

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

**Communication and Culture CMCL 501 L01**  
**Modernity**

**Fall 2015**

**Wednesday Sept 9 - Monday Dec. 7, 2015**  
**MWF 13:00 – 13:50**

**Instructor:** Ronald Glasberg  
**Office:** SS 314  
**Office Phone:** 220-7124  
**E-Mail:** rglasber@ucalgary.ca  
**Web Page:** N/A  
**Office Hours:** By Appointment

### **Course Description**

A critical and inter-disciplinary examination, via classic texts, of the meaning of Modernity in Western and non-Western contexts. The focus will be on Modernity's major ideas, principles, and their implications within the time frame of the 17<sup>th</sup> to early 20<sup>th</sup> centuries.

### **Additional Information**

Please see end of syllabus for outline of readings and assignment guide.

### **Objectives of the Course**

- (1) Give students an overview of the cultural configuration known as 'Modernity';
- (2) Help students learn how to interpret classic texts in an inter-cultural context;
- (3) Develop strategies to identify and heal some of the dysfunctions associated with Modernity
- (4) Explore Modernity from the perspective of Life-Death, Freedom-Slavery, Wisdom-Folly, and Good-Evil
- (5) Develop writing and presentation skills.

### **Textbooks and Readings**

The following texts are required and should be available at the University Bookstore:

D. Gochberg, Surgit Duali, Anibal Gonzalez, Edward Graham, Kenneth Harrow & P. Melendez, eds. *World Literature and Thought*, Vol. III, The Modern World to 1900 (Fort Worth: Harcourt, 2001).

E. Knoebel, ed. *Classics of Western Thought*, Vol. III, 4<sup>th</sup> Ed. (Boston: Wadsworth, 1988).

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

No restriction on the employment of laptops in class provided that they are used to take notes and there is no disturbance of other students by visiting inappropriate websites.

### **Assignments and Evaluation**

Please see Assignment Guide at end of Syllabus for details.

Reflective Journal Entries:

(1) First set due Sept. 30	15
(2) Second set due Oct. 23	15
(3) Third Set due Nov. 16	20
(4) Fourth Set due Dec. 7	25
Final Exam (Registrar scheduled)	25
	100%

In place of 4<sup>th</sup> set of entries, students may elect to do a major essay and/or group project worth 25% and due on day of presentation unless alternative arrangements have been made with the instructor.

### **Registrar-scheduled Final Examination: Yes**

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

Final grades are reported as letter grades. However, assignments, exams, and other work in this course will be graded using a combination of letter grades, percentage grades, and/or raw scores.

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%

<b>1.30</b>	Minimal pass—marginal performance; generally insufficient preparation for subsequent courses in the same subject	<b>D+</b>	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 <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 ( <b>220-5333</b> ). 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> <li>• Online resources and tips</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> 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:

