

**University of Calgary**  
**Department of Communication, Media and Film**

**CMCL 307 L01: Contours of Contemporary Culture**

**Winter 2020: Jan. 13 - April 15 (excluding Feb. 16-12, April 10)**

**Lecture: MW 3:00-3:50; Tutorials: F 1:00-1:50; 2:00-2:50**

<b>Instructor:</b>	Ronald Glasberg
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<b>Office Hours:</b>	<i>Via email</i>

### **Course Description**

A critical and inter-disciplinary examination, via classic texts and significant historical source material, of how Modernity has been transformed within the framework of an evolving global culture. Inter-cultural comparison of major ideas, principles and their implications within the time frame of the 20<sup>th</sup> and 21<sup>st</sup> centuries.

### **Additional Information**

The weekly schedule of topics and readings can be found at the end of this outline or on D2L. Students are responsible for reading and following all course and university policies discussed in this outline.

### **Objectives of the Course**

By the end of this course, students should be able to:

- (a) creatively and critically interpret classic texts and significant historical source materials;
- (b) improve basic writing skills in the context of framing and defending arguments;
- (c) gain a perspective on contemporary global challenges with a view to developing solutions

### **Course Delivery**

From March 18, 2020 onwards, course lectures and discussion will be done via 'zoom' technology. All power-point lectures will be forwarded to students through D2L which will also host a discussion board. Students are free to email me at any time with relevant questions.

### **Textbooks and Readings**

Required:

Donald S. Gochberg, ed. *Classics of Western Thought, Vol. IV, The Twentieth Century*

A.J. Andrea and J.H. Overfield, *The Human Record, Vol. II: Since 1500*. 8<sup>th</sup> Edition (Boston: Cengage, 2016) [a custom of Part Four is available at the bookstore]

### **Policy on the use of Electronic Communication Devices**

Laptops, tablets, and mobile phones may be used in class and tutorials only for course-related purposes and only if their use is not distracting others or negatively impacting the learning environment. No audio or video recording is allowed in any class without the instructor's permission.

### **Assignments and Evaluation**

<b>Weight</b>	<b>Assessed Components</b>	<b>Due</b>
20%	Assignment #1 (See Assignment Guide at end of Syllabus)	Feb. 12
30%	Assignment #2 (See Assignment Guide at end of Syllabus)	Mar. 30
15%	Participation (See Assignment Guide at end of Syllabus)	Apr. 15
35%	Final Assignment	Apr. 27
100%		

### **Registrar-scheduled Final Examination: No**

If your class is held in the evening, the Registrar's Office will attempt to schedule the final exam during the evening; however, there is no guarantee that the exam will NOT be scheduled during the day.

**Note:** You must complete all assignments and exams or a course grade of F may be assigned at the discretion of the instructor.

### **Submission of Assignments**

Please include your name and ID number on all assignments and hand in your essays directly to your instructor or tutor. Assignment #2 and Final Assignment via D2L Dropbox (with Final Assignment due @ 10:30 a.m.). In-person submissions not accepted.

**Note:** It is your responsibility to keep a copy of each submitted assignment and to ensure that you submit the proper version (particularly in courses requiring electronic submission).

Be prepared to provide photo ID to pick up assignments in SS 320. Private information related to individual students is treated with the utmost regard by University of Calgary faculty. Student assignments will be accessible only by the authorized course faculty, and personal information is collected in accordance with the ***Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy (FOIP) Act***. Please note that instructors may use audio or video recorded for lesson capture, assessment of student learning, and self-assessment of teaching practices.

### **Policy for Late Assignments**

Assignments submitted after the deadline may be penalized with the loss of 5% or a partial letter grade (e.g.: A- to B+) for each day late. [*Edit to reflect your own policy.*]

### **Student Accommodations**

Students seeking an accommodation based on disability or medical concerns should contact Student Accessibility Services (SAS); SAS will process the request and issue letters of accommodation to instructors. For 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 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 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, see Section M.1 of the *University Calendar*: <https://www.ucalgary.ca/pubs/calendar/current/m-1.html>. Also see FAQs for Students: <https://www.ucalgary.ca/registrar/registration/appeals/student-faq>

### Expectations for Writing

Department policy directs that all written assignments and, to a lesser extent, written exam responses 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 and proper documentation of research sources. For further information, please refer to the *University of Calgary Calendar* section on writing across the curriculum: <http://www.ucalgary.ca/pubs/calendar/current/e-2.html>

### Grading & Department of Communication, Media and Film Grade Scale

The following table outlines the grade scale percentage equivalents used in the Department of Communication, Media and Film. Final grades are reported as letter grades. For components graded using percentages or numerical scores, those values will be used directly in calculating the final course grade, while for components graded using letter grades, the letter grades will be converted to the midpoint values listed in the final column of the table below in calculating the final course grade.

