

UNIVERSITY OF CALGARY
DEPARTMENT OF COMMUNICATION AND CULTURE

COMMUNICATION AND CULTURE CMCL 301 – L02:
FOUNDATIONS OF WESTERN CULTURE - IN A COMPARATIVE CONTEXT:
THE WEST, INDIA, AND CHINA
 Fall 2012

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Course Times: T and Th 9.30-10.45 am	

COURSE DESCRIPTION

This course is designed to be a critical and inter-disciplinary examination, via classic texts, of Western (Greco-Roman and Judaeo-Christian), Indian, and Chinese civilizations in terms of their fundamental cultural assumptions. The time span is the formative period of these civilizations from about 2500 B.C to approx. 400 A.D. The key themes by which the texts will be explored are as follows: life-death, freedom-slavery, wisdom-folly, and good-evil.

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 writing skills in the context of developing and supporting arguments

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 web sites. Please ensure that your phones are switched off during lectures, unless it is required for extenuating circumstances, such as medical emergencies. If this is the case, you should let your instructor know.

TEXTBOOKS AND READINGS:

The following texts are all required and have been ‘bundled’ together to reduce costs:

- D.S. Gochberg, S.S. Dulai, E.D. Graham, and K.W. Harrow, *World Literature and Thought*, Vol. 1, The Ancient Worlds (Belmont, Calif.: Wadsworth, Thomson Learning, 2002)
- L.S. Cunningham and J.J. Reich, *Culture and Values*, Vol. 1, 7th ed. With Readings (Boston: Wadsworth, 2012).

ASSIGNMENTS AND EVALUATION

(A) 4 ten-minute quizzes @ 5%	= 20%
(B) Registrar-Scheduled Exam	= 25%
(C) Class Presentation	= 15%
(D) Essay # 1	= 15%
(E) Essay #2	= 25%

100%

(A) Quizzes:

Quizzes are there to ensure you do the readings. If you have done them, they will be an easy way of earning 20% of your final grade. They are not obscure or meant to trap you. Try not to miss them because make-up quizzes will not be possible.

They are given in the last 10 minutes of class on the following days: Sept. 27, Oct. 25, Nov. 8, and Dec. 4, 2012

(B) Registrar-Scheduled Exam

Time: 3 hours

Format: The exam will be in two parts. Part A (worth 20%) will consist of objective identifications. Part B (worth 80%) will be an essay chosen from 2 topics. Three topics will be given to the students before the exam, and two of these will appear on the day of the exam. Students can take into the exam a sheet of paper with whatever notes they think will be helpful. In other words, the goal is thinking and not memorization.

(C) Class Presentation:

Each tutorial will present (within 20 minutes max.) to the entire class what they think is the most important thing they have learned so far in the course. Any kind of media or original mode of presentation will be allowed. All members of the tutorial will get the same mark except for those who made no viable contribution. Contributions will be determined through peer assessment and tutorial leader discretion. A written summary is also expected.

Examples: possibilities of a global culture; the effect of Westernization on the world – negative or positive; how China and/or India have affected the contemporary West; etc.

(D) Essay #1:

Due Date: Oct. 4, 2012

Page Length: approx. 5 pages double-spaced

Goal: Find a contemporary manifestation of the Life-Death theme and compare the fundamental cultural assumptions associated therewith with those appearing in one or two course texts.

Method:

- (a) Articulate your own understanding of the life-death theme;
- (b) Identify how that theme appears in one or two course texts (taken from those covered up to Oct. 4, 2012)
- (c) Interpret the fundamental cultural assumption being expressed by way of the foregoing appearance;
- (d) Compare that assumption with a contemporary counterpart, indicating where you found it and why you think it is fundamental with respect to this time

N .B.: Always support your argument with properly footnoted textual material.

(E) *Essay #2:*

Due Date: Nov. 22, 2012 in class

Page Length: 10-12 typed pages double-spaced

Goal: Compare any 2 of West, India or China with respect to one of the 4 course themes

Method:

- (a) Focusing on one of the four course themes (i.e., life-death, freedom-slavery, wisdom-foolly, and good-evil), articulate what it means to you in terms of your life experience;
- (b) Indicate how that theme manifests in two of the three cultures explored in this course;
- (c) Develop and support a thesis as to the major similarities or differences that the given theme manifests between the two cultures under analysis and also with respect to your personal understanding

N.B.: Always support your argument with properly footnoted textual material from the course and elsewhere.

It is the student's responsibility to keep a copy of each submitted assignment and also send an electronic copy to the course digital dropbox on Blackboard.

Note: 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.

Registrar-scheduled Final Examination: (3 hours)

Please note: If your class is held in the evening, the Registrar's Office will make every attempt to

schedule the final exam during the evening; however, there is NO guarantee that the exam will NOT be scheduled during the day.

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

Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act

This course is conducted in accordance with the Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act (FOIP). As one consequence, **students should identify themselves on all written work by placing their name on the front page and their ID number. Also you will be required to provide a piece of picture identification in order to pick up an assignment or look at a final exam from SS320 after classes have ended.**

For more information see also <http://www.ucalgary.ca/secretariat/privacy>.

Writing Skills Statement

Department policy directs that all written assignments (including, although to a lesser extent, written exam responses) will be assessed at least partly on writing skills. For details see <http://www.comcul.ucalgary.ca/needtoknow>. Writing skills include not only surface correctness (grammar, punctuation, sentence structure, etc) but also general clarity and organization. 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 SYSTEM

The following grading system is used in the Department of Communication and Culture:

	Grading Scale		
A+	96-100	C+	65-69.99
A	90-95.99	C	60-64.99
A -	85-89.99	C-	55-59.99
B+	80-84.99	D+	53-54.99
B	75-79.99	D	50-52.99
B-	70-74.99	F	0-49

The **'A'** range denotes exceptional performance; goes far beyond the standards required by the assignment, examination, or course.

