

**University of Calgary**  
**Department of Communication, Media and Film**  
**Communication and Culture CMCL 307 L01**  
**Contours of Contemporary Culture**  
**Winter 2019**

**Monday January 14 – Wednesday April 10 (excluding Feb. 18<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup>)**

**Mondays 2-3:50 (Lecture); Wednesdays 1-1:50 or 2-2:50 (Tutorials)**

**Instructor:** Dr. Marcia Jenneth Epstein  
**Office:** SS 316  
**Phone** 403-220-4848  
**E-Mail:** epstein@ucalgary.ca  
**Web Page:** D2L available through MyUofC portal

**Office Hours:** Mondays 12:30 -1:30 or by appointment

### **Course Description**

A critical and interdisciplinary examination, via representative texts and current events, of the development of Modernity and its aftermath in Western and some non-Western contexts. The focus will be on changes to modernity's major ideas and principles, and their implications within the time frame of the 20th and early 21st centuries.

### **Additional Information**

Attendance in class is strongly advised, since discussion of readings in class will provide significant content. If you need to be absent, ask a classmate to provide you with notes: sharing and collaboration are encouraged.

*Note:* You will need to follow some form of international news -- online, broadcast, podcast, or print-based -- during the course. Examples: CBC, BBC, *The Tyee*, the *New York Times*, *Al Jazeera in English*. Facebook sources and Fox News are not acceptable.

## Objectives of the Course

- (1) Examining the consequences of modernity and capitalism in Western culture, the West's interactions with selected non-Western cultures in the 20th and early 21st centuries, and potential trajectories into imagined futures;
- (2) Interpreting classic texts in an inter-cultural context;
- (3) Developing strategies to identify and heal some of the dysfunctions associated with modernity;
- (4) Exploring modernity and its aftermath from the perspectives of cultural and intellectual history, social justice, and political theory.
- (5) Developing writing and presentation skills.

## Textbook

Perry, Marvin (2017), *Sources of the Western Tradition*, vol. 2 (10<sup>th</sup> edition). Cengage.

One other text source, probably a reading package, will be available for the lectures in March: TBA ASAP.

*Please bring texts to tutorials so that the readings are available for close analysis.*

## Internet and electronic communication device information

No restriction on the use of laptops and tablets in class if they are used to take notes\* or find information relevant to the class, and if there is *no disturbance or distraction of other students or the instructor*. Phones must be turned off during class time unless you are a health care or law enforcement professional with appropriate ID, or responsible for the care of a family member.

Social media and games are not appropriate during class time.

*\*Be aware that recent research shows that taking lecture notes on a keyboard produces results that are inferior to handwriting:*

[http://www.scientificamerican.com/article/a-learning-secret-don-t-take-notes-with-a-laptop/?&WT.mc\\_id=SA\\_MB\\_20140604](http://www.scientificamerican.com/article/a-learning-secret-don-t-take-notes-with-a-laptop/?&WT.mc_id=SA_MB_20140604)

and

<http://pss.sagepub.com/content/early/2014/04/22/0956797614524581.abstract>

## Assignments and Evaluation

<b>Assignment:</b>	<b>Weight:</b>	<b>Due:</b>
Reflective essays (4)	20%	In tutorials throughout the term
Midterm	25%	Feb. 13
Tutorial participation	10%	(Entire term)
<i>Final presentation</i> (group)	20%	March 25 - April 8
<i>Final Exam</i>	25%	TBA in April

### **Assignment Guidelines**

#### **- Reflective Essays**

Reflections on four assigned readings of your choice, from four different textbook chapters:

1. How does the reading reveal cultural assumptions? What are they, and how do they relate to current cultural values?
2. What cultural similarities or differences between the readings and your beliefs (cultural or personal) are particularly striking to you, and why? (This can include personal responses based on life experiences.)

*Note: A summary of the reading is not sufficient. Show that you understand the content by analyzing and/or reflecting on it.*

-Length: 2-3 pages each, 1.5 or double spaced.

-Option: You may work with one partner.

-While creative use of language is encouraged if it is done with skill, substandard writing is not acceptable: pay attention to sentence structure, grammar, punctuation (*yes, that includes apostrophes*).

#### **-Group Presentations:**

A group will consist of 3 - 4 members.

Each group will give an audio-visual presentation to the class (approx. 20 min.).

**Content:** *Choose a topic area from the list below. Apply the perspectives of two of your assigned readings to an aspect of the issue, along with other sources of your choice.*

Topic questions:

1. What changes to current economic structures can produce better distribution of income in Canada?
2. What steps are currently being taken to reduce the impacts of climate change?
3. Design a PR program to overcome prejudice against a) immigrants, or b) indigenous people, in Canada.

