

Communication and Culture (CMCL) 503 – Lecture 02

*Contours of Contemporary Culture*

Winter 2014

Wednesdays and Fridays 2.00-3.15pm

**Instructor:** Glenn R. Wilkinson  
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**Office Hours:** Wednesdays and Fridays 3.30-4.30

### **Course Description**

The course looks at the contemporary world as a discursive interface between different cultural traditions as they struggle to formulate a global perspective. Classic texts and scholarly commentary will be interpreted and analyzed by way of the following themes: life-death, freedom, slavery, wisdom-folly, and good-evil.

### **Additional Information**

Lecture Schedule and Assignment Guide at end of syllabus.

### **Objectives of the Course**

- (1) Develop and enhance interpretative and critical thinking skills in the context of written and spoken discourse;
- (2) Give students the opportunity to formulate the principles of a viable global civilization;
- (3) Creatively synthesize material from a variety of disciplinary perspectives.

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

No restrictions on use of laptops in class if they are used to take notes and there is no disturbance of other students by visiting inappropriate websites.

### **Textbooks and Readings:**

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

Gochberg, Donald, ed. *Classics of Western Thought – The Twentieth Century* (Mason, Ohio: Cengage Learning, 2003)

Hallman, Max O. *Traversing Philosophical Boundaries*, 4<sup>th</sup> Ed. (Boston: Wadsworth, 2012)

### **Assignments and Evaluation**

(A) Study Guides: Due after each course thematic section

1 <sup>st</sup> Submission	10%
2 <sup>nd</sup> Submission	10%
3 <sup>rd</sup> Submission	10%
4 <sup>th</sup> Submission	10%

(B) Mid-Term Exam (Feb 14) 15%

(C) Final Exam (Reg.Sch.) 35%

(D) Class Contribution 10%  
100%

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

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	C+	65-69.99
A	90-95.99	C	60-64.99
A -	85-89.99	C-	55-59.99
B+	80-84.99	D+	53-54.99
B	75-79.99	D	50-52.99
B-	70-74.99	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.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: CWT = *Classics of Western Thought – The Twentieth Century*

TPB = *Traversing Philosophical Boundaries*

Jan. 8: Introduction: Basic Principles of the Course

### **Good-Evil**

Jan. 10: Bettelheim: CWT 3-29; Wiesel: 416-421; Arendt: CWT 30-46

Jan. 15: Solzhenitsyn: CWT 75-116

Jan. 17: Robinson: CWT 422-437

Jan. 22: Daly: TPB 415-422

Jan. 24: Carol Christ: TPB 663-673

Jan. 29: C.W. Mills: CWT 204-221; Huxley: CWT 184-203

**First Set of Study Guides Due**

### **Wisdom-Folly**

Jan. 31: C.P. Snow: CWT 119-130; Farber, Brustein: CWT 467-485

Feb. 5: Heisenberg: CWT 303-313

Feb. 7: Hawking: TPB: 163-168; Dobzhanski: CWT 261-270

Feb. 12: Dennett: TPB 70-80; Benally: TPB 292-297

Feb. 14: Mid-Term Exam

Feb. 16-23: Reading Break

Feb. 26: Anderson: TPB 336-344; Gandhi: TPB 541-545

**Second Set of Study Guides Due**

## **Freedom-Slavery**

Feb. 28: Ellul: CWT 131-145; Marcuse: CWT 60-74

Mar. 5: DeBeauvoir: CWT 486-505

Mar. 7: Hooks: TPB 564-571

Mar. 12: Fanon: CWT 506-521; Abu'l A'la Maududi: TPB 506-516

Mar. 14: Wiredu: TPB 689-698

Mar. 19: Frye: TPB 225-237

Mar. 21: Foucault: TPB 58-63

**Third Set of study Guides Due**

## **Life-Death**

Mar. 26: Kafka, Camus: CWT 321-338

Mar. 28: Breton: CWT 522-532; Beckett: CWT 339-334

Apr. 2: Heller: CWT 345-370; Maslow: CWT 604-614

Apr. 4: Toffler: CWT 640-660

Apr. 9: Schweitzer: TPB 383-388; Starhawk: TPB 635-642

Apr. 11: Final Review and Discussion of Final Exam

**Fourth Set of Study Guides Due**

### **ASSIGNMENT GUIDE:**

(A) Study Guides: Due after each course thematic section

1 <sup>st</sup> Submission	10%
2 <sup>nd</sup> Submission	10%
3 <sup>rd</sup> Submission	10%
4 <sup>th</sup> Submission	10%

(B) Mid-Term Exam (Feb 14) 15%

(C) Final Exam (Reg.Sch.) 35%

(D) Class Contribution 10%

100%

*(A) Study Guides:*

For each of the readings in each section, you are expected to write a one and a half to two page (single-spaced) entry that discusses the fundamental cultural assumptions (FAC's) in the text. The discussion should relate the FCAs to the theme of the submission unit (i.e., life-death, freedom-slavery, etc.), illustrate with quotes how the assumption appears and is articulated, offer some kind of personal and a critical response to that assumption. A detailed guide will be posted on Blackboard.

*(B) Mid-Term Exam:*

There will be a mid-term exam that will encourage the careful reading of texts through an examination of quotations and ask brief short answer questions. The structure of the mid-term will be reflected in part of the final exam.

*(C) Registrar Scheduled Exam:*

Time: 3 hours

Format: The exam will consist of quotation identification, and either two short essays or one large one.

*(D) Class Contribution:*

Students will be rewarded for their contributions to the tutorials. Mere attendance is not enough to gain full marks here.