The **'B'** range denotes above average performance; exceeds standards required.

The **'C'** range denotes average performance; meets standards required.

The **'D'** range denotes below average performance; does not meet standards required.

An **'F'** denotes incomplete or inadequate performance; unable to show competence.

SCHEDULE OF LECTURES AND READINGS

Abbreviations: C&V,I = *Culture and Values*, Vol. I, 7th Ed. with Readings
WLT,I = *World Literature and Thought*, Vol. I, The Ancient Worlds

Sept. 11: Intro: What This Course Is About – Key Concepts:
(A) Life-Death, (B) Freedom-Slavery, (C) Wisdom-Folly, (D) Good-Evil

(A) Foundations of Life-Death In Myth and Music

Sept. 13: *The Epic of Gilgamesh*: C&V,I, 1-10; WLT,I, 4-26

Sept. 18: Ancient Greece – The *Iliad* and *Odyssey* (Homer): C&V,I, 29-36; 296-301; 302-305;
WLT,I, 131-169

Sept. 20: The Great Roman Myth – The *Aeneid* (Virgil): C&V,I, 83-98; 332-341

Sept. 25: India and the *Mahabharata* – C&V,I, 113-122; WLT,I, 430-451

Sept. 27: China and *The Book of History* and *The Book of Songs* – C&V,I, 122-126; WLT,I, 203-222

Quiz #1 – Last 10 minutes of class

(B) Freedom and Slavery

Oct. 2: The Classical Ideal in Ancient Greece and the Nature of Fate: C&V,I 53-61, *Oedipus the King* (Sophocles) 308-321.

Oct. 4: Aristotle, *Politics*: C&V,I, 62-63; WLT,I, 345-356

Essay #1 Due in class

Oct. 9: Herodotus, *The Histories* and Thucydides, *History of the Peloponnesian War*: WLT,I, 281-309

Oct. 11: Plutarch, *Lives* (Cato): WLT,I, 509-522

Oct. 16: Kautilya, *Arthashastra*: WLT,I, 417-429

Oct. 18: Mencius, *The Mencius*, WLT,I, 466-474

Oct. 23: Hsun Tzu, *The Hsun Tzu* and Han Fei Tzu, *The Han Fe Tzu*, WLT,I, 475-481; 499-505

Oct. 25: Ssu-ma Ch'ien, *Records of the Historian*: WLT,I, 651-659

Quiz #2 – Last 10 minutes of class

(C) Wisdom and Folly

Oct. 30: Socrates & Plato, *Apology and Republic*: C&V,I, 62-63; WLT,I, 321-344

Nov. 1: Aristotle & Sappho, *Nichomachean Ethics*, C&V,I, 327-329; Selected Poems, C&V.I,305; WLT,I, 226-229

Nov. 6: Marcus Aurelius and Stoicism: C&V,I, 92-93; 343-345; Lucius Apuleius, *The Golden Ass*, WLT,I, 523-535

Nov. 8: Confucius, *The Analects* and Lao Tzu, *The Tao Te Ching*: WLT,I, 452-459; 482-490

Nov. 13: Reading Day – No classes

Quiz # 3 – Last 10 minutes of class

(D) Good and Evil

Nov. 15: *The Old Testament*: C&V,I, 131-137; WLT,I, 108-130

Nov. 20: *The New Testament*: C&V,I, 137-141; WLT,I, 536-546

Nov. 22: Augustine: C&V,I, 149-152; *The City of God*: WLT,I, 550-563

Essay #2 – Due in class

Nov. 27: *Upanishads*: C&V,I, 347-350

Nov. 29: Buddhism, *The Life of Buddha*: WLT,I, 380-398

Dec. 4: Buddhism, *The Diamond Sutra*: WLT,I, 399-407

Quiz #4 – Last 10 minutes of class

Dec. 6 Review and discussion of exam

Final examination – date and time determined by the Registrar

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION FOR STUDENTS

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. Readers must be able to tell exactly where your words and ideas end and other people's words and ideas begin. This includes assignments submitted in non-traditional formats such as Web pages or visual media, and material taken from such sources.

Please consult your instructor or the Writing Centre (3rd Floor Taylor Family Digital Library, <http://www.ucalgary.ca/ssc/writing-support>) if you have any questions regarding how to document sources.

Academic Misconduct

For information on academic misconduct and the consequences thereof please see the current University of Calgary Calendar at the following link; <http://www.ucalgary.ca/pubs/calendar/current/k.html>

Students with Disabilities

If you are a student with a disability who may require academic accommodation, it is your responsibility to register with the Disability Resource Centre (220-8237) and discuss your needs with your instructor no later than fourteen (14) days after the start of the course.

Students' Union

For details about the current Students' Union contacts for the Faculty of Arts see <http://www.su.ucalgary.ca/governance/elections/home.html>

Student Ombudsman

For details on the Student Ombudsman's Office see <http://www.su.ucalgary.ca/services/student-services/student-rights.html>

Emergency Evacuation and Assembly points

For information on the emergency evacuation procedures and the assembly points see <http://www.ucalgary.ca/emergencyplan/assemblypoints>

"SAFEWALK" Program -- 220-5333

Campus Security will escort individuals day or night -- call 220-5333 for assistance. Use any campus phone, emergency phone or the yellow phone located at most parking lot booths.

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

The Department of Communication and Culture Research Ethics site:

<http://www.comcul.ucalgary.ca/ethics>

or the University of Calgary Research Ethics site:

<http://www.ucalgary.ca/research/cfreb>