

**Communication and Culture (CMCL) 501 – Lecture 01  
Modernity  
Fall 2012  
MWF 1:00-1:50**

**Instructor: R. Glasberg**  
**Office Location: SS328**  
**Office Phone: 220-7124**  
**E-Mail: [rglasber@ucalgary.ca](mailto:rglasber@ucalgary.ca)**  
**Office Hours: T/R 1:00-2:00**

**Course Description**

A critical and inter-disciplinary examination, via classic texts, of the meaning of Modernity in western and non-western contexts. Focus will be on the major ideas, principles, and their implications within the time frame of the 19<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup> centuries.

**Additional Information**

See end of syllabus for outline of readings and assignment guide.

**Objectives of the Course**

- (1) Give students an overview of a cultural configuration in which we, to some extent, all live;
- (2) Learn how to interpret classic texts in an inter-cultural context;
- (3) Understand Modernity from a critical perspective and come up with cultural strategies that may help to heal some of the dysfunctions associated with Modernity;
- (4) Explore Modernity from the perspectives of 'Life-Death', 'Freedom-Slavery', 'Wisdom-Folly', and 'Good-Evil';
- (5) Develop writing and presentation skills

**Internet and electronic communication device information**

**No restriction on the use of laptops in class if they are used to take notes and there is no disturbance of other students by visiting inappropriate web sites.**

**Textbooks and Readings:**

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

D. Gochberg, Surjit Dulai, Anibal Gonzalez, Edward Graham, Kenneth W. Harrow, and P. Melendez, eds., *World Literature and Thought, Vol. III, The Modern World to 1900* (Fort Worth: Harcourt, 2001).

E. Knoebel, ed., *Classics of Western Thought, Vol. III, The Modern World* (n.p.: Wadsworth, Thomson Learning, 1988).

L.S. Cunningham and John J. Reich, *Culture and Values, Vol. II, 7<sup>th</sup> ed. With Readings* (Boston: Wadsworth, 2010).

### **Assignments and Evaluation:**

Essay #1, Due Oct. 1, 2012 in class:	25%
Essay #2 and/or Group Project, Due in class Nov. 9, 2012:	35%
Final Exam, 2 hours Registrar Scheduled	40%
	—
	100%

For details, please see Assignment Guide at end of syllabus.

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://www.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:

(Revised, effective September 2008)

	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 Disability Resource Centre (220-8237) 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.su.ucalgary.ca/services/student-services/student-rights.html>

### **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/cfreb>

## **Schedule of Lectures and Readings**

CMCL 501 L01 – Modernity

Lecture Schedule 2012

Abbreviations: CWT,III = *Classics of Western Thought*, Vol. III  
WLT,III = *World Literature and Thought*, Vol. III  
C&V,II = *Culture and Values*, Vol. II

Sept. 10: Introduction – Basic Concepts

### **(A) Life and Death**

Sept. 12: Romantic Poetry: C&V,II, 423-426; 451-452;705-707; CWT,III, 260-270; WLT,III, 617-620

Sept. 14: Poetry In A Traditional Vein – The Americas: WLT,III, 499-512

Sept. 17: The Oral Tradition – Africa and Afro-America: WLT,III, 513-534; C&V,II, 517-524; WLT,III, 561-568

Sept. 19: Goethe's *Faust*: C&V,II, 450-451; CWT,III, 221-259

Sept. 21: Wang Shih-chen, *The Golden Lotus*: WLT,III, 259-269; C&V,II, 502-503

Sept. 24: Varis Shah, *Hir*: WLT,III, 628-646; C&V,II, 496-500

Sept. 26: Kate Chopin, *The Story Of An Hour* and *The Awakening*: C&V,II, 724-727; C&V,II, 492

Sept. 28: Sartre, *Existentialism*: CWT,III, 616-634; C&V,II,562-563

### **(B) Freedom and Slavery**

Oct. 1: Olaudah Equiano, *The Interesting Narrative*: WLT,III, 428-441

Oct. 3: Frederick Douglass, *My Bondage and My Freedom*: WLT,III 668-687

Oct. 5: Burke, *Reflections on the Revolution in France*: CWT,III, 202-220

Oct. 8: University Closed

Oct. 10: Marx and Engels, *The Communist Manifesto*: C&V,II, 427-429; CWT,III, 367389

