University of Calgary
Department of Communication, Media and Film
Communication and Culture CMCL 305 (L01): Modernity
Winter 2020: January 13 - April 15 (excluding Feb. 17-19 and April 13)
Lecture: Mondays 11 - 12:50
Lab 1 W 11-11:50; Lab 2 W 12-12:50

Instructor: Dr. Marcia J. Epstein
SS Social Sciences 316
Office Phone: (403) 220-4848
Email: epstein@ucalgary.ca
Web Page: D2L available through MyUofC portal
Office Hours: Mondays or Wednesdays by appointment, before or after class.

Course Description
A critical and interdisciplinary examination, via classic texts and discussion, of the meaning of Modernity in Western and some non-Western contexts. The focus will be on Modernity’s major ideas and principles, and their implications within the time frame of the 17th to early 20th centuries.

Additional Information
The weekly schedule of topics and readings can be found on D2L. Students are responsible for reading and following all course and university policies discussed in this outline.

-Attendance at classes is strongly advised, since discussion of readings in class will provide significant content. If you need to be absent, ask a classmate to provide you with notes: sharing and collaboration are encouraged.

Objectives of the Course
- Examining the cultural configuration known as 'Modernity';
- Interpreting classic texts in an inter-cultural context;
- Developing strategies to identify and heal some of the dysfunctions associated with Modernity
- Exploring Modernity from the perspectives of cultural and intellectual history, social justice, and political theory.

- Developing writing and presentation skills.

**Textbooks and Readings**

*At Bookstore:*

Andrea & Overfield, *The Human Record: Part I-III* (Nelson)


If e-copies are available, they can be used.


Do not use Facebook or Fox News for this purpose.

**Policy on the use of Electronic Communication Devices**

Laptops, tablets, and mobile phones may be used in class and tutorials only for course-related purposes and only if their use is not distracting others or negatively impacting the learning environment.

(Note: *Constant scrolling through devices will be taken as a sign of non-attention to course content.*)

No audio or video recording is allowed in any class without the instructor’s permission.

**Assignments and Evaluation**

*Reflective journal entries:*

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Set</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
<th>Due Date</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Set 1</td>
<td>10%</td>
<td>Feb. 26</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Set 2</td>
<td>15%</td>
<td>Mar. 25</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Midterm</td>
<td>20%</td>
<td>Feb. 12</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*Group presentation & document* 25% Mar. 30 – April 8

*Final Exam (short answers & essay)* 20% TBA in April

*Participation* 10% Due at end of classes

**Registrar-scheduled Final Examination:** Yes
Instructions for Assignments

Reflective journals: From the assigned readings in your textbooks, select five (5) and write reflective essays on them. Three (3) of the 5 will be given numerical scores. You may select the ones to be evaluated.

Length: On average, 1-2 pages per essay. Each essay can refer to more than one reading, but avoid diffusing the focus.

Content of essays can include the following aspects (not an exclusive list):

-How do the texts embody fundamental cultural assumptions? What are they?

-What cultural similarities or differences between the readings and your beliefs (cultural or personal) are particularly striking to you, and why? (This can include personal responses based on life experiences).

-Do you agree and/or disagree with the author's position? Why, and on what particular issue(s)?

While creative use of language is encouraged if it is done with skill, substandard writing is not acceptable: pay attention to sentence structure, grammar, punctuation (yes, that includes apostrophes). If you are not confident about writing in English, please see your instructor before the end of January: help is available.

Group projects: A group consists of 3-4 members. Each group will choose a topic to research and present to the class.

Sample topic areas, to generate topics:

-Does modernity equal progress? Can it regress? (Examples?)

-Is Western modernity transferable to other cultural regions? Why or why not?

-Is modernity an advantage or disadvantage for [specific minority or underrepresented group]?

-Does modernity have disadvantages for our future in Canada?

-Does modernity require: Literacy? Wealth? Scientific progress?

Project proposals will include the group's topic, plan for research and presentation, and preliminary sources: two sources per group member is the minimum requirement.

-Each source must be annotated – a brief description of relevant content and how the group will use it (usually one paragraph).

-There should also be a statement of agreement among the group members for who will be responsible for each section of the project.
Project documents, handed in at the completion of the presentation, will include: A detailed summary of the presentation that identifies who provided what portions of the work, a full list of references cited with a consistent system (APA or MLA), and a statement from each group member about what you learned from the process. All references must be compiled together at the end of the document: this includes visual and sound files. (No annotations are expected at this point.)

