

**THE UNIVERSITY OF CALGARY**

**Department of Communication and Culture  
Communication and Culture CMCL 301 L01**

**Cultural Foundations**

**Fall 2000**

**Sept. 9- Dec. 5,  
Lectures TR 11:00 – 12:15  
Tutorials 1-6: 9:00 a.m.- 2:50 p.m.**

**Instructor: Dr. Timothy Buell**

**Office: Bio Sci 553 Phone: 220-3493**

**Office Hours: MWF 12:00 - 1:00, or by appointment**

**E-mail: [buell@ucalgary.ca](mailto:buell@ucalgary.ca)**

**Course Website: [www.ucalgary.ca/buell/courses/cmcl301](http://www.ucalgary.ca/buell/courses/cmcl301)**

**Course Description**

A critical and interdisciplinary examination, via classic texts, of Western (Greco-Roman and Judaeo-Christian), Indian, and Chinese civilizations in terms of their fundamental cultural assumptions. The time span is the formative period of these civilizations from about 2500 B.C. to approximately 400 A.D.. The key themes by which the texts will be explored are as follows: life-death, freedom-slavery, wisdom-folly, and good-evil.

**Additional Information**

Lecture schedule and Assignment Guide are at the end of this syllabus, and on our course website.

**Objectives of the Course**

- Learn how to read and interpret classic texts in a comparative manner;
- Gain a synthetic overview of world civilization;
- Improve writing skills in the context of developing and supporting arguments.

## Textbooks and Readings

The following texts are required and should be available at the bookstore:

Gochberg, D., ed., *Classics of Western Thought, Vol. I – The Ancient World*, 4<sup>th</sup> Ed. (Boston: Wadsworth, 1988).

Coward, H., R. Neufeldt, and Eva K. Neumaier, eds., *Readings In Eastern Religions*, 2<sup>nd</sup> Edition (Waterloo: Wilfred Laurier, 2007)

## Internet and electronic communication device information

No restriction on 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.

## Assignments and Evaluation

### (A) Reflective Journal

1 <sup>st</sup> Submission Oct. 3	10%
2 <sup>nd</sup> Submission Oct. 24	10%
3 <sup>rd</sup> Submission Nov.14	15%
4 <sup>th</sup> Submission Dec. 5	15%

(B) Tutorial Group Project	25%
(C) Final Exam (Reg. Sch.)	25%

100%

For details please see Assignment Guide at end of Syllabus.

## Schedule of Lectures and Readings

Abbreviations:

CWT = *Classics of Western Thought, Vol. I*  
RER = *Readings In Eastern Religions*

Sept. 9: Intro: What is a Fundamental Cultural Assumption? Meaning of four course themes: life-death, freedom-slavery, wisdom-folly, good-evil

Life-Death

Sept. 11: Gilgamesh, Aesop – CWT: 536-42; 39-46

Sept. 16: Homer CWT: 1-17; Bhagavad Gita RER: 44-55

Sept. 18: Thucydides CWT: 176-183; Ramayana RER: 68-72

Sept. 23: Aristophanes CWT: 196-293

Sept. 25: Plutarch CWT 401-416; Petronius CWT: 470-496

Sept. 30: Book of History/Odes/Changes RER: 267-275; Ge Hong RER 313-316

Freedom -Slavery

Oct. 2: Herodotus CWT: 131-141; Thucydides CWT: 188-195 (Melian Dialogue)

