

Communication and Culture (CMCL) 501 – Lecture 03
Modernity
Fall 2012
T/R 12:30-13:45

Instructor: M.J. Epstein
Office Location: SS332
Office Phone: 220-4848
E-Mail: *epstein@ucalgary.ca*
Office Hours: T/R by appointment

Course Description

A critical and inter-disciplinary examination, via classic texts, of the meaning of Modernity in western and non-western contexts. Focus will be on major ideas, principles, and their implications within the time frame of the 19th and 20th centuries, as well as reflections on the values implied by modernity.

Additional Information

See end of syllabus for outline of readings and assignment guide.

Attendance in class is advisable, 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 is encouraged.

Objectives of the Course

- (1) Provide an overview of a cultural configuration in which we, to some extent, all live;
- (2) Learn how to interpret classic texts in an inter-cultural context;
- (3) Understand Modernity from a critical perspective and come up with cultural strategies that may help to heal some of the dysfunctions associated with Modernity;
- (4) Explore Modernity from a variety of perspectives
- (5) Develop writing and presentation skills

Internet and electronic communication device information:

No restriction on the use of laptops in class if they are used to take notes or find information relevant to the class, and if there is no disturbance 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.

Textbooks and Readings:

The following texts are all required and have been 'bundled' together to reduce costs:

D. Gochberg, Surjit Dulai, Anibal Gonzalez, Edward Graham, Kenneth W. Harrow, and P. Melendez, eds., *World Literature and Thought, Vol. III, The Modern World to 1900* (Fort Worth: Harcourt, 2001).

E. Knoebel, ed., *Classics of Western Thought, Vol. III, The Modern World* (n.p.: Wadsworth, Thomson Learning, 1988).

L.S. Cunningham and John J. Reich, *Culture and Values, Vol. II, 7th ed. With Readings* (Boston: Wadsworth, 2010).

Assignments and Evaluation:

Essay #1, Due in class Oct. 2:	30%
Essay #2 or Group Project, Due in class Nov. 1 (essays); Presentations Nov. 6-15:	30%
Final Exam, 2 hours Registrar Scheduled	30%
Participation (class discussion, commentaries, Blackboard, etc.	10%
	<hr/> 100%

For details, please see Assignment Guide at end of syllabus.

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: 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://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:

(Revised, effective September 2008)

	Grading Scale	Meaning (for essays):
A+	96-100	Professional quality work
A	90-95.99	Outstanding and well expressed
A -	85-89.99	Excellent; needs more attention to detail
B+	80-84.99	Very good; well expressed
B	75-79.99	Good: basic expectations are met
B-	70-74.99	Good: needs more attention
C+	65-69.99	Shows promise; improvements needed

C	60-64.99	Adequate: covers the basics only
C-	55-59.99	Barely adequate
D+	53-54.99	Shows gaps in comprehension
D	50-52.99	Grim: see me immediately
F	0-49	Failing

NB: Hard work does not merit an A unless it produces outstanding results.

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 Ombudsma

For details on the Student Ombudsman's Office see <http://www.su.ucalgary.ca/services/student-services/student-rights.html>

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>

Schedule of Lectures and Readings

Abbreviations: CWT,III = *Classics of Western Thought*, Vol. III
WLT,III = *World Literature and Thought*, Vol. III
C&V,II = *Culture and Values*, Vol. II

Sept. 11: Introduction – What to Expect and Why it Matters

(A) Basic Humanity: Life, Love, Death

Sept. 13: Oral Traditions – The Americas: WLT,III, 499-512
– Africa and Afro-America: WLT,III, 513-534; C&V,II, 517-524;
WLT,III, 561-568

Sept. 18: European and American Romantic Poetry: C&V,II, 423-426; 451-452; 705-707;
CWT,III, 260-270; WLT,III, 617-620

Sept. 20: Wang Shih-chen, *The Golden Lotus*: WLT,III, 259-269; C&V,II, 502-503
Ghalib: *Divan* WLT,III, 647-656; C&V,II, 496-500

Sept. 25: Goethe's *Faust*: C&V,II, 450-451; CWT,III, 221-259

(B) Social Constructs: Freedom and Slavery

Sept. 27 : Kate Chopin, *The Story Of An Hour* and *The Awakening*: C&V,II, 724-727;
C&V,II, 492; Ibsen, *Hedda Gabler*: CWT,III, 458-534; C&V,II, 491-492

Oct. 2: Oulaudah Equiano, *The Interesting Narrative*: WLT,III, 428-441
Frederick Douglass, *My Bondage and My Freedom*: WLT,III 668-687
Essay # 1

Oct. 4: Burke, *Reflections on the Revolution in France*: CWT,III, 202-220

Oct. 9: Marx and Engels, *The Communist Manifesto*: C&V,II, 427-429; CWT,III, 367389