Participation: Five points of your score will come from two (2) comments on presentations by groups other than your own (a paragraph or two for each). Comments must be posted in the Discussion section of D2L. They will count for your Participation score, not for the group scores. The other 5 points will come from your participation in class discussions and/or comments on course content posted on a D2L Discussion board designated for the purpose.

Exams will consist of short answers -- which may involve identification of terms, identification or comparison of quoted text passages from the textbooks, and/or brief commentaries on quoted texts --- and short essay questions that draw contrasts or parallels between socio-political problems and solutions from the 17th-19th centuries and today.

The Midterm will be 75 minutes in length, the Final will be two hours. Both are closed book, but notes may be permitted: this depends on the specific contents of the exams and on discussion taking place in review sessions.

Submission of Assignments

Note: It is your responsibility to keep a copy of each submitted assignment and to ensure that you submit the proper version (particularly in courses requiring electronic submission).

- Reflective Journals must be submitted in hard copy, with all pages securely fastened together in order.

- Please upload group assignments to the D2L dropbox. Use Word files, not pdf. Label all group project files in D2L as follows:

CMCL 305 - (Surname of one group member) Group

Also include a heading on the first page with the names of all group members in alphabetical order by surname, and the title. This prevents delays in recording scores.

Examples:

Label: Chan Group - CMCL 305

Heading: Lily Chan, Jon Jones, Claude Leclair

Title

Be prepared to provide photo ID if you need to pick up assignments in SS 320 (unlikely). Private information related to individual students is treated with the utmost regard by University of Calgary faculty. Student assignments will be accessible only by the authorized course faculty,
and personal information is collected in accordance with the *Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy (FOIP) Act*. Please note that instructors may use audio or video recorded for lesson capture, assessment of student learning, and self-assessment of teaching practices.

**Note:** You must normally complete all assignments and exams or a course grade of F may be assigned at the discretion of the instructor.

If you miss a required course component, please contact your instructor as soon as possible.

**Policy for Late Assignments**

Assignments submitted after the deadline may be penalized with the loss of a partial letter grade (e.g.: A- to B+) for each week late.

**Student Accommodations**

Students seeking an accommodation based on disability or medical concerns should contact Student Accessibility Services (SAS); SAS will process the request and issue letters of accommodation to instructors. For information on support services and accommodations for students with disabilities, visit [www.ucalgary.ca/access/](http://www.ucalgary.ca/access/). Students who require an accommodation 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](http://www.ucalgary.ca/policies/files/policies/student-accommodation-policy.pdf).

Students seeking accommodation for transient illnesses (e.g., the flu) or another legitimate reason should contact their instructors. Whenever possible, students should provide supporting documentation to support their request; however, instructors may not require that a medical note be presented. For the policy on supporting documentation the use of a statutory declaration, see Section M.1 of the *University Calendar*: [https://www.ucalgary.ca/pubs/calendar/current/m-1.html](https://www.ucalgary.ca/pubs/calendar/current/m-1.html). Also see FAQs for Students: [https://www.ucalgary.ca/registrar/registration/appeals/student-faq](https://www.ucalgary.ca/registrar/registration/appeals/student-faq).

**Expectations for Writing**

Department policy directs that all written assignments and, to a lesser extent, written exam responses 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 and proper documentation of research sources. For further information, please refer to the *University of Calgary Calendar* section on writing across the curriculum: [http://www.ucalgary.ca/pubs/calendar/current/e-2.html](http://www.ucalgary.ca/pubs/calendar/current/e-2.html).

**Grading & Department of Communication, Media and Film Grade Scale**
The following table outlines the grade scale percentage equivalents used in the Department of Communication, Media and Film. Final grades are reported as letter grades. For components graded using percentages or numerical scores, those values will be used directly in calculating the final course grade, while for components graded using letter grades, the letter grades will be converted to the midpoint values listed in the final column of the table below in calculating the final course grade.

