

University of Calgary
Department of Communication, Media and Film

Communication and Culture CMCL 503 L01
Contours Of Contemporary Culture

Winter 2017

Mon., Jan. 9 – Wed., April 12 (excluding Feb. 19-26)

Lectures: MWF 13:00-13:50

Instructor: R. Glasberg
Office: SS 314
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Web Page: N/A
Office Hours: By appointment

Course Description

The course looks at the contemporary world as a discursive interface between different cultural traditions as they struggle to formulate a global perspective. Classic texts and scholarly commentary will be interpreted and analyzed by way of the following themes: life-death, freedom, slavery, wisdom-folly, and good-evil

Additional Information

Lecture Schedule and Assignment Guide at end of syllabus.

Objectives of the Course

- (1) Develop and enhance interpretative and critical thinking skills in the context of written and spoken discourse;
- (2) Give students the opportunity to formulate the principles of a viable global civilization;
- (3) Creatively synthesize material from a variety of disciplinary perspectives.

Textbooks and Readings

Gochberg, Donald, ed. *Classics of Western Thought – The Twentieth Century* (Mason, Ohio: Cengage Learning, 2003).

Hallman, Max O. *Traversing Philosophical Boundaries*, 4th Ed. (Boston: Wadsworth, 2012).

Internet and electronic communication device information

No restrictions on use of laptops in class if they are used to take notes and there is no disturbance of other students by visiting inappropriate website

Assignments and Evaluation:

Weight	Course components	Due
15%	First set of journal entries.	Jan. 30
15%	Second set of journal entries	Feb. 27
20%	Third set of journal entries	Mar. 20
25%	Fourth set of journal entries	April 12
25%	Final Exam – during exam period	TBA

Registrar-scheduled Final Examination: Yes

All assignments and exams must be completed or a course grade of F may be assigned at the discretion of the instructor.

Submission of Assignments: 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.

Please include your name and ID number on all assignments, and be prepared to provide picture ID to pick up assignments or look at marked final exams in SS 320. Personal information is collected in accordance with the Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy (FOIP) Act. For more information, see <http://www.ucalgary.ca/secretariat/privacy>

Note: It is the student's responsibility to keep a copy of each submitted assignment and to ensure that the proper version is submitted (particularly in courses requiring electronic submission). Including a version date in your file name may be useful.

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. [Edit as you wish to reflect your own policy.]

Student Accommodations:

Students seeking an accommodation based on disability or medical concerns should contact Student Accessibility Services; SAS will process the request and issue letters of accommodation to instructors. For additional information on support services and accommodations for students with disabilities, visit www.ucalgary.ca/access/.

Students who require an accommodation in relation to their coursework 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) should contact their instructors. Whenever possible, students should advise their instructors in advance if they will be missing quizzes, presentations, in-class assignments, or group meetings.

- When accommodations are granted, they may take forms other than make-up tests or assignments. For example, the weight of a missed grade may be added to another assignment or test.
- For information on Deferrals of Final Exams and Term Work, see sections G.6 and G.7 of the University Calendar at <http://www.ucalgary.ca/pubs/calendar/current/g-6.html> and <http://www.ucalgary.ca/pubs/calendar/current/g-7.html>

Writing Skills Statement

Department policy directs that all written assignments (including, to a lesser extent, written exam responses) will 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. Sources used in 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 & Grade Scale of the Department of Communication, Media and Film

Final grades are reported as letter grades. All assignments are given letter grades.

The following chart outlines the grade scale percentage equivalents used in the Department of Communication, Media and Film. In calculating final grades in this course, letter grades will be converted to the midpoint of the percentage range, as shown in the final column of the table below. NOTE if you use a different method of calculating final grades, replace the previous sentence with a clear explanation of your calculation method (e.g., In calculating final grades in this course, letter grades will be converted to corresponding GPA values.)

