

Communication and Culture CMCL 503 L02
Contemporary Culture
Winter 2013
Tues/Thurs 9:30 – 10:45 a.m.

Instructor: Dr. Linda Vennard
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Office Hours: Mon 11:00-12:00
Tues 11:00-12:00

Additional Information

Instructor is also available by appointment.

Course Description

“Contemporary Culture” encompasses the time from between the two World Wars to the present day (approximately 1922 to now). While there is obviously an historical chronological series of important events during that time period, our focus will be the ‘thought history’ – and the intellectual, philosophical, religious, artistic and scientific ideas, thinking, insights and discoveries of that time frame. Students will examine perspectives on basic issues that have always confronted humanity – the meaning of life, death, morality, justice and social order, knowledge and knowing, religion and science, work, economics and politics - and integrate these major influences into an understanding of “Contemporary Culture”. Our inquiry will initially be structured around four streams: (1) Religion; (2) Philosophy; (3) Science and Technology; and (4) Art, which we will expand upon and extend into the 21st century in order to also consider humanity’s relationship to nature, technology and globalization.

Objectives of the Course

- To develop and demonstrate understanding of the intellectual, social, philosophical, religious and scientific thought and discoveries contributing to “Contemporary Culture”.
- To develop and demonstrate ability to comprehend, evaluate and meaningfully comment on foundational original texts and assigned readings.
- To develop and articulate conceptual understanding of interdisciplinary relationships.
- To reflect on personal insights and relevance of foundational theoretical thought, and situate their own thoughts and viewpoints in these intellectual frameworks.
- Develop an understanding and appreciation of our cultural past in Western society.
- Share and appreciate the diverse viewpoints and perspectives of their colleagues
- Develop written, oral and presentation skills.

Internet and electronic communication device information

Students are encouraged to bring their laptops, the use of which will be during designated times in class and only for purposes of the class, and otherwise not permitted.
No texting or cell phone use permitted in class.

Textbooks and Readings:

Required:

Edgar. E. Knoebel, ed. *Classics of Western Thought*, Vol. III, *The Modern World*, 4th Edition, Toronto: Nelson Thomson Learning, 1992, ISBN-13: 978-0-15-507684-6; ISBN-10: 0-15-507684-1.

Donald S. Gochberg, ed., *Classics of Western Thought*, Vol. III, *The Twentieth Century*, Harcourt Brace Jovanovich College Publishers, 1980, ISBN 0-15-507681-7.

Additional online reading/resources will be posted.

Highly Recommended:

Lawrence S. Cunningham and John J. Reich, *Culture and Values - A Survey of the Humanities*, Vol. II, 7th Edition, With Readings, Boston: Wadsworth 2010, ISBN 978-0-495-56926-8.

Assignments and Evaluation:

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| • 'Model of the Human and Society' Project (due February 12, 2013):
(details below) | 20% |
| • Take Home Essay Assignments (3 X 10%) (details dates below): | 30% |
| • Presentation (details and dates below): | 10% |
| • Small Group 'Model of Society' Project (details below): | 30% |
| • Progress Report (due March 14, 2013): | 5% |
| • Paper (due April 9, 2013): | 20% |
| • Project Presentation (April 9 and 11, 2013): | 5% |
| • Participation (ongoing): | 10% |

Model of the Human and Society (20%): Due February 12, 2013

In this paper Students will draw on seminal texts of our required readings (e.g. Freud, Jung, Skinner, Bettelheim, Einstein, Arendt, Lenin, to name several) and create a model of (1) the 'human' and (2) 'society' as he/she understands and conceptualizes them to operate. The paper is to be 5-6 (double-spaced) pages of text, with visuals/diagrams attached. Further details and an example will be provided the first day of class.

Take Home Essay Assignments (3 X 10% = 30%)

There are three essays in this course (each worth 10%, for a total of 30%). Each Essay involves integrating and reflecting on assigned readings and lecture material in a maximum three (3) (double-spaced) page essay responding to a specific question/topic posed by the Instructor. The Instructor will make the specific question/topic for each Essay Assignment available on Blackboard on the dates below, and a hard copy of the essay is due at the beginning of class one week later. No late Essays will be accepted. Further details and an example will be given the first day of class.

	Question/Topic Availability Date	Essay Assignment Due Date
Take Home Essay Assignment #1	January 24, 2013	January 31, 2013
Take Home Essay Assignment #2	February 28, 2013	March 7, 2013
Take Home Essay Assignment #3	March 21, 2013	March 28, 2013

Presentation (10%)

Each Student will present one of their four (1/4) individual assignments to the class on the due date, i.e.:

- Model of the Human and Society (due February 12, 2013), *or*
- Essay #1 (due on January 31, 2013), *or*
- Essay #2 (due on March 7, 2013), *or*
- Essay #3 (due on March 28, 2013)

The presentation is estimated to be 10 minutes in length, but will depend on the class size. Presentations will be scheduled on the respective assignment due dates, and for scheduling purposes Students are required to confirm their intent to present to the Instructor one week prior to the due date/presentation date.

Small Group Project: Model of Society (30%)

Working in groups of four, Students will integrate what they learn throughout the course and develop a model of a more functional social order for the contemporary world. The project will involve identifying specific areas for reform based on texts (e.g. religion, economics, education, entertainment, communication, science, technology, politics, etc.) and offer imaginative but concrete reform strategies for contemporary society with rationales rooted in course material.

The Small Group Project comprises three components:

- **Final Paper (20%)** – due April 9, 2013
The model will be detailed in an 8-10 (double-spaced) page paper (visuals and diagrams attached as addendums).
- **Progress Report (5%)** – due March 14, 2013
Approximately half way through the course Groups will submit a two page progress report to the Instructor.
- **Project Presentation (5%)** – April 9 and 11, 2013
Each group will present its model and paper the last week of classes in a presentation estimated to be 10 minutes in length (but will depend on class size).

Groups will be formed the second week of class, and in addition to the Progress Report (March 14, 2013) Students will periodically be asked to update the Instructor on their progress. Further details will be provided the first day of class.

Participation (10%): ongoing

Participation (10%) through regular attendance and participation in class discussion and activities is an essential component of the course. Students are expected to attend classes and participate; 'participation' is not only attendance per se but contributing to each other's learning and participating in the creation of a positive atmosphere and learning environment.

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: No

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: www.efwr.ucalgary.ca

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 (MacEwan Student Centre 4th floor, efwr.ucalgary.ca) 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/cfreb>

Schedule of Lectures and Readings

A schedule of lectures and readings, as well as detailed assignment descriptions, will be provided on the first day of class.