

**University of Calgary  
Department of Communication, Media and Film**

**Communication and Culture CMCL 301 L01  
Cultural Foundations**

**Winter 2015**

**Tue., Jan. 13 – Tue., April 14 (excluding Feb. 17 & 19)**

**Lecture TR 09:30-10:45**

**Tutorial: TUT 1 F 12:00-12:50; TUT 2 F 13:00-13:50**

**Instructor:** Shane Halasz  
**Office:** SS 301  
**Office Phone:** N/A  
**E-Mail:** sdhalasz@ucalgary.ca  
**Web Page:** D2L available through MyUofC portal  
**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 approximately 400 A.D. The key themes by which the texts will be explored are as follows: life-death, freedom-slavery, wisdom-foolly, and good-evil.

**Additional Information**

This course will employ a team-based learning strategy in which students work together in groups of 5 to 7 (groups to be determined in the first class and will remain intact for the semester) in order to unpack, discuss, and make sense of the assigned readings. Therefore, it is essential that students not only complete the readings prior to class but also attend class regularly and fully participate during in-class exercises and assignments. Students will be held personally accountable for their level of preparedness and contributions to group discussion and exercises by way of a peer evaluation form to be completed at the end of the term. Group assignment scores will be adjusted according to these peer evaluations (see Assignments and Evaluation section below).

**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 interpersonal communication and writing skills in the context of developing and supporting arguments
- d) Strengthen collaboration and problem solving skills via ongoing team discussions, debates, and class exercises

## **Textbooks and Readings**

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

Gochberg, Donald S., ed. *Classics of Western Thought Volume I: The Ancient World*, 4<sup>th</sup> Edition. Boston: Cengage Learning, 1988. Print.

Coward, Harold, Ronald Neufeldt, and Eva K. Neumaier, eds. *Readings in Eastern Religions*, 2<sup>nd</sup> Edition. Waterloo, Ontario, Canada: Wilfrid Laurier University Press.

## **Internet and electronic communication device information**

No restrictions on use of laptops in class if they are used to take notes or perform sanctioned research during an in-class activity and if there is no disturbance of other students by visiting inappropriate web sites. Cell phones must be POWERED OFF and put away during class time.

## **Assignments and Evaluation**

1. Reading Quizzes (Individual) 20% (best 9/10 scores) Beginning of every module

At the beginning of each module (refer to schedule below) students will complete a brief readiness assessment test based on that day's assigned readings. The format will include some mix of multiple choice, true/false, and quotation identification. The goal with these quizzes is to ensure that students have completed the assigned readings and are coming prepared to participate in whatever group activities and class discussion are planned for that day. The quizzes will take place in the first 15-20 minutes. They cannot be written at another time nor made up for any reason, so please ensure that you attend class regularly and arrive on time. There are 10 quizzes scheduled, but only your 9 best scores will be counted.

2. Reading Quizzes (Group) 15% (best 9/10 scores) Beginning of every module

As soon as students submit their individual reading quizzes, they will receive another copy of the same quiz to be completed collaboratively by their group. The intention here is that students will learn from hearing each other support their arguments as to which is the correct answer, and thereby enrich their understanding of the material covered that class. These group quizzes will be collected, scored, and immediately returned along with the individual quizzes. The instructor will then address by way of mini-lecture or discussion areas that need clarification or elaboration before moving to scheduled activities.

3. 10-min Presentations (Group) 30% (3 @ 10% each) Feb. 6; Mar. 13; April 10

The bulk of class time will be spent in groups working to answer questions or respond to prompts posed by the instructor. At three points in the semester student groups will distill and briefly present (roughly 10 minutes) to their tutorial group what they feel is the most important thing that they have learned in the preceding classes based on their

team discussions. Presentations will occur in tutorial on the above-specified dates. Particular attention should be paid on where individual differences of opinion existed, the extent to which consensus could be reached, and where and why differences persisted following the discussion. More information will be provided in class and on Desire2Learn.

4. Final Exam            (Individual)                            35%    TBA by Registrar

The final exam will be cumulative and have two parts. Part A (worth 25%) will consist of objective identifications of 10 selected quotations to the correct author or title of the work. Part B (worth 75%) will be an essay chosen from three topics given on the day of the exam.

**NB:** At the end of the semester all students will fill out a peer evaluation form for everybody in their group (except themselves). Each student's scores for the group reading quizzes and group presentations will be adjusted based on peer evaluations so that those who contributed most and collaborated best will be rewarded accordingly, and those who contributed least or hindered collaboration will likewise receive less.

