

University of Calgary
Department of Communication, Media and Film

Communication and Culture CMCL 301 L01

Cultural Foundations

Tues Sept. 8 to Tues Dec. 8, 2015

Fall 2015

Lecture Tuesdays 12:30-14:20

Tutorials: Thursdays: 12-12:50; 13:00-13:50

Instructor: Ronald Glasberg
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Office Phone: 220-7124
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Web Page: NA
Office Hours: By Appointment

Course Description

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 approximately 400 A.D. The key themes by which these texts will be explored are as follows: life-death, freedom-slavery, wisdom-foolly, and good-evil.

Additional Information

Lecture schedule is at the end of this 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 civilization;
- (c) Improve writing skills in the context of developing and supporting arguments;
- (d) Become more conscious about yourself and the world around you

Textbooks and Readings

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

Gochberg, D. ed. *Classics of Western Thought*, Vol. I – The Ancient World, 4th ed. (Boston: Wadsworth, 1988)

Coward, H., R. Neufeldt & Eva K. Neumaier, eds. *Readings In Eastern Religions*, 2nd ed. Waterloo: Wilfred Laurier, 2007)

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

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 and 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	A	90 - 95.99%	93.0%

	matter.			
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 (3rd 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 . . .
ARTS PROGRAM ADVISING (ASC)	SS 102 403-220-3580 artsads@ucalgary.ca
CAMPUS SECURITY <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Calgary Police Service • Emergency Text Messaging • Emergency Evacuation & Assembly • Safewalk Program 	http://www.ucalgary.ca/security/ 403-220-5333 403-266-1234 Emergency: call 911 http://www.ucalgary.ca/emergencyplan/textmessage http://www.ucalgary.ca/emergencyplan/assemblypoints If you feel uncomfortable walking alone at any time, call Campus Security for an escort (220-5333). For more information, see http://www.ucalgary.ca/security/
DESIRE2LEARN (D2L) Support <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • IT help line 	http://elearn.ucalgary.ca/desire2learn/home/students 403-220-5555 or itsupport@ucalgary.ca
STUDENT SUCCESS CENTRE <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Writing Support Services • Student Services Mobile App 	http://ucalgary.ca/ssc http://www.ucalgary.ca/ssc/writing-support http://ucalgary.ca/currentstudents
STUDENTS' UNION CONTACTS <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Faculty of Arts Reps • Student Ombudsman 	https://www.su.ucalgary.ca/about/who-we-are/elected-officials/ http://www.ucalgary.ca/provost/students/ombuds
SU WELLNESS CENTRE <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Counselling Services • Health Services • Distress centre 24/7 CRISIS LINE • Online resources and tips 	403-210-9355 (MSC 370), M-F, 9:00–4:30 pm http://ucalgary.ca/wellnesscentre/counselling http://ucalgary.ca/wellnesscentre/health 403-266-HELP (4357) http://ucalgary.ca/wellnesscentre/healthycampus 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:

CWT = Classics of Western Thought, Vol. I

RER = Readings In Eastern Religions

Sept. 8 Introduction to basic concepts: FCAs, Life-Death, Freedom-Slavery, Wisdom-Folly, Good-Evil

Sept. 15: Homer (CWT 1-17), Bhagavad Gita (RER 44-55), Ramayana (RER 68-72)

Sept. 22: Thucydides (CWT 176-183), Aristophanes (CWT 196-293)

Sept. 29: Plutarch (CWT 401-416), Petronius (CWT 470-496), Book of History/Odes/Changes (RER 267-275) & Ge Hong (RER 313-316)

Oct. 6: Herodotus (CWT 131-141), Thucydides (CWT 188-195 – Melian Dialogue), Sophocles (CWT 47-130)

Oct. 13: Tacitus (CWT 417-429), Lao Tzu (RER 302-308), Zhuangzi (RER 308-313)

Oct. 20: Laws of Manu (RER 39-44), Xunzi (RER 291-295)

Oct. 27: Plato (CWT 314-348), Upanishads (RER 29-38)

Nov. 3: Aristotle (CWT 349-367), Confucius (RER 279-286)

Nov. 10: Lucretius (CWT 450-469), Marcus Aurelius (CWT 510-520)

Nov. 17: Genesis, Exodus, Job (CWT 543-561; 573-590)

Nov. 24: Matthew, Augustine (CWT 591-599; 628-642)

Dec. 1: Buddhism (RER 139-179)

Dec. 8: Conclusion and Review