

**UNIVERSITY OF CALGARY**  
**DEPARTMENT OF COMMUNICATION AND CULTURE**

**COMMUNICATION AND CULTURE CMCL 301 – L01:**  
**FOUNDATIONS OF WESTERN CULTURE - IN A COMPARATIVE CONTEXT:**  
**THE WEST, INDIA, AND CHINA**  
 Winter 2013

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<b>Course Times:</b> T/Th 11.00-12.15am	

**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. 500 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, 7<sup>th</sup> ed. With Readings (Boston: Wadsworth, 2012).

**ASSIGNMENTS AND EVALUATION**

(A) 4 ten-minute quizzes @ 5%	= 20%
(B) Essay # 1	= 15%
(C) Essay #2	= 30%
(D) Student Contribution	= 10%
(E) Registrar-Scheduled Exam	= 25%
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	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 normally be possible.

They are given in the last 10 minutes of the tutorial at the end of each thematic section.

**(B) Essay #1:**

Due Date: January 31, 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
- (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.

Most of your analysis will be of the document you chose, but linked to a piece of N.B.: Always support your argument with properly footnoted textual material.

**(C) Essay #2:**

Due Date: March 28, 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.

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.

**(D) *Student Contribution:***

Students will be given a grade commensurate with their active participation in the tutorials. This is not merely attending, but actively contributing to the tutorial discussions. We are not looking for quantity, but quality of contributions.

**(E) *Registrar-Scheduled Exam***

Time: 3 hours

Format: The exam will be in two parts. Part A (worth 20%) will consist of quotation identification and Part B (worth 80%) will be an essay. 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: (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, 7<sup>th</sup> Ed. with Readings

WLT,I = *World Literature and Thought*, Vol. I, The Ancient Worlds

**Week 1:**

January 8: 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**

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

**Week 2:**

Jan. 15: Ancient Greece – The *Iliad* and *Odyssey* (Homer): C&V,I, 29-36; 296-301; 302-305;  
WLT,I, 131-169

Jan. 17: The Great Roman Myth – The *Aeneid* (Virgil): C&V,I, 83-98; 332-341

**Week 3:**

Jan. 22: India and the *Mahabharata* – C&V,I, 113-122; WLT,I, 430-451

Jan. 24: 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**

**Week 4:**

Jan. 29: The Classical Ideal in Ancient Greece and the Nature of Fate: C&V,I 53-61, *Oedipus the King* (Sophocles) 308-321.

Jan. 31: Aristotle, *Politics*: C&V,I, 62-63; WLT,I, 345-356; *Nicomachean Ethics*, C&V,I, 327-329;

**Essay #1 Due in class**

**Week 5:**

Feb. 5: Herodotus, *The Histories* and Thucydides, *History of the Peloponnesian War*: WLT,I, 281-309

Feb. 7: Plutarch, *Lives* (Cato): WLT,I, 509-522

**Week 6:**

Feb. 12: Kautilya, *Arthashastra*: WLT,I, 417-429

Feb. 14: Mencius, *The Mencius*, WLT,I, 466-474

**Week 7: Reading Week**

Feb. 18-22

**Week 8:**

Feb. 26: Hsun Tzu, *The Hsun Tzu* and Han Fei Tzu, *The Han Fe Tzu*, WLT,I, 475-481; 499-505

Feb. 28: Ssu-ma Ch'ien, *Records of the Historian*: WLT,I, 651-659

**Quiz #2**

**(C) Wisdom and Folly**

**Week 9:**

Mar. 5: Socrates & Plato, *Apology* and *Republic*: C&V,I, 62-63; WLT,I, 321-344

Mar. 7: Sappho, *Selected Poems*: C&V,I,305;  
WLT,I, 226-229

**Week 10:**

Mar. 12: Marcus Aurelius and Stoicism: C&V,I, 92-93; 343-345; Lucius Apuleius, *The Golden Ass*,  
WLT,I, 523-535

Mar. 14: Confucius, *The Analects* and Lao Tzu, *The Tao Te Ching*: WLT,I, 452-459; 482-490

**Quiz # 3**

**(D) Good and Evil**

**Week 11:**

Mar. 19: *The Old Testament*: C&V,I, 131-137; WLT,I, 108-130

Mar. 21: *The New Testament*: C&V,I, 137-141; WLT,I, 536-546

**Week 12**

Mar. 26: Paul and the Rise of Christianity, *The New Testament*: C&V,I, 359-361

Mar. 28: *Upanishads*: C&V,I, 347-350; WLT,I, 357-380

**Essay #2 – Due in class**

**Week 13:**

Apr 2: Buddhism, *The Life of Buddha*: WLT,I, 380-398; *The Diamond Sutra*: WLT,I, 399-407

Apr. 4: Augustine, C&V,I, 149-152; *The City of God*: WLT,I, 550-563

**Week 14:**

Apr. 9: Benedict, *The Rule of St. Benedict*: C&V,I, 190-194

Apr. 11: Review and discussion of exam

### **Quiz #4**

**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 (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/cfreb>