call Campus Security for an escort (220-5333). For more information, see <a href="http://www.ucalgary.ca/security/">http://www.ucalgary.ca/security/</a>
<b>DESIRE2LEARN (D2L) Support</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• IT help line</li></ul>	<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>
<b>STUDENT SUCCESS CENTRE</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Writing Support Services</li><li>• Student Services Mobile App</li></ul>	<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>
<b>STUDENTS' UNION CONTACTS</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Faculty of Arts Reps</li><li>• Student Ombudsman</li></ul>	<a href="https://www.su.ucalgary.ca/about/who-we-are/elected-officials/">https://www.su.ucalgary.ca/about/who-we-are/elected-officials/</a> <a href="http://www.ucalgary.ca/provost/students/ombuds">http://www.ucalgary.ca/provost/students/ombuds</a>
<b>SU WELLNESS CENTRE</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Counselling Services</li><li>• Health Services</li><li>• Distress centre 24/7 CRISIS LINE</li></ul>	<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>

• **Online resources and tips**

<http://ucalgary.ca/wellnesscentre/healthycampus>

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.

## **Schedule of Lectures and Readings**

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

Jan. 11: Introduction: Basic Principles of the Course

### **Good -Evil**

Jan. 13: Bettelheim, Wiesel: CWT 3-29; 416-421

Jan. 15: Arendt: CWT 30-46

Jan. 18: Solzhenitsyn: CWT 75-116

Jan. 20: Robinson: CWT 422-437

Jan. 22: Daly: TPB 415-422

Jan. 25: Radhakrishnan: TPB 377-382

Jan. 27: Carol Christ: TPB 663-673

Jan. 29: C.W. Mills: CWT 204-221

Feb. 1: Huxley: CWT 184-203

### **First Set of Journal Entries Due In Class**

#### **Wisdom-Folly**

Feb. 3: C.P. Snow: CWT 119-130

Feb. 5: Farber, Brustein: CWT 467-485

Feb. 8: Heisenberg: CWT 303-313

Feb.10: Hawking: TPB: 163-168

Feb. 12: Dobzhanski: CWT 261-270

Reading Break: Feb. 14-21

Feb. 22: Dennett: TPB 70-80

Feb. 24: Benally: TPB 292-297

Feb. 26: Anderson: TPB 336-344

Feb. 29: Gandhi: TPB 541-545

### **Second Set of Journal Entries Due In Class**

#### **Freedom-Slavery**

Mar. 2: Ellul: CWT 131-145

Mar. 4: Marcuse: CWT 60-74

Mar. 7: DeBeauvoir: CWT 486-505

Mar.9: Hooks: TPB 564-571

Mar. 11: Fanon: CWT 506-521

Mar. 14: Abu'l A'la Maududi: TPB 506-516

Mar. 16: Wiredu: TPB 689-698

Mar. 18: Frye: TPB 225-237

Mar. 21: Foucault: TPB 58-63

### **Third Set of Journal Entries Due In Class**

#### **Life-Death**

Mar. 23: Kafka, Camus: CWT 321-338

Mar. 25 No class

Mar. 28: Breton: CWT 522-532

Mar. 30: Beckett: CWT 339-334

Apr. 1: Heller: CWT 345-370

Apr.4: Maslow: CWT 604-614

Apr. 6: Toffler: CWT 640-660

Apr. 8: Schweitzer: TPB 383-388

Apr. 11: Starhawk: TPB 635-642

Apr. 13: Final Review and Discussion of Exam

**Fourth Set of Reflective Journal Entries Due (unless essay or group project option chosen)**

**Assignment Guide:**

(A) First Set of Reflective Journals	= 15%
(B) Second Set of Reflective Journals	= 15%
(C) Third Set of Reflective Journals	= 20%
(D) Fourth Set of Reflective Journals	= 25%
(E) Final Exam	<u>= 25%</u>
	100%

If one wishes to do a group project or reflective essay (approx. 12 pages) in lieu of the fourth set of journal entries, this will be still worth 25% and can be focused on an aspect of contemporary culture that is of personal interest.

There should be one journal entry for each reading and the approximate length is one and a half typed pages, single-spaced. You may specify which entry you want marked while the marker will choose one other. At least 3 to 4 of the readings (per section) should have entries or marks will be lost.

Each entry should be approached in a critical and creative manner. Personal reflections should be balanced with a critical identification and analysis of fundamental cultural assumptions as these pertain to the 4 course themes: good-evil, wisdom-folly, freedom-slavery, and life-death.

The final will be based on two essays, the subject of which will be given before the exam and into which you may bring your journal entries.