

Communication and Culture CMCL 301 L20
Foundations of Western Culture in a Comparative Context
Spring 2013
Tuesday & Thursday 9-1145am
Tutorial: Tuesday & Thursday 12pm-1245pm

Instructor:	Dr. Chaseten Remillard
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Office Hours:	T/R 1pm-2pm

Course Description

The course is designed to provide insight into the core cultural assumptions of Western, Indian, and Chinese civilizations. Students will examine formative texts from each culture. Through an interdisciplinary and critical approach to the texts, students will consider four comparative themes: *life-death*; *freedom-slavery*; *wisdom-folly*, and *good-evil*.

Additional Information

Detailed Reading List and Lecture Schedule to be distributed in first class.

Objectives of the Course

1. Gain a comparative understanding of classic texts from Western, Indian, and Chinese civilizations
2. Gain an interdisciplinary insight into Western, Indian, and Chinese culture
3. Develop analytical, reading, and writing skills

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:

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

1) Engagement: (10%) – Throughout term

During class and tutorials we will engage in group seminars. These are designed to advance peer-to-peer learning and deepen your understanding of the texts. These marks can only be obtained through active participation in class discussions and activities.

2) 4 In-Class Quizzes on each Theme: (10% each – Total 40% of grade)

Life & Death Quiz – May 23rd
Freedom & Slavery Quiz – June 4th
Wisdom & Folly Quiz – June 13th
Good & Evil Quiz – June 20th

The questions will be based on readings and lecture materials

*** Quizzes CANNOT be rescheduled by students – failure to attend the quiz without a documented and acceptable excuse (as outlined by University regulations) will result in a FORFEIT of the quiz grade.

3) 2 Writing Assignments: (25% each – Total 50% of grade)

Writing Assignment 1 (1000-1250 words)
Due: June 6th by 1159pm submitted via blackboard

Students will be asked to discuss their understanding of EITHER the *Life & Death* **or** *Freedom & Slavery* theme and synthesize their viewpoint into a coherent paper that demonstrates:

1. how the theme is understood in Western Culture and one of the other cultures studied

2. what the similarities and differences are between the two cultures in terms of the theme

Writing Assignment 2 (1000-1250 words)

Due: June 25th by 1159pm submitted via blackboard

Students will be asked to discuss their understanding of EITHER the *Wisdom-Folly* **or** *Good-Evil* theme and synthesize their viewpoint into a coherent paper that demonstrates:

1. how the theme is understood in Western Culture and one of the other cultures studied
2. what the similarities and differences are between the two cultures in terms of the theme

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

It is the student's responsibility to keep a copy of each submitted assignment.

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: NO

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.

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

Where a grade on a particular assignment is expressed as a letter grade, it will normally be converted to a number using the midpoint of the scale. That is, A- would be converted to 87.5 for calculation purposes. F will be converted to zero.

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.ucalgary.ca/provost/students/ombuds>

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/ethics/cfreb>