

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

**Communication and Culture CMCL 201 L01**  
**Culture Foundations**

**Spring 2019**

Mon., May 6 – Mon., June 17 (excluding May 20)

**Lectures MW 9:00-10:50; Tutorials MW 11:00-11:50**

**Instructor:** Denis J. Bekkering  
**Office:** SS 254  
**Office Phone:** n/a  
**E-Mail:** denis.bekkering1@ucalgary.ca  
**Web Page:** D2L available through MyUofC portal  
**Office Hours:** By appointment

**Course Description**

A critical and inter-disciplinary examination, via classic texts, of the Greco-Roman and Judeo-Christian heritage of Western civilization (e.g., Homer, Sophocles, Plato, Augustine). This course focuses on major ideas, principles and their implications within the time-frame of the Ancient and Medieval periods (i.e., 3000 BCE – 400 CE) and in comparison with non-Western traditions.

**Objectives of the Course**

- a) Learn how to read and interpret classic texts in a comparative manner
- b) Gain a synthetic overview of world civilization
- c) Improve interpersonal communication and writing skills in the context of developing and supporting arguments
- d) Enhance collaborative and problem-solving skills through group discussion and debate

**Textbooks and Readings**

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

Gochberg, Donald S., ed. *Classics of Western Thought*, Volume 1: The Ancient World, 4<sup>th</sup> edition. Boston: Cengage Learning, 1988.

Coward, Harold, Ronald Neufeldt, and Eva K. Neumaier, eds. *Readings in Eastern Religions*, 2<sup>nd</sup> edition. Waterloo, Ontario, Canada: Wilfrid Laurier University Press, 2007.

**Internet and electronic communication device information**

Laptops and tablets are permitted if used to take notes or conduct relevant research. Cell phones should not be used during class time.

## Assignments and Evaluation

Weight	Course components	Due
10%	<b>Participation</b> – Students are expected to come to class having read the required readings, and prepared to actively engage in discussion. In the first class, groups will be formed within which students will discuss questions and issues related to the readings during each subsequent class. Students will primarily be assessed on their participation within these groups, and will evaluate their fellow group members' contributions through a peer-review process.	Ongoing
10%	<b>Group Presentation</b> – During the final class (June 17), each group will give a brief presentation (approximately 10 to 15 minutes long) based on what they consider the most important “takeaway” of the entire course. Group members should be prepared to defend their positions, and anticipate potential questions and criticisms. The course's group discussion periods will help prepare students for these presentations, and each student will evaluate their fellow group members' contributions through a peer-review process.	Preparation ongoing; presentation June 17
30%	<b>Reading Responses</b> – Prior to the beginning of each class (excluding the first and final classes), students are to submit short reading responses (approximately 300 words) related to <b>all</b> of the required readings for that particular class. These responses should explore commonalities and differences between the required readings, and also feature questions and points that could be discussed in class. Each reading response will be worth 3% of the final grade, and will be submitted to a designated D2L dropbox. A mark of 3% will indicate good/excellent engagement with the readings, 2% will indicate fair engagement with the readings; and 0 or 1% will indicate unsatisfactory engagement with the readings.	By the beginning of each class (excluding the first and final classes)
20%	<b>Quizzes</b> – There will be two quizzes on <b>May 22</b> and <b>June 12</b> , which will consist of a combination of multiple choice and short answer questions. These quizzes will relate to class content as well as the readings, and may test on aspects of the readings not explicitly discussed in class.	May 22 and June 12
30%	<b>Major Paper</b> – Students will be required to submit a critical analysis (approximately 2000 words) of a text <b>not</b> discussed in class, drawing on the course content and readings. Three possible texts will be posted to D2L by June 3, and students will be asked to analyze one. Tips and strategies for successfully completing this assignment, and a marking rubric, will be provided in early June. These papers should be submitted to a designated D2L dropbox by June 24.	June 24

### 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.

**Submission of Assignments:** Assignments should be submitted to the appropriate dropboxes within D2L. Please include your name and ID number on all assignments.

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/legalservices/foip/foip-hia>

**Note:** It is the student's responsibility to keep a copy of each submitted assignment and to ensure that the proper version is submitted (particularly in courses requiring electronic submission). Including a version date in your file name may be useful.

### **Policy for Late Assignments**

Late assignments will not be accepted, except in documented cases of illness or personal or family emergency.

### **Student Accommodations and Deferrals:**

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.pdf>.

Students seeking accommodation for transient illnesses (e.g., the flu) or for another legitimate reason should contact their instructors. Whenever possible, students should provide supporting documentation to support their request; however, instructors may not require that a medical note be presented. For the policy on supporting documentation the use of a statutory declaration, please see the following:

- Section N.1 of the *University Calendar*: <https://www.ucalgary.ca/pubs/calendar/current/n-1.html>
- FAQs for Students at <https://www.ucalgary.ca/registrar/registration/appeals/student-faq>

Note that 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 that of another assignment or test.

For information on deferrals, see the following sections in the *University Calendar*:

- Section G.7 Deferral of Term Work at <http://www.ucalgary.ca/pubs/calendar/current/g-7.html>
- Section G.6 Deferral of Final Exam at <http://www.ucalgary.ca/pubs/calendar/current/g-6.html>

### **Grading & Department of Communication, Media and Film Grade Scale**

In this course, numerical grades will be used for assignments, and final grades will be reported as percentages.