In this course, a numerical score (out of the total points allotted to each assignment or exam) will be assigned to each item. They will be totalled at the end of term; with scores falling a point below the next grade, and fractional scores, rounding upward.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Grade Point Value</th>
<th>Description</th>
<th>Grade</th>
<th>Dept of CMF grade scale equivalents*</th>
<th>Letter grade % equivalent for calculations*</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>4.00</td>
<td>Outstanding performance</td>
<td>A+</td>
<td>96 - 100%</td>
<td>98.0%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4.00</td>
<td>Excellent performance</td>
<td>A</td>
<td>90 - 95.99%</td>
<td>93.0%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3.70</td>
<td>Approaching excellent performance</td>
<td>A -</td>
<td>85 - 89.99%</td>
<td>87.5%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3.30</td>
<td>Exceeding good performance</td>
<td>B+</td>
<td>80 - 84.99%</td>
<td>82.5%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3.00</td>
<td>Good performance</td>
<td>B</td>
<td>75 - 79.99%</td>
<td>77.5%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2.70</td>
<td>Approaching good performance</td>
<td>B -</td>
<td>70 - 74.99%</td>
<td>72.5%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2.30</td>
<td>Exceeding satisfactory performance</td>
<td>C+</td>
<td>65 - 69.99%</td>
<td>67.5%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2.00</td>
<td>Satisfactory performance</td>
<td>C</td>
<td>60 - 64.99%</td>
<td>62.5%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1.70</td>
<td>Approaching satisfactory performance</td>
<td>C -</td>
<td>55 - 59.99%</td>
<td>57.5%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1.30</td>
<td>Marginal pass. Insufficient preparation for subsequent courses in the same subject</td>
<td>D+</td>
<td>53 - 54.99%</td>
<td>54.0%</td>
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<td>---------------------------------------------------------------------</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>1.00</td>
<td>Minimal pass. Insufficient preparation for subsequent courses in the same subject</td>
<td>D</td>
<td>50 - 52.99%</td>
<td>51.5%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>0.00</td>
<td>Failure. Did not meet course requirements.</td>
<td>F</td>
<td>0 - 49.99%</td>
<td>0%</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

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

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.

For information on citation and documentation styles (MLA, APA, Chicago, IEEE, etc.), visit the Student Success Centre resource links at [https://ucalgary.ca/student-services/student-success/writing-support](https://ucalgary.ca/student-services/student-success/writing-support) or the Purdue Online Writing Lab (OWL) Research and Citation Resources at [https://owl.purdue.edu/owl/research_and_citation/resources.html](https://owl.purdue.edu/owl/research_and_citation/resources.html)

If you need help with your writing or have questions about citing sources, please consult your instructor or visit the Student Success Centre, 3rd floor, Taylor Family Digital Library. To book an appointment, go to [https://ucalgary.ca/student-services/student-success?utm_source=ssc&utm_medium=redirect&utm_campaign=redirect](https://ucalgary.ca/student-services/student-success?utm_source=ssc&utm_medium=redirect&utm_campaign=redirect)

Instructor Intellectual Property & Copyright Legislation

Course materials created by the instructor (including course outlines, presentations and posted notes, labs, case studies, assignments and exams) remain the intellectual property of the instructor. These materials may NOT be reproduced, redistributed or copied without the explicit consent of the instructor. The posting of course materials to third party websites such as note-sharing sites without permission is prohibited. Sharing of extracts of these course materials with other students enrolled in the same course section and term may be allowed under fair dealing. Check with the instructor if you have any questions about sharing materials with classmates.

All students are required to read the University of Calgary policy on Acceptable Use of Material Protected by Copyright ([www.ucalgary.ca/policies/files/policies/acceptable-use-of-material-](http://www.ucalgary.ca/policies/files/policies/acceptable-use-of-material-))
protected-by-copyright.pdf) and requirements of the copyright act (https://laws-lois.justice.gc.ca/eng/acts/C-42/index.html) to ensure they are aware of the consequences of unauthorized sharing of course materials (including instructor notes, electronic versions of textbooks etc.). Students who use material protected by copyright in violation of this policy may be disciplined under the Non-Academic Misconduct Policy.

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, including surveys, interviews, or observations as part of your university studies, you are responsible for obtaining research ethics approval and for following university research ethics guidelines. In some cases, your instructors may apply for course-based research ethics approval for certain assignments, and in those cases, they must review and approve your research plans and supervise your research. For more information about your research ethics responsibilities, please see https://arts.ucalgary.ca/research/arts-researchers/resources-researchers-and-instructors/ethics

Deferrals of Course Work and Requests for Reappraisal

For university regulations and procedures related to deferrals of exams and course work, requests for reappraisals, and other matters, please see the relevant sections in the University Calendar: https://www.ucalgary.ca/pubs/calendar/current/academic-regs.html

Student Support Services and Resources

Please visit https://www.ucalgary.ca/registrar/registration/course-outlines for information about student support services and resources, including Wellness and Mental Health Resources, Student Success programs and services, the Student Ombuds Office, the Student Union, and Safewalk.

For resources on D2L, visit http://elearn.ucalgary.ca/desire2learn/home/students. IT support is available at itsupport@ucalgary.ca or by calling 403-220.5555.

Schedule of Lecture Topics and Readings

1/13-15: Introduction -- What is Modernity, and what came before it?

    Labs: Exercises in pre-modern communication -- history, myth, and storytelling.

The full schedule will be posted on D2L before classes start.