

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

**Communication and Culture CMCL 303 L01**

**Roads To Modernity**

**Winter 2016**

**Jan 12, 2016 – April 12, 2016, excluding Feb. 16 & 18**

**Tuesday: 12:30 – 2:20; Tutorials: Thursday: 12:00- 12:50; 1:00-1:50**

**Instructor:** R. Glasberg

**Office:** SS 314

**Office Phone:** 220-7124

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**Web Page:** NA

**Office Hours:** By Appointment

### **Course Description**

The course is a critical and interdisciplinary examination, via classic texts, of Western, Oriental, and Islamic civilizations in terms of their fundamental cultural assumptions as these have evolved from the formative period (1500 B.C to 400 A.D) covered in CMCL 301 toward the threshold of the modern world explored in CMCL 501 (17<sup>th</sup> to 20<sup>th</sup> centuries). The time span of the course is thus centered on the Medieval and Early Modern epochs (6<sup>th</sup> to 16<sup>th</sup> centuries), and the goal is to understand how and why civilizations transform themselves in the direction of a 'modernist identity' characterized by a loss and/or revision of foundational traditions. The key themes by which the texts will be explored are as follows: life-death, freedom-slavery, wisdom-folly, and good-evil.

### **Additional Information**

Lecture Schedule at the end of the syllabus

### **Objectives of the Course**

- (a) Learn how to read and interpret classic texts in a comparative manner;
- (b) Gain a synthetic overview of world civilizations;
- (c) Improve writing skills in the context of developing and supporting arguments;
- (d) Explore how 'culture' is 'communicated' into existence via discourse pertaining to fundamental questions.

## **Textbooks and Readings**

Donald S. Gochberg, Sujit Singh Dulai, Edward. D. Graham, Kenneth W. Harrow, Priscilla Melendez, Anibal, Gonzalez, *World Literature and Thought*, Vol. II, The Middle Periods (Mason, Ohio: Cengage Learning, 2012)

Karl F. Thompson, ed. *Classics of Western Thought*, Vol. II, 4<sup>th</sup> Edition, Middle Ages, Renaissance, and Reformation (Boston: Wadsworth, 1988)

## **Internet and electronic communication device information**

No restriction on use of laptops in class if they are used to take notes and there is no disturbance of other students by visiting inappropriate web sites.

## **Assignments and Evaluation**

The class will be organized 'tribally'. By this I mean that students will take charge of their own learning in a manner that is meaningful to them. The goal is to learn the course material, that is, to read it, understand it, and create something that reflects and demonstrates that reading has been done and understanding has been achieved. Most classes are a kind of cat-and-mouse game between the student (i.e., mouse) and teacher (i.e., cat), where the former seeks do the minimal amount of work for the maximal grade while the latter uses the power of the grade to force students to often do what they do not want but indicates to the 'cat' that the 'mouse' has 'learned' something. It is often a silly game that never really works; and if learning takes place, it is despite this system, not because of it

While there will be a final exam (35%), the rest of the grade (65%) will be based on assignments and projects framed by the student individually and/or in groups. Guidelines are as follows:

- (a) A schedule should be submitted to the professor within the first two weeks of class;
- (b) Schedule should indicate projects to be undertaken, due dates, and marks to be assigned;
- (c) The foregoing should be based on how the student learns best (e.g., writing plays, poetry, drawing, painting, dancing, composing music, etc.);
- (d) Assignments should demonstrate how much of the material has been read with a final 'mark brief' proposing and justifying a grade based on what the student has learned and contributed to the class via sharing his/her insights.

N.B.: If you propose to do a collaborative project, be sure that at least 20% of the 65% project grade will be based on (and marked as) individual work. Grades for group work will be limited to 45% of the final weighted grade in the course.

**Registrar-scheduled Final Examination:** Yes (2 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. [Edit as you wish to reflect your own policy.]  
Assignments submitted

### **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.ualgary.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.ualgary.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>• <b>Calgary Police Service</b></li> <li>• <b>Emergency Text Messaging</b></li> <li>• <b>Emergency Evacuation &amp; Assembly</b></li> <li>• <b>Safewalk Program</b></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>• <b>IT help line</b></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>• <b>Writing Support Services</b></li> <li>• <b>Student Services Mobile App</b></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>• <b>Faculty of Arts Reps</b></li> <li>• <b>Student Ombudsman</b></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>• <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>	<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>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: WLT II = *World Literature and Thought*, Vol. II  
CWT II = *Classics of Western Thought*, Vol. II

Jan. 12: Introduction and Key Concepts

### Life and Death:

Jan. 19 *Everyman*: CWT II 183-200, Roland: CWT II 14-34

Jan. 26 DeTroyes: CWT II 35-51, Chaucer: CWT II 140-182

Feb. 2 Petrarch: CWT II 231-251 Castiglione: CWT II 294-315

Feb. 9 Mu'Allaqat: WLT II 72-88, Lady Nijo: WLT II 383-392

Feb. 14-21 Reading Break

### Freedom and Slavery

Feb. 23 Benedict: CWT II 1-13, *The Lady Who Loved Insects*: WLT II 377-382, Christine de Pisan: CWT II 201-214, Murusaki Shikubu: WLT II 338-357, Po Hsing-chien: WLT II 249-260

Mar. 1 Pico: CWT II 252-262, More: CWT II 278-293, Machiavelli: CWT II 316-328, Ibn Khaldun: WLT II 670-682

### **Wisdom and Folly**

Mar. 8 St. Thomas: CWT II 70-84, Erasmus: CWT II 263-277

Mar. 15 Montaigne: CWT II 371-387 , Han Yu, Wang An-Shih: WLT II 415-425

Mar. 22 Kamo no Chomei: WLT II 369-376, Al-Maari: WLT II 128-134

### **Good and Evil**

Mar. 29 Dante: CWT II 510-546, St. Catherine: CWT II 128-135

Apr. 5 Luther: CWT II 518-534, Calvin: CWT II 535-549

Apr. 12 Koran: WLTII 89-116, Al-Hallaj: WLT II 117-127

Discussion of Exam