

University of Calgary
Department of Communication, Media and Film

Communication and Culture CMCL 501 L01

MODERNITY

Winter 2017

Thursday January 12 – Thursday April 6 (excl. Feb.23)

Thursdays 12:30 – 3:15

Instructor: Dr. Marcia Jenneth Epstein
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Phone 403-220-4848
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Web Page: D2L available through MyUofC portal
Office Hours: Tuesdays or Thursdays by appointment

Course Description

A critical and inter-disciplinary examination, via classic texts, 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

Attendance in class is advisable, 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.

Some adjustments to the schedule may be necessary during the term. If this is the case, announcements will be made in class and sent by email from D2L.

Objectives of the Course

- (1) Examining the cultural configuration known as 'Modernity';
- (2) Interpreting classic texts in an inter-cultural context;
- (3) Developing strategies to identify and heal some of the dysfunctions associated with Modernity
- (4) Exploring Modernity from the perspectives of cultural and intellectual history, social justice, and political theory.
- (5) Developing writing and presentation skills.

Textbooks

D. Gochberg, S.Duali, A. Gonzalez, E. Graham, K. Harrow & 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, 4th Ed. (Boston: Wadsworth, 1988).

The books are bundled in a Course Pack at the Bookstore, or you may use copies from previous CMCL courses, used copies, shared copies, library reserve copies, or e-book copies if available: it's up to you.

Please bring texts to class so that the readings are available for close analysis.

Internet and electronic communication device information

No restriction on the use of laptops and tablets in class if they are used to take notes or find information relevant to the class, and if there is *no disturbance or distraction of other students or the instructor*. Phones must be turned off during class time unless you are a health care or law enforcement professional with appropriate ID.

Assignments and Evaluation

Assignment:	Weight:	Due:
<i>Reflective journal entries</i>		
First set	10%	Feb.2
Second set	20%	Mar.2
Third Set	20%	Apr.6
<i>Group paper or presentation</i>	25%	week of Mar.20
<i>Final Exam (short answers & essay)</i>	25%	TBA in April

Assignment Guidelines

-Reflective Journal Entries:

Reflections on 5 assigned readings for each journal set (two of each set will be evaluated; you may specify which ones or leave the choice open).

The purpose of this assignment is for you to develop familiarity and responses to course readings and reflect on each chosen reading with a 1 to 2 page entry (single or 1.5 spaced) that touches on any of the following themes:

1. How does the text embody fundamental cultural assumptions? What are they?
2. What quotation best exemplifies the message of the text?
3. What is your personal reaction to the text in view of lectures, class discussions, your own life experience, etc.?
4. What piece of music, film, ad (etc.) reflects the essence of the text and why?
5. What cultural differences between the text and your culture are particularly striking to you and why?
6. How could you express the message of the text in a medium in which you like to work (e.g., photography, rap, haiku, graphic art, etc.)?

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*).

Group Papers / Presentations:

A group will normally consist of 2-3 members.

Each group has two options for a project:

Presentation (max. 20 min.) or Paper (max. 10 pages double-spaced + bibliography).

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 or script, or prepare a presentation, with the following elements:

- (1) your definition of modernity;
- (2) what you base your definition on;
- (3) which of the course texts best represent or contradict that definition;
- (4) what is right and what is wrong with modernity (you may disagree with each other and present a debate or skit)

Note: While there is no upper limit on the number of course texts you can use, you should include at least three. *Proper referencing is expected: use APA, MLA, or Chicago format, but keep it consistent.*

Any format may be utilized for presentation: skit, debate, video or short film, slide show, time travel, etc. *There must be a detailed record to hand in, including documentation of all sources used.* A written summary is also expected, along with a paragraph from each group member on what you learned from doing the project.

All members of the group will get the same mark in normal circumstances. If there is a major discrepancy in work load and/or cooperation within the group, differential grading may be applied at the discretion of the instructor.