Grade Point Value	Description	Grade	Dept of CMF grade scale equivalents*	Letter grade % equivalent for calculations* *
4.00	Outstanding	A+	96 - 100%	98.0%
4.00	Excellent—superior performance, showing comprehensive understanding of subject matter.	A	90 - 95.99%	93.0%
3.70		A -	85 - 89.99%	87.5%
3.30		B+	80 - 84.99%	82.5%
3.00	Good--clearly above average performance with knowledge of subject matter generally complete.	B	75 - 79.99%	77.5%
2.70		B-	70 - 74.99%	72.5%
2.30		C+	65 - 69.99%	67.5%
2.00	Satisfactory—basic understanding of the subject matter.	C	60 - 64.99%	62.5%
1.70		C-	55 - 59.99%	57.5%
1.30	Minimal pass—marginal performance; generally insufficient preparation for	D+	53 - 54.99%	54.0%

	subsequent courses in the same subject			
1.00		D	50 - 52.99%	51.5%
0.00	Fail – unsatisfactory performance or failure to meet course requirements.	F	0- 49.99%	0%

* If percentages are used to calculate final grades, then grades falling within these ranges will be translated to the corresponding letter grades.

** 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.

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. These requirements apply to all assignments and sources, including those in non-traditional formats such as Web pages or visual media.

For information on citation and documentation styles (including APA, Chicago, IEEE, MLA, and others), visit the links provided at <https://ucalgary.ca/ssc/resources/writing-support/436> . If you have questions about how to document sources, please consult your instructor or the Writing Centre (3rd Floor TFDL, <http://www.ucalgary.ca/ssc/writing-support>).

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 (e.g., surveys, interviews, or observations) as part of your university studies, you are responsible for following university research ethics guidelines. Your instructor must review and approve your research plans and supervise your research. For more information about your research ethics responsibilities, see <http://arts.ucalgary.ca/research/resources/ethics>

If this course requires (or allows) students to conduct (or act as participants in) primary research involving surveys, interviews, or observations, state that here, describe the nature of students' participation, and indicate whether you have received course-based ethics approval from the Faculty Research Ethics Committee or if you expect students to apply for ethics approval themselves. If you have not received course-based ethics approval and do not expect your students to apply on their own for research ethics clearance (and allow time for that step), then you should not assign any course work requiring research involving human participants. (One approved exception is for usability studies in COMS 363 in which

students may conduct anonymous online usability surveys to get their classmates' opinions on the usability of a website. [Delete this paragraph if your course will not require research with people.]

Important information, services, and contacts for students

For information about . . .	Visit or contact . . .
ARTS PROGRAM ADVISING (ASC)	SS 102 403-220-3580 artsads@ucalgary.ca
CAMPUS SECURITY <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Calgary Police Service • Emergency Text Messaging • Emergency Evacuation & Assembly • Safewalk Program 	http://www.ucalgary.ca/security/ 403-220-5333 403-266-1234 Emergency: call 911 http://www.ucalgary.ca/emergencyplan/textmessage http://www.ucalgary.ca/emergencyplan/assemblypoints If you feel uncomfortable walking alone at any time, call Campus Security for an escort (220-5333). For more information, see http://www.ucalgary.ca/security/
DESIRE2LEARN (D2L) Support <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • IT help line 	http://elearn.ucalgary.ca/desire2learn/home/students 403-220-5555 or itsupport@ucalgary.ca
STUDENT SUCCESS CENTRE <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Writing Support Services • Student Services Mobile App 	http://ucalgary.ca/ssc http://www.ucalgary.ca/ssc/writing-support http://ucalgary.ca/currentstudents
STUDENTS' UNION CONTACTS <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Faculty of Arts Reps • Student Ombudsman 	https://www.su.ucalgary.ca/about/who-we-are/elected-officials/ http://www.ucalgary.ca/provost/students/ombuds
SU WELLNESS CENTRE <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Counselling Services • Health Services • Distress centre 24/7 CRISIS LINE • Online resources and tips 	403-210-9355 (MSC 370), M-F, 9:00–4:30 pm http://ucalgary.ca/wellnesscentre/counselling http://ucalgary.ca/wellnesscentre/health 403-266-HELP (4357) http://ucalgary.ca/wellnesscentre/healthycampus If you're concerned about a friend or your own well-being, it is important to seek help early. Call

	or visit the SU Wellness Centre or the 24-hour crisis line.
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Schedule of Lecture Topics and Readings

