

**University of Calgary  
Department of Communication and Culture**

**Communication and Culture CMCL 501 (L01):  
*Modernity***

**Spring 2014**

**Thurs., May 15 – Thurs., June 26**

**T/Th 12.00 – 2.45pm**

<b>Instructor:</b>	GR Wilkinson
<b>Office Location:</b>	SS 646
<b>Office Phone:</b>	220-6405
<b>E-Mail:</b>	<a href="mailto:grwilkin@ucalgary.ca">grwilkin@ucalgary.ca</a>
<b>Web Page:</b>	N/A
<b>Office Hours:</b>	T/Th 11.00-11.50am or 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 the major ideas, principles, and their implications within the time-frame of the 17<sup>th</sup> and early 20<sup>th</sup> centuries.

**Additional Information**

Please see end of syllabus for outline of readings and assignment guide.

**Objectives of the Course**

- (1) Acquire an overview of the cultural configuration known as ‘Modernity’;
- (2) Learn how to interpret classic texts in an inter-cultural context;
- (3) Develop cultural strategies that may help to heal some of the dysfunctions associated with Modernity;
- (4) Explore Modernity from the perspectives of Life-Death, Freedom-Slavery, Wisdom-Folly, and Good-Evil;
- (5) Develop writing and presentation skills.

**Internet and electronic communication device information**

No restriction on the use of laptops in class provided that they are used to take notes and there is no disturbance of other students by visiting inappropriate websites. Please ensure that all your electronic devices are turned off during lectures and tutorials.

## Required Textbook

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

## Assignments and Evaluation

(A) Study Guides: Due after each course thematic section (ie. On the first day of the new thematic section)	
1 <sup>st</sup> Submission (May 27)	10%
2 <sup>nd</sup> Submission (June 5)	10%
3 <sup>rd</sup> Submission (June 24)	10%
4 <sup>th</sup> Submission (June 26)	10%
(B) Mid-Term Exam (June 12)	15%
(C) Final Exam (Registrar Scheduled)	35%
(D) Class Contribution	<u>10%</u>
	100%

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

All assignments must be completed 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 instructor if possible. If it is not possible to do so, a daytime drop box is available in SS320 and SS656; 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 (3 hours)

## 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 Student Accessibility Services (220-8237, <http://www.ucalgary.ca/access/>) 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>

## Assignment Guide – 2014

(B) Study Guides: Due after each course thematic section (ie. On the first day of the new thematic section)

1 <sup>st</sup> Submission (May 27)	10%
2 <sup>nd</sup> Submission (June 5)	10%
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(B) Mid-Term Exam (June 12)	15%
(C) Final Exam (Reg.Sch.)	35%
(D) Class Contribution	<u>10%</u>
	100%

### (A) Study Guides:

For each of the readings in each section, you are expected to write a one and a half to two page (single-spaced) entry that discusses the fundamental cultural assumptions (FAC's) in the text. The discussion should relate the FCAs to the theme of the submission unit (i.e., life-death, freedom-slavery, etc.), illustrate with quotes how the assumption appears and is articulated, offer some kind of personal and a critical response to that assumption. A detailed guide will be posted on Blackboard.

### (B) Mid-Term Exam:

There will be a mid-term exam that will encourage the careful reading of texts through an examination of quotations and ask brief short answer questions. The structure of the mid-term will be reflected in part of the final exam.

### (C) Registrar Scheduled Exam:

Time: 3 hours

Format: The exam will consist of quotation identification, and either two short essays or one large one.

### (D) Class Contribution:

Students will be rewarded for their contributions to the tutorials. Mere attendance is not enough to gain full marks here.