**Hand in:** Script (edited), bibliography of sources with correct formatting (APA or MLA), and individual statements of what you learned from the project.

**Goal:** Developing skills at organizing information, and transmitting it -- and its significance -- to an audience.

***-Tutorial participation:***

This will be evaluated on the basis of contribution to discussions, small-group leadership, and written summaries in class.

***-Exams:***

*Format:* The exams will include short answers (a name, word, or phrase), paragraph answers, and an essay. There will be elements of choice.

**Registrar-scheduled Final Examination: YES**

*All assignments and exams must normally be completed or a course grade of F may be assigned at the discretion of the instructor.*

**Submission of Assignments:**

Please hand in hard-copy assignments directly to your 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 marked final exams in SS 320. 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 and to ensure that the proper version is submitted (particularly in courses requiring electronic submission). Including a version date in your file name may be useful.*

**Policy for Late Assignments**

Assignments submitted after the deadline may be penalized with loss of points unless there is a valid – and verified – reason. Penalties can amount to a maximum of 5 points per week late; not turning in the assignment will result in a zero.

### **Student Accommodations:**

Students seeking an accommodation based on disability or medical concerns should contact Student Accessibility Services; SAS will process the request and issue letters of accommodation to instructors. For additional information on support services and accommodations for students with disabilities, visit [www.ucalgary.ca/access/](http://www.ucalgary.ca/access/).

Students who require an accommodation in relation to their coursework based on a protected ground other than disability should communicate this need in writing to their Instructor. The full policy on Student Accommodations is available at <http://www.ucalgary.ca/policies/files/policies/student-accommodation-policy.pdf>.

Students seeking accommodation for transient illnesses (e.g., the flu) or for another legitimate reason should contact their instructors. Whenever possible, students should provide supporting documentation to support their request; however, instructors may not require that a medical note be presented. For the policy on supporting documentation the use of a statutory declaration, please see the following:

- Section N.1 of the *University Calendar*:  
<https://www.ucalgary.ca/pubs/calendar/current/n-1.html>
- FAQs for Students at <https://www.ucalgary.ca/registrar/registration/appeals/student-faq>

Note that when accommodations are granted, they may take forms other than make-up tests or assignments. For example, the weight of a missed grade may be added to that of another assignment or test.

For information on deferrals, see the following sections in the *University Calendar*:

- Section G.7 Deferral of Term Work at  
<http://www.ucalgary.ca/pubs/calendar/current/g-7.html>
- Section G.6 Deferral of Final Exam at  
<http://www.ucalgary.ca/pubs/calendar/current/g-6.html>

### **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. 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. A cumulative point score will be kept for all assignments and exams. The final tally of points will usually determine the final letter

grade, but adjustments may be made for scores falling one point or less below the next letter-grade cutoff at the discretion of the instructor.

The following chart outlines the grade scale percentage equivalents used in the Department of Communication, Media and Film.

Grade Point Value	Description	Grade	Dept of CMF grade scale equivalents*	Letter grade % equivalent for calculations**
<b>4.00</b>	Outstanding performance	<b>A+</b>	96 - 100%	98.0%
<b>4.00</b>	Excellent performance	<b>A</b>	90 - 95.99%	93.0%
<b>3.70</b>	Approaching excellent performance	<b>A -</b>	85 - 89.99%	87.5%
<b>3.30</b>	Exceeding good performance	<b>B+</b>	80 - 84.99%	82.5%
<b>3.00</b>	Good performance	<b>B</b>	75 - 79.99%	77.5%
<b>2.70</b>	Approaching good performance	<b>B-</b>	70 - 74.99%	72.5%
<b>2.30</b>	Exceeding satisfactory performance	<b>C+</b>	65 - 69.99%	67.5%
<b>2.00</b>	Satisfactory performance	<b>C</b>	60 - 64.99%	62.5%
<b>1.70</b>	Approaching satisfactory performance	<b>C-</b>	55 - 59.99%	57.5%
<b>1.30</b>	Marginal pass. Insufficient preparation for subsequent courses in the same subject	<b>D+</b>	53 - 54.99%	54.0%
<b>1.00</b>	Minimal pass. Insufficient preparation for subsequent courses in the same subject	<b>D</b>	50 - 52.99%	51.5%
<b>0.00</b>	Failure. Did not meet course requirements.	<b>F</b>	0 - 49.99%	0%

\* If percentages are used to calculate final grades, then grades falling within these ranges will be translated to the corresponding letter grades.