Registrar-scheduled Final Examination: Yes

Time: 2 hours

Format: The exam will be in two parts. Part A will consist of objective identifications in a form or forms to be determined. Part B will be an essay with elements of choice in the topic.

All assignments and exams must normally be completed or a course grade of F may be assigned at the discretion of the instructor.

Submission of Assignments:

NOTE: Hard copy is normally required, but if you need to hand in an assignment online *and have been given permission to do so*, be sure to put the surname of at least one group member on the file.

Please hand in your assignments directly to your 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 marked final exams in SS 320. 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 and to ensure*

that the proper version is submitted (particularly in courses requiring electronic submission). Including a version date in your file name may be useful.

Policy for Late Assignments

Assignments submitted after the deadline may be penalized with loss of points unless there is a valid – and verified – reason. Penalties can amount to a maximum of 5 points per week late; not turning in the assignment will result in a zero.

Student Accommodations:

Students seeking an accommodation based on disability or medical concerns should contact Student Accessibility Services; SAS will process the request and issue letters of accommodation to instructors. For additional information on support services and accommodations for students with disabilities, visit www.ucalgary.ca/access/.

Students who require an accommodation in relation to their coursework 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>.

- Students seeking accommodation for transient illnesses (e.g., the flu) should contact their instructors. Whenever possible, students should advise their instructors in advance if they will be missing quizzes, presentations, in-class assignments, or group meetings.
- When accommodations are granted, they may take forms other than make-up tests or assignments. For example, the weight of a missed grade may be added to another assignment or test.
- For information on Deferrals of Final Exams and Term Work, see sections G.6 and G.7 of the *University Calendar* at <http://www.ucalgary.ca/pubs/calendar/current/g-6.html> and <http://www.ucalgary.ca/pubs/calendar/current/g-7.html>

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. 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 & Grade Scale of the Department of Communication, Media and Film

Final grades are reported as letter grades. A cumulative point score will be kept for all assignments and exams. The final tally of points will usually determine the final letter grade, but adjustments may be made for scores falling one point or less below the next letter-grade cutoff at the discretion of the instructor.

The following chart outlines the grade scale percentage equivalents used in the Department of Communication, Media and Film.

Grade Point Value	Description	Grade	Dept of CMF grade scale	Letter grade % equivalent for
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e			equivalent s*	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	0- 49.99%	0%

* If percentages are used to calculate final grades, then grades falling within these ranges will be translated to the corresponding letter grades.

** These percentage equivalents will be used for calculating final grades unless an alternative method of final grade calculation is outlined above.

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 <https://ucalgary.ca/ssc/resources/writing-support/436> . If you have questions about how to document sources, please consult your instructor or the Writing Centre (3rd 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 (e.g., surveys, interviews, or observations) as part of your university studies, you are responsible for following university research ethics guidelines. Your instructor must review and approve your research plans and supervise your research. For more information about your research ethics responsibilities, see <http://arts.ucalgary.ca/research/resources/ethics>

Important information, services, and contacts for students

For information about . . .	Visit or contact . . .
ARTS PROGRAM ADVISING (ASC)	SS 102 403-220-3580 artsads@ucalgary.ca
CAMPUS SECURITY <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Calgary Police Service • Emergency Text Messaging • Emergency Evacuation & Assembly • Safewalk Program 	http://www.ucalgary.ca/security/ 403-220-5333 403-266-1234 Emergency: call 911 http://www.ucalgary.ca/emergencyplan/textmessage http://www.ucalgary.ca/emergencyplan/assemblypoints If you feel uncomfortable walking alone at any time, call Campus Security for an escort (220-5333). For more information, see http://www.ucalgary.ca/security/
DESIRE2LEARN (D2L) Support <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • IT help line 	http://elearn.ucalgary.ca/desire2learn/home/students 403-220-5555 or itsupport@ucalgary.ca
STUDENT SUCCESS CENTRE <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Writing Support Services • Student Services Mobile App 	http://ucalgary.ca/ssc http://www.ucalgary.ca/ssc/writing-support http://ucalgary.ca/currentstudents