Oct. 12: Bakunin, *Anarchism*: CWT,III, 390-404

Oct. 15: J.S. Mill, *On Liberty* and *Utilitarianism*: CWT,III, 321-337

Oct. 17: Alexis de Tocqueville, *Democracy in America*: CWT,III 280-298

Oct. 19: Thoreau, *Civil Disobedience*: CWT,III, 310-322

Oct. 22: Ibsen, *Hedda Gabler*: CWT,III, 458-534; C&V,II, 491-492

Oct. 24: Ibsen, *A Doll's House*: C&V,II, 722-724

### **(C) Wisdom and Folly**

Oct. 26: Smith, *Wealth of Nations*: CWT,III, 166-177; C&V,II, 393-398

Oct. 29: Condorcet, *The Progress of the Human Mind*: CWT,III, 178-201; C&V,II, 418-420

Oct. 31: Hegel, *Reason in History*: CWT,III, 338-349

Nov. 1: Darwin, *The Origin of Species* and *The Descent of Man*: CWT,III, 350-366

- Nov. 5: Einstein, *My Views*: CWT,III, 535- 545
- Nov. 7: Freud, *Why War?* CWT,III, 546-559; C&V,II, 545-546
- Nov. 9: Jung, *Approaching the Unconscious*: CWT,III, 560-576
- Nov. 10-13 University Closed

**(D) Good and Evil**

- Nov. 14: Pascal, *Thoughts*: CWT,III,43-58
- Nov. 16: Thoreau, *Walden*: CWT,III, 299-310
- Nov. 19: Lo Kuan-chung, *The Water Margin*: WLT,III, 198-207
- Nov. 21: Tulsi Das, *Ramcharitmanas*: WLT,III, 334-351
- Nov. 23: Nietzsche, *The Genealogy of Morals*: CWT,III, 443-457
- Nov. 26: Dostoevsky, *The Brothers Karamazov –The Grand Inquisitor*: CWT,III, 421-442; C&V,II, 490-491
- Nov. 28: Tolstoy, *The Three Hermits*: C&V,II, 711-713
- Nov. 30: Chekhov, *The Bet*: C&V,II,720-722
- Dec. 3: Leo XIII, *Concerning New Things*: CWT,III, 405-420
- Dec. 5: Hitler, *My Struggle*: CWT,III, 597-615; C&V,II, 531-534
- Dec. 7: Review & Discussion of Exam

**Assignment Guide CMCL 501 L01 – 2012**

(A) Essay #1	25%
(B) Essay #2 and/or group project	35%
(C) Final Exam	40%
	<hr/>
	100%

(A) Essay # 1

Due Date: Oct. 1, 2012 (in class)

Length: 5-10 pages double-spaced

Goal: Way of Life and Death Emphasized via Modernity

Method:

- (i) find an advertisement, TV show, piece of music, or some cultural artefact that reflects the ideal way of life associated with modernity;
- (ii) justify your choice;
- (iii) compare the foregoing ideal with a modernist ideal appearing in one or two of the texts you have read so far;
- (iv) conclude by considering if that ideal way of life is 'meaningful' or worthwhile from your personal perspective

(B) Essay #2 or group project

Due Date: Nov. 9, 2012 unless submitted as part of a group project and then due on day of project presentation

Length: 12-15 pages double-spaced

Goal: Critique of Modernity

Method: Developing your own definition of modernity on the basis of what you have read in the course and experienced in your life, write an essay with the following elements:

- (i) your definition of modernity;
- (ii) what you base your definition on;
- (iii) which of the course texts best represents that definition; which least;
- (iv) what is right and what is wrong with modernity

N.B.: While there is no upper limit on the number of course texts you can use in the essay, you should include at least three. Proper footnoting is expected.

If project done as part of a group, then any format may be utilized for presentation.

More on the Group Project:

- (1) All students within the group can expect the same mark.
- (2) Groups should have an upper limit of about 8 members.

- (3) Consultation with the instructor is necessary to make sure that the project is on the right track and is of benefit to the whole class in the context of a presentation
- (4) While the thrust of the project should still be a critique of modernity, other options will be considered in consultation with the class and/or instructor.
- (5) If a play or video or some other format not featuring textual argument is adopted for presentation, then a written summary is still expected from the group.
- (6) If a written essay is collaborative in nature, then groups should have no more than 3 members and the page limit should be adjusted upward to 20 or 25 pages.

(C) Final Exam (Registrar Scheduled)

Time: 2 Hours

The exam will be in two parts: Part A (worth 20%) will be based on identification of short excerpts from the readings. Part B (worth 80%) will consist of one essay chosen from two topics. These two topics will be given to students ahead of the exam and will be part of a list of three. Hence students need to prepare two from the list unless, of course, they feel really lucky. In any case, they can take into the exam a sheet of paper with whatever notes they deem helpful.