**1st Set of Journal Entries due in Tutorial Oct. 3, 2014**

Oct. 7: Sophocles CWT: 47-130

Oct. 9: Tacitus CWT: 417-429; Lao Tzu RER: 302-308

Oct. 14: Cicero CWR: 430-439; Zhuangzi RER: 308-313

Oct. 16: Laws Of Manu RER: 39-44

Oct. 21: Mencius RER: 286-290; Xunzi RER: 291-295

Wisdom/Folly

Oct. 23: Plato CWT: 314-348

**2nd Set of Journal Entries due in Tutorial Oct. 24, 2014**

Oct. 28: Aristotle CWT: 349-367

Oct. 30: Lucretius CWT: 450-469

Nov. 4: Marcus Aurelius CWT: 510-520

Nov. 6: Upanishads RER: 20-28

Nov. 11: Reading/Remembrance Day – No Class

Nov. 13: Confucius RER: 279-286

1st Tutorial Presentation

**3rd Set of Journal Entries due in Tutorial Nov. 14, 2014**

Good-Evil

Nov. 18: Genesis/ Exodus/Job CWT: 543-561; 573-590

## 2<sup>nd</sup> Tutorial Presentation

Nov. 20: Matthew/Augustine CWT: 591-599; 628-642

## 3<sup>rd</sup> Tutorial Presentation

Nov. 25: Buddha RER: 112 -139

## 4<sup>th</sup> Tutorial Presentation

Nov. 27: Buddha PER: 154-173

## 5<sup>th</sup> Tutorial Presentation

Dec. 2: Devotional Literature: Bhagavad Gita PER: 58-68; Apuleius CWT: 521-535

## 6<sup>th</sup> Tutorial Presentation

## **4<sup>th</sup> Set of Journal Entries due in Tutorial Dec. 5, 2014**

Dec. 4: Summary Review and Exam

### **Assignment Guide:**

(A) Journal Entries:

Each entry should be about a page and half single-spaced and students are expected to submit at least three entries per thematic section (e.g., life-death, freedom-slavery, etc.). The first 2 sets are worth 10% each, while the second 2 are worth 15% each. Due dates are respectively: Oct. 3, Oct. 24, Nov. 14, and Dec. 5 (all in tutorial).

An entry should be a commentary upon a specific text (e.g., Genesis, Confucius) and include: (1) a statement as what is the fundamental cultural assumption expressed in the text; (2) textual support for your assertion (e.g., a quote or quotes); (3) a discussion of how that assumption compares with a corresponding one from our own time and/or your personal experience.

Tutorial Leaders will mark only one of the three submitted and will choose which one is marked. If less than three are submitted, a failing grade may be assigned.

(B) Tutorial Group Presentations:

Presentation times are shown on the syllabus. Each tutorial group will organize itself to do a presentation before the whole class on what they have learned in the course. The key focus is an imaginative presentation (video, play, game show, etc.) of the course material with a view to showing how the different cultures compare with each other in terms of fundamental cultural assumptions.

A 2-3 page written summary is expected at the time of presentation. This should include an alphabetically-ordered list of participants, what each contributed, and what was ultimately learned by the group.

For all who participated, 25% of your final grade will be based on the presentation.

### (C) Final Exam

Worth 25% of your mark, the registrar-scheduled exam will be based on questions given out ahead of time, some of which will appear on the exam. Journal entries may be brought into the exam along with any course texts.

#### **Registrar-scheduled Final Examination:** Yes

Note: If your class is held in the evening, the Registrar's Office will attempt to schedule the final exam during the evening; however, there is NO guarantee that the exam will NOT be scheduled during the day.

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

**Submission of Assignments:** 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.

Please include your name and ID number on all assignments, and be prepared to provide picture ID to pick up assignments or look at final exams in SS 320 after classes have ended. Personal information is collected in accordance with the *Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy (FOIP) Act*. For more information, visit the FOIP page on our course website.

**Note:** It is the student's responsibility to keep a copy of each submitted assignment. For courses in which assignments are submitted electronically, it is the student's responsibility to ensure that the correct copy of the assignment is submitted. (Including the version date or version number in your file name may help you avoid submitting the wrong version of your written assignments.)

#### **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. [Edit as you wish to reflect your policy]

#### **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 14 days after the start of the course.

### **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. 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. 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>

### **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 <http://www.ucalgary.ca/ssc/node/208> . 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 (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 <http://arts.ucalgary.ca/research/research/research-ethics>