\*\* These percentage equivalents will be used for calculating final grades unless an alternative method of final grade calculation is outlined above.

## 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 (3<sup>rd</sup> 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 (e.g., surveys, interviews, or observations) as part of your university studies, you are responsible for following university research ethics guidelines. Your instructor must review and approve 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 . . .
<b>ARTS PROGRAM ADVISING (ASC)</b>	SS 102 403-220-3580 <a href="mailto:artsads@ucalgary.ca">artsads@ucalgary.ca</a>
<b>CAMPUS SECURITY</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Calgary Police Service</li> <li>• Emergency Text Messaging</li> <li>• Emergency Evacuation &amp; Assembly</li> <li>• Safewalk Program</li> </ul>	<a href="http://www.ucalgary.ca/security/">http://www.ucalgary.ca/security/</a> <b>403-220-5333</b> <b>403-266-1234 Emergency: call 911</b> <a href="http://www.ucalgary.ca/emergencyplan/textmessage">http://www.ucalgary.ca/emergencyplan/textmessage</a> <a href="http://www.ucalgary.ca/emergencyplan/assemblypoints">http://www.ucalgary.ca/emergencyplan/assemblypoints</a> If you feel uncomfortable walking alone at any time, call Campus Security for an escort ( <b>220-5333</b> ). For more information, see <a href="http://www.ucalgary.ca/security/">http://www.ucalgary.ca/security/</a>
<b>DESIRE2LEARN (D2L) Support</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• IT help line</li> </ul>	<a href="http://elearn.ucalgary.ca/desire2learn/home/students">http://elearn.ucalgary.ca/desire2learn/home/students</a> 403-220-5555 or <a href="mailto:itsupport@ucalgary.ca">itsupport@ucalgary.ca</a>

<p><b>STUDENT SUCCESS CENTRE</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Writing Support Services</b></li> <li>• <b>Student Services Mobile App</b></li> </ul>	<p><a href="http://ucalgary.ca/ssc">http://ucalgary.ca/ssc</a>  <a href="http://www.ucalgary.ca/ssc/writing-support">http://www.ucalgary.ca/ssc/writing-support</a>  <a href="http://ucalgary.ca/currentstudents">http://ucalgary.ca/currentstudents</a></p>
<p><b>STUDENTS' UNION CONTACTS</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Faculty of Arts Reps</b></li> <li>• <b>Student Ombudsman</b></li> </ul>	<p><a href="https://www.su.ucalgary.ca/about/who-we-are/elected-officials/">https://www.su.ucalgary.ca/about/who-we-are/elected-officials/</a>  <a href="http://www.ucalgary.ca/provost/students/ombuds">http://www.ucalgary.ca/provost/students/ombuds</a></p>
<p><b>SU WELLNESS CENTRE</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Counselling Services</b></li> <li>• <b>Health Services</b></li> <li>• <b>Distress centre 24/7 CRISIS LINE</b></li> <li>• <b>Online resources and tips</b></li> </ul>	<p><b>403-210-9355</b> (MSC 370), M-F, 9:00–4:30 pm  <a href="http://ucalgary.ca/wellnesscentre/counselling">http://ucalgary.ca/wellnesscentre/counselling</a>  <a href="http://ucalgary.ca/wellnesscentre/health">http://ucalgary.ca/wellnesscentre/health</a>  <b>403-266-HELP (4357)</b>  <a href="http://ucalgary.ca/wellnesscentre/healthycampus">http://ucalgary.ca/wellnesscentre/healthycampus</a>          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.</p>

## **Schedule of Lecture Topics and Readings**

*Some adjustments to the schedule may be necessary during the term. If this is the case, announcements will be made in class and sent by email from D2L.*

**1/14-16** Reviewing Modernity: What do we know?      **Read or Review:** Perry ch.9

**1/21-23** Arrival at a Future: The Ruins of Reason.      **Read** Perry ch.10

**1/28-30** Falling into War: WWI      **Read** Perry ch.11

**2/4-6** Fascism: Reigns of Terror      **Read** Perry ch.12

*Formation of Project Groups*

**2/11-13** Review (11) and *Confirmation of Project Presentation Schedule*



**Midterm Exam (13)**

**2/18-20 Reading Week**

**2/25- 27** Racing into War: WWII

**Read** Perry ch.13

**3/4-6** TBA

**3/11-13** TBA

**3/18-20** TBA

**3/25-4/8** Group Presentations

**4/10** Review