**Registrar-scheduled Final Examination: Yes**

Note: If your class is held in the evening, the Registrar's Office will attempt to schedule the final exam during the evening; however, there is NO guarantee that the exam will NOT be scheduled during the day.

**NB:** In order to receive a passing grade in the course, students must earn a passing grade on individual work (individual quizzes and final exam).

**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 final exams in SS 320 after classes have ended. 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. For courses in which assignments are submitted electronically, it is the student's responsibility to ensure that the correct copy of the assignment is submitted. (Including the version date or version number in your file name may help you avoid submitting the wrong version of your written assignments.)

**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.

## 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 14 days after the start of the course.

## 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. 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. 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 System & Department of Communication, Media and Film Grade Scale

Work in this course will be graded using percentage grades. The following grade scale percentage equivalents are used in the Department of Communication, Media and Film:

Grade Point Value	Description	Grade	Department 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 subsequent courses in the same subject	D+	53 - 54.99%	54.0%
1.00		D	50 - 52.99%	51.5%
0.00	Fail – unsatisfactory performance or failure to meet course requirements.	F	00 - 49.99%	0%

## 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 <http://www.ucalgary.ca/ssc/node/208> . If you have questions about how to document sources, please consult your instructor or the Writing Centre (3<sup>rd</sup> 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 (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 <http://arts.ucalgary.ca/research/research/research-ethics>

## Important information, services, and contacts for students

For information about . . .	Visit or contact . . .
<b>ARTS PROGRAM ADVISING (PIC)</b>	SS 102 403-220-3580 <a href="mailto:picarts@ucalgary.ca">picarts@ucalgary.ca</a>
<b>CAMPUS SECURITY</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• <b>Calgary Police Service</b></li><li>• <b>Emergency Text Messaging</b></li><li>• <b>Emergency Evacuation &amp; Assembly</b></li><li>• <b>Safewalk Program</b></li></ul>	<a href="http://www.ucalgary.ca/security/">http://www.ucalgary.ca/security/</a> <b>403-220-5333</b> <b>403-266-1234</b> <b>Emergency: call 911</b> <a href="http://www.ucalgary.ca/emergencyplan/textmessage">http://www.ucalgary.ca/emergencyplan/textmessage</a> <a href="http://www.ucalgary.ca/emergencyplan/assemblypoints">http://www.ucalgary.ca/emergencyplan/assemblypoints</a> If you feel uncomfortable walking alone at any time, call Campus Security for an escort ( <b>220-5333</b> ). For more information, see <a href="http://www.ucalgary.ca/security/">http://www.ucalgary.ca/security/</a>

<b>DESIRE2LEARN (D2L) Support</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• IT help line</li> </ul>	<a href="http://elearn.ucalgary.ca/desire2learn/home/students">http://elearn.ucalgary.ca/desire2learn/home/students</a> 403-220-5555 or <a href="mailto:itsupport@ucalgary.ca">itsupport@ucalgary.ca</a>
<b>STUDENT SUCCESS CENTRE</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Writing Support Services</li> <li>• Student Services Mobile App</li> </ul>	<a href="http://ucalgary.ca/ssc">http://ucalgary.ca/ssc</a> <a href="http://www.ucalgary.ca/ssc/writing-support">http://www.ucalgary.ca/ssc/writing-support</a> <a href="http://ucalgary.ca/currentstudents">http://ucalgary.ca/currentstudents</a>
<b>STUDENTS' UNION CONTACTS</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Faculty of Arts Reps</li> <li>• Student Ombudsman</li> </ul>	<a href="http://www.su.ucalgary.ca/governance/elections/home.html">http://www.su.ucalgary.ca/governance/elections/home.html</a> <a href="http://www.ucalgary.ca/provost/students/ombuds">http://www.ucalgary.ca/provost/students/ombuds</a>
<b>SU WELLNESS CENTRE</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Counselling Services</li> <li>• Health Services</li> <li>• Distress centre 24/7 CRISIS LINE</li> <li>• Online resources and tips</li> </ul>	<b>403-210-9355</b> (MSC 370), M-F, 9:00–4:30 pm <a href="http://ucalgary.ca/wellnesscentre/counselling">http://ucalgary.ca/wellnesscentre/counselling</a> <a href="http://ucalgary.ca/wellnesscentre/health">http://ucalgary.ca/wellnesscentre/health</a> <b>403-266-HELP (4357)</b> <a href="http://ucalgary.ca/wellnesscentre/healthycampus">http://ucalgary.ca/wellnesscentre/healthycampus</a> <p>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.</p>

## Schedule of Lectures and Readings

Abbreviations: CWT I = *Classics of Western Thought*, Vol. 1, 4<sup>th</sup> Ed.  
RIER = *Readings in Eastern Religions*, 2<sup>nd</sup> Ed.