Abbreviations: CWT = *Classics of Western Thought – The Twentieth Century*

TPB = *Traversing Philosophical Boundaries*

Jan. 9: Introduction: Basic Principles of the Course

Good -Evil

Jan. 11: Bettelheim, Wiesel: CWT 3-29; 416-421

Jan. 13: Arendt: CWT 30-46

Jan. 16: Solzhenitsyn: CWT 75-116

Jan. 18: Robinson: CWT 422-437

Jan. 20: Daly: TPB 415-422

Jan. 23: Radhakrishnan: TPB 377-382

Jan. 25: Carol Christ: TPB 663-673

Jan. 27: C.W. Mills: CWT 204-221

Jan. 30: 1: Huxley: CWT 184-203

First Set of Journal Entries Due In Class

Wisdom-Folly

Feb. 1: C.P. Snow: CWT 119-130

Feb. 3: Farber, Brustein: CWT 467-485

Feb. 6: Heisenberg: CWT 303-313

Feb.8: Hawking: TPB: 163-168

Feb. 10: Dobzhanski: CWT 261-270

Feb. 13: Dennett: TPB 70-80

Feb. 15: Benally: TPB 292-297

Feb. 17: Anderson: TPB 336-344

Feb. 19-26 Reading Break

Feb. 27: Gandhi: TPB 541-545

Second Set of Journal Entries Due In Class

Freedom-Slavery

Mar. 1: Ellul: CWT 131-145

Mar. 3: Marcuse: CWT 60-74

Mar. 6: DeBeauvoir: CWT 486-505

Mar.8: Hooks: TPB 564-571

Mar. 10: Fanon: CWT 506-521

Mar. 13: Abu'l A'la Maududi: TPB 506-516

Mar. 15: Wiredu: TPB 689-698

Mar. 17: Frye: TPB 225-237

Mar. 20: Foucault: TPB 58-63

Third Set of Journal Entries Due In Class

Life-Death

Mar. 22: Kafka, Camus: CWT 321-338

Mar. 24: Breton: CWT 522-532

Mar. 27: Beckett: CWT 339-334

Mar. 29: Heller: CWT 345-370

Mar. 31: Maslow: CWT 604-614

Apr. 3: Toffler: CWT 640-660

Apr. 5: Schweitzer: TPB 383-388

Apr. 7: Starhawk: TPB 635-642

Apr. 10: Presentations

Apr. 12: Final Review and Discussion of Exam

Fourth Set of Reflective Journal Entries Due (unless essay or group project option chosen)

Assignment Guide:

(A) First Set of Reflective Journals	= 15%
(B) Second Set of Reflective Journals	= 15%
(C) Third Set of Reflective Journals	= 20%
(D) Fourth Set of Reflective Journals	= 25%
(E) Final Exam	<u>= 25%</u>
	100%

If one wishes to do a group project or reflective essay (approx. 12 pages) in lieu of the fourth set of journal entries, this will be still worth 25% and can be focused on an aspect of contemporary culture that is of personal interest.

There should be one journal entry for each reading and the approximate length is one and a half typed pages, single-spaced. You may specify which entry you want marked while the marker will choose one other. At least 3 to 4 of the readings (per section) should have entries or marks will be lost.

Each entry should be approached in a critical and creative manner. Personal reflections should be balanced with a critical identification and analysis of fundamental cultural assumptions as these pertain to the 4 course themes: good-evil, wisdom-folly, freedom-slavery, and life-death.

The final will be based on two essays, the subject of which will be given before the exam and into which you may bring your journal entries and course texts.