The following chart outlines the grade scale percentage equivalents used in the Department of Communication, Media and Film.

Grade Point Value	Description	Grade	Dept of CMF grade scale equivalents*	Letter grade % equivalent for calculations**
<b>4.00</b>	Outstanding performance	<b>A+</b>	96 - 100%	98.0%
<b>4.00</b>	Excellent performance	<b>A</b>	90 - 95.99%	93.0%
<b>3.70</b>	Approaching excellent performance	<b>A -</b>	85 - 89.99%	87.5%
<b>3.30</b>	Exceeding good performance	<b>B+</b>	80 - 84.99%	82.5%
<b>3.00</b>	Good performance	<b>B</b>	75 - 79.99%	77.5%
<b>2.70</b>	Approaching good performance	<b>B-</b>	70 - 74.99%	72.5%
<b>2.30</b>	Exceeding satisfactory performance	<b>C+</b>	65 - 69.99%	67.5%
<b>2.00</b>	Satisfactory performance	<b>C</b>	60 - 64.99%	62.5%
<b>1.70</b>	Approaching satisfactory performance	<b>C-</b>	55 - 59.99%	57.5%
<b>1.30</b>	Marginal pass. Insufficient preparation for subsequent courses in the same subject	<b>D+</b>	53 - 54.99%	54.0%
<b>1.00</b>	Minimal pass. Insufficient preparation for subsequent courses in the same subject	<b>D</b>	50 - 52.99%	51.5%
<b>0.00</b>	Failure. Did not meet course requirements.	<b>F</b>	0 - 49.99%	0%

\* If percentages are used to calculate final grades, then grades falling within these ranges will be translated to the corresponding letter grades.

\*\* These percentage equivalents will be used for calculating final grades unless an alternative method of final grade calculation is outlined above.

### 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. 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 support services in the Student Success Centre (3<sup>rd</sup> floor, Taylor Family Digital Library). Visit the website for more details: <http://www.ucalgary.ca/ssc/writing-support>

### 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 at <https://ucalgary.ca/ssc/resources/writing-support/436>. Research and citation resources are also available on the Purdue Online Writing Lab (OWL) website at <https://owl.english.purdue.edu/owl/section/2/>. If you have questions about citing sources, please consult your instructor or visit the writing support services in the Student Success Centre (3<sup>rd</sup> floor, Taylor Family Digital Library, at <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, including surveys, interviews, or observations, as part of your university studies, you are responsible for following university research ethics guidelines. Your instructor must review and approve 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="https://arts.ucalgary.ca/advising">https://arts.ucalgary.ca/advising</a>
<b>CAMPUS SECURITY &amp; Safewalk Program</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> </ul>	<a href="http://www.ucalgary.ca/security/">http://www.ucalgary.ca/security/</a> <b>403-220-5333</b> 403-266-1234 <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>
<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>Events &amp; Info for Students</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 Ombuds</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>Health Services</b></li> <li>• <b>Mental Health Services</b></li> <li>• <b>Distress entre 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/health">http://ucalgary.ca/wellnesscentre/health</a> <a href="http://ucalgary.ca/wellnesscentre/counselling">http://ucalgary.ca/wellnesscentre/counselling</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 Lecture Topics and Readings

Abbreviations:

CWT = *Classics of Western Thought*, Vol. 1, 4<sup>th</sup> ed.

RIER = *Readings in Eastern Religions*, 2<sup>nd</sup> ed.

**May 6** – Introduction to Course: Course overview; student/instructor introductions; group formation (no readings)

**May 8** – Epics: The Iliad (CWT 1-38); the Bhagavad Gita and the Ramayana (RIER 44-72); the Epic of Gilgamesh (CWT 536-542)

**May 13** – Ancient Greek Historians: Herodotus (CWT 131-159); Xenophon (CWT 160-172); Thucydides (CWT 173-195)

**May 15** – Ancient Greek Philosophy: Plato (CWT 294-348); Aristotle (CWT 349-383)

**May 20** – No class (Victoria Day)

**May 22** – Conceptions of Society: the Laws of Manu (RIER 39-44); Confucius (RIER 279-286); Mencius (RIER 286-290); Xunxi (RIER 291-295); Tacitus (CWT 417-429); Petronius (CWT 470-496) – **Quiz #1**

**May 27** – Wisdom: Aesop's Fables (CWT 39-46); the Upanishads (RIER 20-38); Book of Changes (RIER 272-275); Zhuangzi (RIER 308-313)

**May 29** – Nature, Harmony, and Mystery: Lucretius (CWT 450-469); Marcus Aurelius (CWT 510-520); Lucius Apuleius (CWT 521-535); the Daodejing (RIER 301-308)

**June 3** – Tragedy and Suffering: Sophocles (CWT 47-130); Job (CWT 573-590); Suffering and Buddhism (RIER 221-229)

**June 5** – Buddhist Thought (RIER 139-207)

**June 10** – Good and Evil in Hebrew Thought: Genesis (CWT 543-552); Exodus (CWT 552-561); Amos (CWT 561-568); Isaiah (CWT 568-572)

**June 12** – Good and Evil in Christian Thought: Matthew (CWT 591-599); Acts (CWT 599-605); Paul (CWT 605-616); Augustine (CWT 628-642) – **Quiz #2**

**June 17** – Course Conclusion/Group Presentations (no readings)