### Tuesday, January 13

#### Course Introduction

- What is this course about?
- Class structure: Team-Based Learning (TBL)
- Key Concepts:
  - Life and Death
  - Freedom and Slavery
  - Wisdom and Folly
  - Good and Evil
- Team formation

## **Thursday, January 15**

### PRACTICE READINESS ASSESSMENT TEST (BASED ON COURSE OUTLINE)

---

## **Tuesday, January 20**

Module 1: Foundations of Life-Death in Myth and Song

- *Epic of Gilgamesh*: CWT I, 536-542
- Homer: CWT I, 1-38
- *Bhagavad Gita*: RIER, 44-55; 59-68
- *Book of History* and *Book of Songs*: RIER, 267-272

READINESS ASSESSMENT TEST #1

---

## **Thursday, January 22**

Team-Based Application Exercise

---

## **Tuesday, January 27**

Module 2: Western Perspectives on Freedom and Slavery

- Sophocles: CWT I, 47-130
- Xenophon: CWT I, 160-172
- Thucydides: CWT I, 173-188

READINESS ASSESSMENT TEST #2

---

## **Thursday, January 29**

Team-Based Application Exercise

---

## **Tuesday, February 3**

Module 3: Eastern Perspectives on Freedom and Slavery

- *Laws of Manu*: RIER, 39-44
- Confucius: RIER, 279-286
- Mencius: RIER, 286-290
- Xunxi: RIER, 291-295

## READINESS ASSESSMENT TEST #3

---

### **Thursday, February 5**

Team-Based Application Exercise

---

### **Tuesday, February 10**

Module 4: Philosophical Foundations in the West

- Socrates (*Apology*): CWT I, 294-313
- Plato (*Phaedo*, *Republic*): CWT I, 314-348
- Aristotle (*Ethics*, *Politics*): CWT I, 349-375

## READINESS ASSESSMENT TEST #4

---

### **Thursday, February 12**

Team-Based Application Exercise

---

### **Tuesday, February 24**

Module 5: Eastern Perspectives on Wisdom and Folly

- *Upanishads*: RIER, 20-38
- Zhuangzi: RIER, 308-313

## READINESS ASSESSMENT TEST #5

---

### **Thursday, February 26**

Team-Based Application Exercise

---

### **Tuesday, March 3**

Module 6: Cosmic Perspectives and Ineffable Mysteries

- Marcus Aurelius: CWT I, 510-520
- Lucius Apuleius: CWT I, 521-535
- *Tao Te Ching*: RIER, 299-308

## READINESS ASSESSMENT TEST #6

---

### **Thursday, March 5**

Team-Based Application Exercise

---

### **Tuesday, March 10**

Module 7: Hebrew Perspectives on Good and Evil

- *Genesis*: CWT I, 543-552
- *Exodus*: CWT I, 552-561
- *Amos*: CWT I, 561-568
- *Job*: CWT I, 573-590

## READINESS ASSESSMENT TEST #7

---

### **Thursday, March 12**

Team-Based Application Exercise

---

### **Tuesday, March 17**

Module 8: Christian Perspectives on Good and Evil

- *Matthew*: CWT I, 591-599
- *Acts*: CWT I, 599-605
- *Paul* (Corinthians, Romans): CWT I, 605-616
- *Augustine*: CWT I, 628-642

## READINESS ASSESSMENT TEST #8

---

### **Thursday, March 19**

Team-Based Application Exercise

---

### **Tuesday, March 24**

Module 9: Eastern Perspectives on Good and Evil

- Hindu Ethics and Dharma: RIER, 81-99

- Ko Hung: RIER, 313-318

READINESS ASSESSMENT TEST #9

---

**Thursday, March 26**

Team-Based Application Exercise

---

**Tuesday, March 31**

Team-Based Application Exercise

---

**Thursday, April 2**

Module 10: Buddhism

- Buddha, The Awakened: RIER, 113-154
- Dharma, The Teaching of the Buddha: RIER, 154-207

READINESS ASSESSMENT TEST #10

---

**Tuesday, April 7**

Team-Based Application Exercise

---

**Thursday, April 9**

Team-Based Application Exercise

---

**Tuesday, April 14**

Course conclusion and exam review