*In this course, letter grades will be used for written assignments*

Grade Point Value	Description	Grade	Dept of CMF grade scale equivalents*	Letter grade % equivalent for calculations*
4.00	Outstanding performance	A+	96 - 100%	98.0%
4.00	Excellent performance	A	90 - 95.99%	93.0%
3.70	Approaching excellent performance	A -	85 - 89.99%	87.5%
3.30	Exceeding good performance	B+	80 - 84.99%	82.5%
3.00	Good performance	B	75 - 79.99%	77.5%
2.70	Approaching good performance	B-	70 - 74.99%	72.5%
2.30	Exceeding satisfactory performance	C+	65 - 69.99%	67.5%
2.00	Satisfactory performance	C	60 - 64.99%	62.5%
1.70	Approaching satisfactory performance	C-	55 - 59.99%	57.5%
1.30	Marginal pass. Insufficient preparation for subsequent courses in the same subject	D+	53 - 54.99%	54.0%
1.00	Minimal pass. Insufficient preparation for	D	50 - 52.99%	51.5%

	subsequent courses in the same subject			
<b>0.00</b>	Failure. Did not meet course requirements.	<b>F</b>	0 - 49.99%	0%

\* Column 4: If percentages are used to calculate final grades, then grades falling within these ranges will be translated to the corresponding letter grades. Column 5: 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. These requirements apply to all assignments and sources, including those in non-traditional formats such as Web pages or visual media.

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.

For information on citation and documentation styles (MLA, APA, Chicago, IEEE, etc.), visit the Student Success Centre resource links at <https://ucalgary.ca/student-services/student-success/writing-support> or the Purdue Online Writing Lab (OWL) Research and Citation Resources at [https://owl.purdue.edu/owl/research\\_and\\_citation/resources.html](https://owl.purdue.edu/owl/research_and_citation/resources.html)

If you need help with your writing or have questions about citing sources, please consult your instructor or visit the Student Success Centre, 3<sup>rd</sup> floor, Taylor Family Digital Library. To book an appointment, go to [https://ucalgary.ca/student-services/student-success?utm\\_source=ssc&utm\\_medium=redirect&utm\\_campaign=redirect](https://ucalgary.ca/student-services/student-success?utm_source=ssc&utm_medium=redirect&utm_campaign=redirect)

## Instructor Intellectual Property & Copyright Legislation

Course materials created by the instructor (including course outlines, presentations and posted notes, labs, case studies, assignments and exams) remain the intellectual property of the instructor. These materials may NOT be reproduced, redistributed or copied without the explicit consent of the instructor. The posting of course materials to third party websites such as note-sharing sites without permission is prohibited. Sharing of extracts of these course materials with other students enrolled in the same course section and term may be allowed under fair dealing. Check with the instructor if you have any questions about sharing materials with classmates.

All students are required to read the University of Calgary policy on Acceptable Use of Material Protected by Copyright ([www.ucalgary.ca/policies/files/policies/acceptable-use-of-material-protected-by-copyright.pdf](http://www.ucalgary.ca/policies/files/policies/acceptable-use-of-material-protected-by-copyright.pdf)) and requirements of the copyright act (<https://laws-lois.justice.gc.ca/eng/acts/C-42/index.html>) to ensure they are aware of the consequences of unauthorized sharing of course materials (including instructor notes, electronic versions of textbooks etc.). Students who use material protected by copyright in violation of this policy may be disciplined under the Non-Academic Misconduct Policy.

## 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, including surveys, interviews, or observations as part of your university studies, you are responsible for obtaining research ethics approval and for following university research ethics guidelines. In some cases, your instructors may apply for course-based research ethics approval for certain assignments, and in those cases, they must review and approve your research plans and supervise your research. For more information about your research ethics responsibilities, please see <https://arts.ucalgary.ca/research/arts-researchers/resources-researchers-and-instructors/ethics>

## Deferrals of Course Work and Requests for Reappraisal

For university regulations and procedures related to deferrals of exams and course work, requests for reappraisals, and other matters, please see the relevant sections in the *University Calendar*: <https://www.ucalgary.ca/pubs/calendar/current/academic-regs.html>

## Student Support Services and Resources

Please visit <https://www.ucalgary.ca/registrar/registration/course-outlines> for information about student support services and resources, including Wellness and Mental Health Resources, Student Success programs and services, the Student Ombuds Office, the Student Union, and Safewalk.

For resources on D2L, visit <http://elearn.ucalgary.ca/desire2learn/home/students>. IT support is available at [itsupport@ucalgary.ca](mailto:itsupport@ucalgary.ca) or by calling 403-220.5555.