Oct. 11: Bakunin, *Anarchism*: CWT,III, 390-404

Oct. 16: J.S. Mill, *On Liberty* and *Utilitarianism*: CWT,III, 321-337

Oct. 18: Alexis de Tocqueville, *Democracy in America*: CWT,III 280-298
Thoreau, *Civil Disobedience*: CWT,III, 310-322

(C) Reason, Passion, Evolution

Oct. 23: Smith, *Wealth of Nations*: CWT,III, 166-177; C&V,II, 393-398
Condorcet, *The Progress of the Human Mind*: CWT,III, 178-201; C&V,II, 418-420

Oct. 25: Hegel, *Reason in History*: CWT,III, 338-349
Darwin, *The Origin of Species* and *The Descent of Man*: CWT,III, 350-366

Oct. 30: Nietzsche, *The Genealogy of Morals*: CWT,III, 443-457
Jung, *Approaching the Unconscious*: CWT,III, 560-576

Nov. 1: Hitler, *My Struggle*: CWT,III, 597-615; C&V,II, 531-534
Essay # 2

Presentations can be scheduled between November 6 and November 15

Nov. 6: Lo Kuan-chung, *The Water Margin*: WLT,III, 198-207
Tulsi Das, *Ramcharitmanas*: WLT,III, 334-351

Nov. 8: Dostoevsky, *The Brothers Karamazov –The Grand Inquisitor*: CWT,III, 421-442; C&V,II, 490-491

Nov. 10-13 University Closed

Nov. 15: Presentations

(D) Roadmaps, perhaps

Nov. 20: Pascal, *Thoughts*: CWT,III,43-58
Thoreau, *Walden*: CWT,III, 299-310

Nov. 22: Tolstoy, *The Three Hermits*: C&V,II, 711-713
Chekhov, *The Bet*: C&V,II,720-722

Nov. 27: Einstein, *My Views*: CWT,III, 535- 545
Freud, *Why War?* CWT,III, 546-559; C&V,II, 545-546

Nov. 29: Leo XIII, *Concerning New Things*: CWT,III, 405-420
Woolf, *A Room of One's Own*: CWT III, 635-649

Dec. 4: Sartre, *Existentialism*: CWT,III, 616-634; C&V,II,562-563

Dec. 6: Review & Discussion of Exam

Assignment Guide

(A) Essay #1	30%	Due: October 2
(B) Essay #2 or group project	30%	Due: November 1 (essays) or 6-15 (presentations)
(C) Final Exam	30%	Registrar scheduled
(D) Participation	10%	

For all written assignments you will be evaluated on:

Reasoning, depth of analysis, use of evidence and examples, continuity, documentation of sources, AND writing or presentation style.

All assignments must normally be completed in order to pass the course.

(A) Essay # 1

Due Date: Oct. 2, 2012 (in class)

Length: 5-10 pages double-spaced

Goal: Evaluation and Response

Method:

- (i) find an advertisement, TV show, piece of music, or some cultural artifact that reflects the ideal way of life associated with modernity;
- (ii) justify your choice;
- (iii) compare the foregoing ideal with a modernist ideal appearing in one or two of the texts you have read so far;
- (iv) conclude by considering whether that ideal way of life is 'meaningful' or worthwhile from your personal perspective, and what might improve it.

(B) Essay #2 or group project

Due Date: Nov.1, 2012 unless submitted as part of a group presentation project and then due on day of project presentation. A group will normally consist of 2-4 members.

Length:

Group: 10-14 pages double-spaced

Individual: 8-10 pages double-spaced

Goal: Critique of Modernity

Method:

Developing your own definition of modernity on the basis of what you have read in the course and experienced in your life, write an essay (or script, illustrate and prepare a presentation) with the following elements:

- (i) your definition of modernity;
- (ii) what you base your definition on;
- (iii) which of the course texts best represents that definition; which least;

(iv) what is right and what is wrong with modernity (in a group situation you may disagree and present a debate or skit)

N.B.: While there is no upper limit on the number of course texts you can use in the essay, you should include at least three. Properfootnotingisexpected.

If the project is done as part of a group, then any format may be utilized for presentation: skit, debate, video or short film, slide show, etc. There must be a detailed record to hand in, including documentation of all sources used.

Presentation time limits TBA, depending on number of presentation slots requested.

(C) Final Exam (Registrar Scheduled)

Time: 2 Hours

The exam might include identification of short excerpts from the readings and/or short answers. It will include one essay chosen from two topics. These two topics will be given ahead of the exam and will be part of a list of three. (Whether notes will be permitted, and in what form, will be discussed before the exam.)

(D) Participation

This is up to you: join in discussions of readings in class or online (Blackboard) by posing questions or responses, and/or prepare a 2-5 minute commentary about a listed reading to present to the class. This may include background about the author (beyond what is in the textbook or Wikipedia), the political or social climate of the work, how it connects to other works you have read or experiences you have had, creative interpretations (a song? a drawing or photo?), etc