WLT = World Literature and Thought, Vol. III

CWT = Classics of Western Thought, Vol. III

Wednesday, Sept. 9: Introduction: Basic Concepts

### **Life and Death**

Sept. 11 Cervantes, Shakespeare: WLT 245-258; 45-52

Sept. 14 Babur, Chelebi: WLT 58-87; 187-197

Sept. 16 Lo Kuan-chung, Wang Shi-chen: WLT 198-207; 259-269

Sept. 18 Voltaire: CWT 95-130

Sept. 21 Rousseau: CWT 141-153

Sept. 23 Goethe: CWT 221-- 259

Sept. 25 Ibsen: CWT 458-534

Sept. 28 Nguyen Du: WLT 657-667

Sept. 30 Native American Literature: WLT 499-512

### **(First Set of Journal Entries Due)**

### **Freedom and Slavery**

Oct. 2 Hobbes, Locke: CWT 31-42

Oct. 5 Equiano: WLT 428-441

Oct. 7 Hegel: CWT 338-349

Oct. 9 Burke CWT 202-220

Oct. 12 – No class – Thanksgiving

Oct. 14 Marx: CWT 367-389

Oct. 16 Bakunin: CWT 390-4904

Oct. 19 Lenin: CWT 577-596

Oct. 21 Woolf: CWT 635-649

Oct. 23 Sartre: CWT 616-634

**(2<sup>nd</sup> Set of Journal Entries Due)**

**Wisdom and Folly**

Oct. 26 Bacon, Descartes CWT 10-30

Oct. 28 Pascal: CWT 43-58

Oct. 30 Condorcet: CWT 178-201

Nov. 2 Thoreau: CWT 299-310

Nov. 4 Freud: CWT 546-599

Nov. 6 Jung: CWT 560-576

Nov. 9 Einstein: CWT 535-545

Nov. 11 & 13 – No classes – Reading Days

Nov. 16 African Oral Literature: WLT 513-534

**(3<sup>rd</sup> Set of Journal Entries Due)**

**Good and Evil**

Nov. 18 Pope, Beccaria: CWT 83-94; 154-165

Nov. 20 De Las Casas, Douglass: WLT 745-748; 668-687

Nov. 23 Leo XIII: CWT 405-420

Nov. 25 Calderon & Ts'ao Hsueh-ch'in: WLT 306-319, 270-278

Nov. 27 Tulsi Das: WLT 334-361

Nov. 30 Dostoevsky: CWT 421-442

Dec. 2 Nietzsche: CWT 443-457

Dec. 4 Hitler: CWT 597-615

Dec. 7 Summary and Review

**(4<sup>th</sup> Set of Journal Entries Due)**

## Assignment Guide 2015

### Reflective Journal:

The purpose of this assignment is to get you, the student, to do all the course readings and reflect on them by way of individual journal entries (1 to 1 and ½ pages single-spaced) that address some of the following themes:

- (a) How does the text reflect modernity and/or contrast with the Western sense of Modernity?
- (b) How does the text embody one of the four course themes (life-death, freedom-slavery, wisdom-foolly, and good-evil)?
- (c) What quote exemplifies to you the message of the text?
- (d) What is your personal reaction to the text in view of lectures, class discussion, your personal life experience, etc.?
- (e) What piece of music, film, ad, etc. reflects the essence of the text and why?
- (f) What cultural differences are particularly striking to you and why?
- (g) How could you express the message of the text in a medium in which you would like to work (e.g., photography, comic strip, etc.)

Students are expected to submit the entire journal at 4 points during the term (Sept. 30, Oct. 23, Nov. 64, and Dec.7) unless a major paper or group project has been selected to replace the fourth set of entries.

The marker (and that would be me, R. Glasberg) will normally look at one entry of his own choosing and will also read any entry that the student wishes to have examined. However, the grade for each submission will be based, not only on the entries marked, but also on how comprehensive the journal actually is. In other words, marks will be deducted as the number of entries per submission falls below the ¾ point. That is, if the journal contains less than ¾ of the readings assigned up to the time of submission, then the student risks failing. While comprehensiveness is crucial, originality and depth, according to the aforementioned criteria, are also important.

The advantage of this journal approach is that each of you will have a record of what you have actually learned -- a record you can bring into the exam.

If you wish, the journal can be a product of collaboration, but only a maximum of 3 people can collaborate on a 'group journal', and all will receive the same mark.

Students are encouraged to share their journal entries with the class and incorporate whatever feedback they receive.

### Group Project / Major Essay

If students do not wish to get credit for the fourth set of entries or wish to transform that into a major essay, they are free to make that election. The key topic in either case is:



What is right or wrong with Modernity; and how might what is wrong be corrected and what is right be improved?

As usual, the focus should be on an in-depth analysis of relevant course texts (at least three). The length of a formal essay is 10-12 pages double-spaced.

If a group project is chosen, presentation will be in class at a time chosen in consultation with the instructor. The presentation time will be 20-30 minutes with a written summary submitted on the day of the presentation. A maximum of 5 people is the limit for a group project and all will receive the same mark.

#### Final Exam

Questions will be given out ahead of time and students can bring their journals into the two-hour registrar-scheduled exam.