

**Communication and Culture (CMCL) 501– Lecture 60**  
**Modernity**  
**Summer 2013**  
**MW 15:00 - 17:45**

**Instructor:** Janice Rieger

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**Office Hours:** Tuesday and Thursday 1:00 – 2:00pm 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 major ideas, principles, and their implications within the time frame of the 19<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup> centuries, as well as reflections on the values implied by modernity.

### **Additional Information**

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

### **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

Laptops may be used for the sole purpose of taking notes. Cell phones and all other electronic devices must be turned off and put away during class.

## Textbooks and Readings

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

Cunningham, L.S. and Reich, John J. *Culture and Values*, Vol II (with readings), 7<sup>th</sup> ED (Boston: Wadsworth, 2010).

Donald S. Gochberg, Sujit Singh Dulai, Edward D. Graham, Kenneth W. Harrow, Priscilla Melendez, Anibal Gonzalez, *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)

## Assignments and Evaluation

1) Essay #1	25%
2) Essay #2	30%
3) Registrar-scheduled Exam	35%
4) Participation	<u>10%</u>
	100%

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 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.

- 1) Essay #1  
Due Date: July 17  
Length: 5-10 pages, double spaced

Goal: Evaluation and Response

Method:

- (i) find an advertisement, TV show, piece of music, or a 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 in one 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.

## 2) Essay #2

Due Date: August 12

Length: 10-15 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 discussed in class, write an essay 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;
- (iv) use an example or two that exemplify your point

For all written assignments you will be evaluated on:

Reasoning, depth of analysis, use of evidence and examples, continuity, documentation of sources, proper formatting and writing style. Proper footnoting is expected.

## 3) Registrar-scheduled Exam

Time: 2 Hours

The exam will be in two parts: Part A (worth 20%) will be based on identification of short excerpts from the readings. Part B (worth 80%) will consist of one essay chosen from two topic choices. These two topics will be given to students ahead of the exam and will be part of a list of three topic choices. Hence students need to prepare two from the list unless, they feel really lucky. In any case, they can take one 8 ½ x 11 sheet of paper with whatever notes they deem helpful

#### 4) Participation

Participation will be assessed according to student's ongoing ability to make meaningful, informed contributions to class discussion and to the extent to which they engage with various in-class activities.

In each class, students are expected to prepare a 2-5 min commentary about a listed reading to present to the class. This may include background about the author, the political or social climate of the work, how it connects to other works (contrast and compare), or creative interpretations (a song, poem, drawing, image), etc.

#### **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://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 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/ethics/cfreb>

## Schedule of Lectures and Readings

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

### Intro

Day 1: July 3  
Introduction–Basic Concepts and Background

### Basic Humanity: Life, Love, Death

Day 1: July 3  
Romanticism and Poetry: C&V II, 423-426; 451-452;705-707;CWT III, 260-270;  
WLT III, 617-620.  
Poetry in a Traditional Vein –The Americas: WLT III 499-512

Day 2: July 8  
Goeth's *Faust*: C&V II 450-451; CWT III 221-259  
Wang Shih-chen, *The Golden Lotus*: WLT III 259-269; C&V II 502-503  
Ghalib: *Diwan*: WLT III 647-656;C&V II 496-500

Day 3: July 10  
Kate Chopin, *The Story Of An Hour* and *The Awakening*: C&VII 724-727; C&VII 492  
Satre, *Existentialism*: CWT III 616-634; C&V II, 562-563

### Social Constructs: Freedom and Slavery

Day 4: July 15  
Oulaudah Equiano, *The Interesting Narrative*; WLT III 428-441  
Frederick Douglass, *My Bondage and My Freedom*: WLT III 668-687  
Burke, *Reflections on the Revolution in France*: CWT III, 202-220

Day 5: July 17  
Marx and Engels, *The Communist Manifesto*: C&V II 427-429; CWT III 367-389  
Bakunin, *Anarchism*: CWT III 390-404  
**Essay #1 Due**

Day 6: July 22  
J.S. Mill, *On Liberty and Utilitarianism*: CWT III 321-337  
Alexis de Tocqueville, *Democracy in America*: CWT III 280-298  
Thoreau, *Civil Disobedience*: L CWT III 310-322

Day 7: July 24

Ibsen, *Hedda Gabler*, CWT III 458-534; C&V II 491-492

Ibsen, *A Doll's House*: C&V II, 722-724

## **Reason, Passion, Evolution**

Day 8: July 29

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

Hegel, *Reason In History*: CWT III 338-349

Darwin, *The Origin of Species and The Descent of Man*: CWT III 350-366

Day 9: July 31

Einstein, *My Views*: CWT III, 535-545

Freud, *Why War?*: CWT III 546-559; C&V II 545-546

Jung, *Approaching the Unconscious*: CWT III 560-576

August 5: Holiday - no classes

## **Good and Evil**

Day 10: August 7

Pascal, *Thoughts*: CWT III 43-58

Thoreau, *Walden*: CWT III 299-310

Day 11: August 12

Lo Kuan-chung, *The Water Margin*: WLT III, 198-207

Tulsi Das, *Ramcharitmanas*, WLT III, 334-351

Nietzsche, *The Genealogy of Morals*: CWT III, 443-457

**Essay #2 Due**

Day 12: August 14

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

Leo XIII *Concerning New Things*: CWT, III, 405-420

Hitler, *My Struggle*: CWT III, 597-615; C&V II 531-534