## Schedule of Lecture Topics and Readings

Abbreviations:

CWT = *Classics of Western Thought, Vol IV, The Twentieth Century*

HR = *The Human Record Sources of Global History, 8<sup>th</sup> Edition, Vol. II* [custom edition is comprised of Part Four and numbers pertain to reading selections]

Jan. 13: Introduction: Basic Concepts and Structure of Course

### Good and Evil

Jan. 15: Concentration Camps: Bettelheim (CWT: 3-29), Wiesel (CWT: 416-421)

Jan. 20: Perpetra(i)tors: Arendt (CWT: 30-46), Hoess (HR: 82)

Jan. 22: Non-Western Religious Perspectives: Khomeini (HR: 100), Jain (HR: 101)

Jan. 27: Terror: Osama bin Laden (HR: 111), Gonzales, Byber (HR: 112)

Jan.29: Psychological Perspectives: Freud (CWT: 393-397), Jung (CWT: 398-415)

Feb. 3: Contemporary Immorality: C.W. Mills (CWT: 204-221)

### Wisdom and Folly

Feb. 5: Development: C.P. Snow (CWT: 119-130); Jabavu (HR: 84)

Feb. 10: Mass Manipulation: Ellul (CWT: 131-143)

Feb. 12: Species Manipulation: Dobzhansky (CWT: 261-270); Huxley (CWT: 184-203)

### **First Assignment Due**

Feb. 16-22: Term Break (no classes)

Feb. 24: The Liberation of Mind: Breton (CWT: 522-532)

Feb. 26: The Liberation of Spirit: Maslow (CWT: 604-614)

Mar. 2: Internet: Clinton and Editorial: (HR: 115, 116)

### **Freedom and Slavery**

Mar. 4: The New Left: Marcuse (CWT: 60-74)

Mar. 9: The Academic World: Farber (CWT: 467-477); Brustein (CWT: 478-485)

Mar. 11: De-Colonization: Gandhi (HR: 87); Calderon (HR: 89)

Mar. 16: Peasant Power: Mao Zedong (HR: 91); Deng Xiaoping (HR: 105)

Mar. 18: Globalization: (HR: 109, 110)

Mar. 23: Women and the Struggle for Freedom: (HR: 102, 103, 104)

### **Life and Death**

Mar. 25: Life and Alienation: Kafka (CWT: 321-324); Becket (CWT: 339-344)

Mar. 30: The Absurdity of Life: Camus (CWT: 325-338)

### **Second Assignment Due**

Apr. 1: The Empty Life or Life as Death: Heller (CWT: 345-370)

Apr. 6: Death from Above: (HR: Multiple voices VII)

Apr. 8: The Beginning of the End or the End of the Beginning: Bush (HR: 107); Putin (HR: 108)

April 10: Good Friday – No tutorials

April 13: Non-Instructional Day

Apr. 15: Review

### **Mark Brief Due**

## **Assignment Guide**

Assignment #1: Due: Feb. 12, 2020;

Length: Paper only OR paper accompanying artifact: 2 pages (600 words) to 5 pages (1500 words)

Please include reference list as well as in-text citations for sources used.

Presentation: 10-12 minutes

Weighting 20%

Discuss, present and/or create a cultural artefact that sums up what for you sums up contemporary culture. Make reference to at least two texts by explaining how the artefact sums up or embodies a particular aspect of contemporary culture. This can be done by essay, video, painting, music, etc. as long as there is substantial reference to course texts.

Assignment #2: Due: March 30, 2020;

Length: 5 pages (1500 words) to 8 pages (2400 words);

Please include a reference list as well as in-text citations for sources used.

Weighting 30%

To be done in groups (5 maximum) or by individual

Utilizing at least 3 course texts, articulate what you see as a crucial problem of contemporary culture and try to come up with some kind of solution. Again, you may utilize the formats suggested in Assignment #1

## **Mark Brief – Participation**

While attendance will be taken in classes and tutorials, the main body of your participation mark will be based on a brief due on the last day of classes (April 15, 2020). The brief should have the following components:

- (a) a statement of how much of the course material you have read
- (b) a description of you tried to contribute to the class
- (c) an account of how you discussed course material outside of class
- (d) a sense of how you might have grown by way of your work in this course
- (e) a mark out of 15 based on the aforementioned elements (a mark which the instructor may or may not alter based on his discretion)

## **Final Assignment**

Length: 5-10 pages double spaced (1500 to 3000 words)

Due: April 27, 2020 (10:30 a.m.)

Write an extended letter to R. Glasberg explaining:

- (a) the most important things you learned in the course with respect to contemporary culture and its problems;
- (b) make reference to at least 5 course readings, 3 of which are drawn from the life-death section (March 25 onwards);
- (c) conclude by making reference to the current health and economic crises as well as your hopes (or lack thereof) for the future