

Communication and Culture (CMCL) 301 L01
Cultural Foundations
Winter 2014
TR 09:30 - 10:45

Students in Lecture 01 must register in Tutorial 1 or Tutorial 2

Instructor: Shane Halasz

Office SS 304

Location:

Office Phone: N/A

E-Mail: sdhalasz@ucalgary.ca

Web Page: blackboard.ucalgary.ca

Office Hours: Tuesday and Thursday 11:00 – 12:00 or by appointment

Course Description

A critical and inter-disciplinary examination, via classic texts, of Western (Greco-Roman and Judaeo-Christian), Indian, and Chinese civilizations in terms of their fundamental cultural assumptions. The time span is the formative period of these civilizations from about 2500 B.C to approx. 400 A.D. The key themes by which the texts will be explored are as follows: life-death, freedom-slavery, wisdom-folly, and good-evil.

Additional Information

Schedule of lectures and readings included at the end of this syllabus.

Objectives of the Course

- a) Learn how to read and interpret classic texts in a comparative manner
- b) Gain a synthetic overview of world civilization
- c) Improve writing skills in the context of developing and supporting arguments

Internet and Electronic Communication Device Information

Laptop computers may be used for the sole purpose of taking notes.

Cell phones and all other forms of electronic communication 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:

D.S. Gochberg, S.S. Dulai, E.D. Graham, and K.W. Harrow, *World Literature and Thought*, Vol. 1, The Ancient Worlds (Belmont, Calif.: Wadsworth, Thomson Learning, 2002)

L.S. Cunningham and J.J. Reich, *Culture and Values*, Vol. 1, 7th ed. With Readings (Boston: Wadsworth, 2012).

Assignments and Evaluation

1. Midterm Exam 25% February 6, 2014

The midterm exam will have two parts. Part A (worth 25%) will consist of objective identifications of selected quotations. Part B (worth 75%) will be an essay chosen from three topics given on the day of the exam.

2. Essay (12 pages double-spaced) 25% Due March 27, 2014

Goal: Compare a document from the West (or group or two documents if by the same author) to one from either India or China with respect to one of the 4 course themes.

Method:

- a) Discuss your understanding of one of the course themes (i.e., life-death, freedom-slavery, wisdom-folly, and good-evil);
 - b) Indicate how that theme can be seen in two of the three cultures explored in this course (with at least one from the West);
 - c) Develop and support a thesis as to the major similarities or differences that the given theme manifests between the two cultures under analysis and also with respect to your own understanding.

N.B.: Always support your argument with properly footnoted textual material from the course and elsewhere.

3. Group Presentation 20% Tutorial 1 will present on April 3, 2014
Tutorial 2 will present on April 8, 2014

Each tutorial will present (within 20 minutes max.) to the entire class what they think is the most important thing they have learned so far in the course. However, the emphasis should be on what is being developed through ongoing, active tutorial discussion – i.e., identification of fundamental cultural assumptions; comparison between cultures; critical evaluation of cultural assumptions; conflicts between and within different cultural configurations, and/or light shed on current assumptions.

Any kind of media or original mode of presentation will be allowed. All members of the tutorial will get the same mark except for those who made no viable contribution. A written summary is also expected.

4. Final Exam 30% Date and time TBA by Registrar

The final exam will deal with material covered since the midterm and have two parts. Part A (worth 25%) will consist of objective identifications of selected quotations. Part B (worth 75%) will be an essay chosen from three topics given on the day of the exam.

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.

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 (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 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>

Schedule of Lectures and Readings

CMCL 301 L01 – Foundations

Lecture Schedule 2014:

Abbreviations: C&V,I = *Culture and Values*, Vol. I, 7th Ed. with Readings
WLT,I = *World Literature and Thought*, Vol. I, The Ancient Worlds

Jan. 9: Intro: What This Course Is About – Key Concepts: (A) Life-Death, (B) Freedom-Slavery, (C) Wisdom-Folly, (D) Good-Evil

(A) Foundations of Life-Death In Myth and Music

Jan. 14: *The Epic of Gilgamesh*: C&V,I, 1-10; WLT,I, 4-26

Jan. 16: Ancient Greece – The *Iliad* and *Odyssey* (Homer): C&V,I, 29-36; 296-301; 302-305; WLT,I, 131-169

Jan. 21: The Great Roman Myth – The *Aeneid* (Virgil): C&V,I, 83-98; 332-341

Jan. 23: India and the *Mahabharata* – C&V,I, 113-122; WLT,I, 430-451

Jan. 28: China and *The Book of History* and *The Book of Songs* – C&V,I, 122-126; WLT,I, 203-222

(B) Freedom and Slavery

Jan. 30: The Classical Ideal in Ancient Greece and the Nature of Fate: C&V,I 53-61, *Oedipus the King* (Sophocles) 308-321

Feb. 4: Herodotus, *The Histories* and Thucydides, *History of the Peloponnesian War*: WLT,I, 281-309

Feb. 6: Midterm Exam (20%)

Feb. 11: Kautilya, *Arthashastra*: WLT,I, 417-429

Feb. 13: Mencius, *The Mencius*, WLT,I, 466-474

Feb. 25: Hsun Tzu, *The Hsun Tzu* and Han Fei Tzu, *The Han Fe Tzu*, WLT,I, 475-481; 499-505

Feb. 27: Ssu-ma Ch'ien, *Records of the Historian*: WLT,I, 651-659

(C) Wisdom and Folly

Mar. 4: Socrates & Plato, *Apology*, *Phaedo*, *Republic*: C&V,I, 62-63, 321-327

Mar. 6: Aristotle & Sappho, *Nichomachean Ethics*, C&V,I, 327-329; Selected Poems, C&V.I, 305; 327

Mar. 11: Marcus Aurelius and Stoicism: C&V,I, 92-93; 343-345; Lucius Apuleius, *The Golden Ass*, WLT,I, 523-535

Mar. 13: Confucius, *The Analects* and Lao Tzu, *The Tao Te Ching*: WLT,I, 452-459; 482- 490

(D) Good and Evil

Mar. 18: *The Old Testament*: C&V,I, 131-137, 352-358

Mar. 20: Aristotle, *Politics*: C&V,I, 62-63; WLT,I, 345-356

Mar. 25: *The New Testament* (Matthew; Acts; Corinthians), *The Passion of Perpetua and Felicity*: C&V,I, 137-141, 358-361, 363-366

Mar. 27: Augustine: C&V,I, 149-152; *Confessions* and *The City of God*: C&V,I, 149-152, 366-374

Apr. 1: *Upanishads*: C&V,I, 347-350

Apr. 3: Buddhism, *The Life of Buddha*: WLT,I, 380-398

Apr. 8: Buddhism, *The Diamond Sutra*: WLT,I, 399-407

Apr. 10: Course conclusion and exam review