

**Communication and Culture (CMCL) 301 L60**  
**Foundations of Western Culture - In a Comparative Context**  
**with India and China**  
**Summer 2013**  
**TR 12:00 - 14:45 Tutorial 15:00 - 15:45**

**Instructor:** Shane Halasz  
**Office Location:** SS 304  
**E-Mail:** sdhalasz@ucalgary.ca  
**Web Page:** blackboard.ucalgary.ca  
**Office Hours:** Monday and Tuesday 10:00 - 11:00 or 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 approx. 400 A.D. The key themes by which the texts will be explored are as follows: life-death, freedom-slavery, wisdom-foolly, and good-evil.

**Additional Information**

Schedule of lectures and readings included 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

**Internet and electronic communication device information**

Laptop computers may be used for the sole purpose of taking notes.

Cell phones and all other forms of electronic communication must be turned off and put away during class.

**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, 7<sup>th</sup> ed. With Readings (Boston: Wadsworth, 2012).

### Assignments and Evaluation

1. 4 ten-minute quizzes @ 5%	=	20%
2. First Essay	=	15%
3. Second Essay	=	25%
4. Class Participation	=	10%
5. Registrar-Scheduled Exam	=	30%

All assignments must be completed (except quizzes) 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.

#### 1. *Quizzes*

Quizzes are there to ensure that you do the readings. If you have done them, they (the quizzes) are 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 are not possible*. The quizzes will be given in class on the following days: July 9, 2013; July 23, 2013; July 30, 2013; and August 8, 2013. Quizzes may fall at the beginning, middle, or end of these classes.

#### 2. *First Essay*

Due Date: Jul 11, 2013

Page Length: approx. 5 pages double-spaced

Goal: Find a contemporary (from our own time) manifestation of the Life-Death theme and compare the fundamental cultural assumptions associated 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 July 9, 2013);
- c) Interpret the fundamental cultural assumption being expressed;
- d) Compare that assumption with a contemporary counterpart from our own times, 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.

### 3. *Second Essay*

Due Date: August 6, 2013 in class

Page Length: 10-12 typed pages double-spaced

Goal: Compare a document from the West to one from either India or China with respect to one of the 4 course themes.

Method:

- a) Discuss your understanding of one of the course themes (i.e., life-death, freedom-slavery, wisdom-folly, and good-evil);
- b) Indicate how that theme can be seen in two of the three cultures explored in this course (with at least one from the West);
- 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 own understanding.

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

### 4. *Class Participation*

Participation will be assessed according to students' ongoing ability to make meaningful, informed contributions to class discussion and the extent to which they engage with various in-class activities throughout the term. Readings should be completed before coming to class.

### 5. *Registrar-Scheduled Exam*

Time: 2 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.

**Registrar-scheduled Final Examination: YES**

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 (3<sup>rd</sup> 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>

## **Schedule of Lectures and Readings**

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

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

July 2

- Intro: What This Course Is About? Key Concepts: (A) Life-Death, (B) Freedom-

- Slavery, (C) Wisdom-Folly, (D) Good-Evil
- *The Epic of Gilgamesh*: C&V,I, 1-10; WLT,I, 4-26

July 4

- Ancient Greece – The *Iliad* and *Odyssey* (Homer): C&V,I, 29-36; 296-301; 302-305; WLT,I, 131-169;
- The Great Roman Myth – The *Aeneid* (Virgil): C&V,I, 83-98; 332-341

July 9

- India and the *Mahabharata* – C&V,I, 113-122; WLT,I, 430-451;
- China and *The Book of History* and *The Book of Songs* – C&V,I, 122-126; WLT,I, 203-222

### Quiz #1

(B) Freedom and Slavery

July 11

- The Classical Ideal in Ancient Greece and the Nature of Fate: C&V,I 53-61, *Oedipus the King* (Sophocles) 308-321; Aristotle, *Politics*: C&V,I, 62-63; WLT,I, 345-356

### Essay #1 Due in class

July 16

- Herodotus, *The Histories* and Thucydides, *History of the Peloponnesian War*: WLT,I, 281-309
- Plutarch, *Lives* (Cato): WLT,I, 509-522

July 18

- Kautilya, *Arthashastra*: WLT,I, 417-429; Mencius, *The Mencius*, WLT,I, 466-474

July 23

- Hsun Tzu, *The Hsun Tzu* and Han Fei Tzu, *The Han Fe Tzu*, WLT,I, 475-481; 499-505
- Ssu-ma Ch'ien, *Records of the Historian*: WLT,I, 651-659

### Quiz #2

(C) Wisdom and Folly

July 25

- Socrates & Plato, *Apology* and *Republic*: C&V,I, 62-63; WLT,I, 321-344
- Aristotle & Sappho, *Nicomachean Ethics*, C&V,I, 327-329; Selected Poems, C&VI,305; WLT,I, 226-229

July 30

- Marcus Aurelius and Stoicism: C&V,I, 92-93; 343-345
- Lucius Apuleius, *The Golden Ass*, WLT,I, 523-535
- Confucius, *The Analects* and Lao Tzu, *The Tao Te Ching*: WLT,I, 452-459; 482-490

### Quiz # 3

(D) Good and Evil

August 1

- *The Old Testament*: C&V,I, 131-137; WLT,I, 108-130
- *The New Testament*: C&V,I, 137-141; WLT,I, 536-546

August 6

- Augustine: C&V,I, 149-152; *The City of God*: WLT,I, 550-563
- *Upanishads*: C&V,I, 347-350

### Essay #2 – Due in class

August 8

- Buddhism: *The Life of Buddha*: WLT,I, 380-398; *The Diamond Sutra*: WLT,I, 399-407

### Quiz #4

August 13

- Review and discussion of exam