

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

**Communication and Culture CMCL 501 L01**

**Modernity**

**Winter 2016**

Jan. 15 – April 8 (no classes on Feb. 19, March 25)

F 12:00–14:45

**Instructor:** Christine Mains  
**Office:** SS305  
**Office Phone:** n/a  
**E-Mail:** cmains@ucalgary.ca  
**Web Page:** D2L available through MyUofC portal  
**Office Hours:** W/F 10:30-11:30

**Course Description**

The course is a critical and interdisciplinary examination, via classic texts, of the meaning of Modernity in Western and non-Western contexts. The focus will be on the major ideas and principles, and their implications within the time-frame of the 17<sup>th</sup> through the early 20<sup>th</sup> centuries.

**Objectives of the Course**

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

**Textbooks and Readings**

There is no required textbook for this course. Links to required readings and a schedule of assigned readings is posted to D2L under "Course Information."

**Internet and electronic communication device information**

Students may use laptops to take notes, but not to do any other personal work (such as Facebook or checking email); laptop use must not distract other students. Cellphones must be turned to silent and should not be used during class time.

## Assignments and Evaluation

Reading Quizzes	Jan. 22–March 11	20% (dropped lowest)
Seminar Lead (Group)	Jan. 22–March 11	10%
Reflective Essay	January 29	15%
Research Essay Proposal	Feb. 12	5%
Research Essay Annotated Bibliography	March 11	5%
Presentation (Group)	April 1	15%
Research Essay Peer Review Draft	April 8	5%
Research Essay Final Draft	April 13	25%

### Registrar-scheduled Final Examination: NO

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

**Reading Quizzes:** The purpose of the quizzes is to test the student's completion of the assigned readings in preparation for class discussion and activities. The quizzes will be multiple choice, True/False, and short answer passage identification, and will be completed at the start of each class. There is no option to make up the reading quizzes, but the grade will be calculated after dropping the lowest score.

**Seminar Lead (Group):** On the first day of classes, students will be formed into groups of 5-7 and assigned a date on which the group will be responsible for guiding the rest of the class in discussion of the associated readings, sharing observations based on reading and secondary research into the authors and historical context. All members of the group will share the same grade, unless there is compelling evidence to do otherwise based on instructor observation and peer reports. See the grading rubric on D2L.

**Reflective Essay:** This essay of ~1000 words will require students to reflect on their understanding of the four key concepts and fundamental cultural assumptions that shape their worldviews based on their lived experience in the world prior to taking the course. Essays will be evaluated on content, structure & organization, and grammar & expression. See the grading rubric on D2L.

**Presentation (Group):** Each group will present (15-20 min. per group) to the entire class on what the group considers to be the most important concept learned about Modernity from readings and class discussion. All members of the group will share the same grade, unless there is compelling evidence to do otherwise based on instructor observation and peer reports. A written summary and PowerPoint slideshow is expected. See the grading rubric on D2L.

**Research Essay:** The essay of ~2000 words will require students to develop an argument about a fundamental cultural assumption, making connections between 4-5 of the assigned readings and supported by secondary sources both scholarly and popular. Related assignments will be submitted throughout the term, with feedback provided on the Proposal, Annotated Bibliography, and Peer Draft. Essays will be evaluated on content, structure & organization, grammar & expression, and citation. See the grading rubric on D2L.

## **Submission of Assignments**

All written assignments will be submitted and returned through Dropbox on D2L. No assignments will be submitted in hardcopy, whether handed to the instructor, dropped at the main office, or slid under office doors, nor will assignments be accepted through email attachment.

It is the student's responsibility to keep a copy of each submitted assignment, and to check email regularly for notices of missing assignments, and to ensure that the correct copy of the assignment is submitted. (Including the version date or version number in the file name may help you avoid submitting the wrong version of written assignments.)

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>

## **Late Assignments**

Assignments are due through Dropbox on the stated due date. Assignments may be submitted after the deadline only with the emailed permission of the instructor, and may be penalized with the loss of a grade (e.g.: A- to B+) for each day late at the discretion of the instructor.

## **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**

Work in this course will be graded using letter grades rather than percentages; the scores on the Reading Quizzes will be calculated after dropping the lowest score, and a final letter grade reported for the assignment at the end of term. Letter grades are converted to weighted GPA equivalents and those equivalents totaled to calculate the final grade. Percentages are provided for informational purposes only.

The following Grade Table is used in the Department:

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>

## **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/) <<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>

## **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> <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> 403-266-HELP (4357) <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

The schedule is posted on D2L.