

**University of Calgary**  
**Department of Communication and Culture**

**Communication and Culture (CMCL) 303 - Lecture 01**  
**Roads to Modernity**  
**Summer 2014**  
**TR 12:00-14:45; Tutorial TR 15:00-15:45**

**Instructor:** Shane Halasz  
**Office Location:** SS 301  
**Office Phone:** N/A  
**E-Mail:** [sdhalasz@ucalgary.ca](mailto:sdhalasz@ucalgary.ca)  
**Web Page:** Desire2Learn  
**Office Hours:** Immediately after class or by appointment

**Course Description**

The course is a critical and interdisciplinary examination, via classic texts, of Western, Oriental, and Islamic civilizations in terms of their fundamental cultural assumptions as these have evolved from the formative period (1500 B.C to 400 A.D) covered in CMCL 301 toward the threshold of the modern world explored in CMCL 501 (17<sup>th</sup> to 20<sup>th</sup> centuries). The time span of the course is thus centered on the Medieval and Early Modern epochs (6<sup>th</sup> to 16<sup>th</sup> centuries), and the goal is to understand how and why civilizations transform themselves in the direction of a 'modernist identity' characterized by a loss and/or revision of foundational traditions. The key themes by which the texts will be explored are as follows: life-death, freedom-slavery, wisdom- folly, 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

### **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.

### **Textbooks and Readings:**

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

Donald S. Gochberg, Sujit Singh Dulai, Edward. D. Graham, Kenneth W. Harrow, Priscilla Melendez, Anibal, Gonzalez, *World Literature and Thought*, Vol. II, The Middle Periods (Mason, Ohio: Cengage Learning, 2012)

Karl F. Thompson, ed. *Classics of Western Thought*, Vol. II, 4<sup>th</sup> Edition, Middle Ages, Renaissance, and Reformation (Boston: Wadsworth, 1988)

### **Assignments and Evaluation**

1. Reading Quizzes (Individual)      20%    (10 @ 2% each)      Beginning of every class

At the beginning of each class 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 11 quizzes scheduled, but only your 10 best scores will be counted.

2. Reading Quizzes (Group)              15%    (10 @ 1.5% each)      Beginning of every class

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)      July 15; July 31; August 12

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 the class what they feel is the most important thing that they have learned in the preceding classes based on their group discussions. 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 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 will be rewarded accordingly, and those who contributed least will likewise receive relatively less.

Except for the individual and group quizzes, 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 (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 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**

Abbreviations:        WLT II = World Literature and Thought, Vol. II  
                              CWT II = Classics of Western Thought, Vol. II

July 3: Introductions and Course Overview; Key Concepts; Team Formation

### **Life and Death**

July 8: *Everyman*: CWT II 183-200  
       Roland: CWT II 14-34  
       De Troyes: CWT II 35-51

July 10: Petrarch: CWT II 231-251  
       Cervantes: CWT II 504-517

July 15: Ko Hung: WLT II 43-50  
       Lady Nijo: WLT II 383-392

### **Freedom and Slavery**

July 17: Benedict: CWT II 1-13  
       Pico Della Mirandola: CWT II 252-262

July 22: More: CWT II 287-293  
       Machiavelli: CWT II 316-328

July 24: Po Hsing-chien: WLT II 249-260  
       Christine de Pisan: CWT II 201-214

### **Wisdom and Folly**

July 29: NO CLASS

July 31: Aquinas: CWT II 70-84  
       Montaigne: CWT II 371-387  
       Chu Hsi: WLT II 425-431

Aug 5: Dogen and the Way of Soto Zen: WLT II 363-368  
Kamo no Chomei: WLT II 369-376  
Al-Maari: WLT II 128-134

### **Good and Evil**

Aug 7: St. Catherine: CWT II 128-135  
Dante: WLT II 510-546

Aug 12: Luther: CWT II 518-534  
Calvin: CWT II 535-549  
Ignatius: CWT II 550-557

Aug 14: *The Koran*: WLT II 89-116  
Al-Hallaj: WLT II 118-127  
Al-Ghazali WLT II 393-406