<p>STUDENTS' UNION CONTACTS</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Faculty of Arts Reps • Student Ombudsman 	<p>https://www.su.ucalgary.ca/about/who-we-are/elected-officials/</p> <p>http://www.ucalgary.ca/provost/students/ombuds</p>
<p>SU WELLNESS CENTRE</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Counselling Services • Health Services • Distress centre 24/7 CRISIS LINE • Online resources and tips 	<p>403-210-9355 (MSC 370), M-F, 9:00–4:30 pm</p> <p>http://ucalgary.ca/wellnesscentre/counselling</p> <p>http://ucalgary.ca/wellnesscentre/health</p> <p>403-266-HELP (4357)</p> <p>http://ucalgary.ca/wellnesscentre/healthycampus</p> <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 Lecture Topics and Readings

12/1 Introduction : What is Modernity (and was it a good idea)?

Unit 1 – Realities and Illusions

12/1 Pre-Modernity: Oral Culture and the Wisdom of Stories

The Americas: WLT 504-511

Africa: WLT 516-528, 532-534;

China: Wang Shih-chen, *The Golden Lotus*: WLT 259-269

19/1 Observing the World

Descartes, *Discourse on Method*, CWT 20-30;

Galileo, *Dialogue*, CWT 1-9

Observing the Self

Locke, *Essay Concerning Human Understanding*, CWT 59-67;

Pascal, *Thoughts*, CWT 43-58

26/1 Observing Social Order

Hobbes, *Leviathan*, CWT 31-42

Locke, *Of Civil Government*, CWT 68-82

Beccaria, CWT 154-165

The Rational Mind

Rousseau, *On the Origin of Inequality*, CWT 131-140;

Condorcet, *The Progress of the Human Mind* CWT 178-201;

2/2 Reality and Illusion, East and West
Ts'ao Hsueh-ch'in, *The Dream of the Red Chamber* WLT 270-278;
Thoreau, *Walden*: CWT 299-310

The Irrational in Western Romanticism
Poetry: CWT 260-279
Goethe's *Faust* : CWT 221-259

Unit 2 – Rights and Obligations

9/2 Slavery and Struggle
Nguyen Du, *The Tale of Kieu*: WLT 657-667
Olaudah Equiano, *The Interesting Narrative*: WLT 428-441
Frederick Douglass, *My Bondage and My Freedom*: WLT 668-687
Nietzsche, *The Genealogy of Morals*: CWT 443-457

16/2 Social Change and its Counterbalances
Hegel, *Reason in History*: CWT 338-349
Smith, *Wealth of Nations*: CWT 166-177;
Burke, *Reflections on the Revolution in France*: CWT 202-220
Alexis de Tocqueville, *Democracy in America*: CWT 280-298

23/2 Reading Week

2/3 Society as a Manifestation of Reason
Darwin, *The Origin of Species* and *The Descent of Man*: CWT 350-366
J.S. Mill, *On Liberty* and *Utilitarianism*: CWT 321-337
Marx and Engels, *The Communist Manifesto*, CWT 367-389:

9/3 The Concept of Self-determination
Thoreau, *Civil Disobedience*: CWT 310-322
Bakunin, *Anarchism*: CWT 390-404
Dostoevsky, *The Grand Inquisitor*: CWT 421-442;

Unit 3 – The Rise of Modern Perspectives

16/3 Rational Progress
Freud, *Why War?* CWT 546-559;
Einstein, *My Views*: CWT 535- 545
Woolf, *A Room of One's Own*: CWT 635-649

23/3 Presentations

30/3 Reason and Madness
Jung, *Approaching the Unconscious*: CWT 560-576
Leo XIII, *Concerning New Things*: CWT 405-420
Hitler, *My Struggle*: CWT 597-615

6/4 Morality in a Cynical Society
Sartre, *Existentialism*: CWT 616-634; CV 562-563