

**St Jerome's University**  
**HUMSC 102: Great Dialogues: Politics & Morality – T/Th 10:00-11:20pm**  
**Prof John Greenwood - Office Hours: SJU 2112 – T/Th 11:30-12:30pm**  
**Winter 2020**

**Course Outline**

<b>Week</b>		<b>Text &amp; Lecture &amp; Discussion</b>
I	Jan 7	Conrad: <i>Heart of Darkness</i>
	9	
II	14	Machiavelli: <i>The Prince</i>
	16	
III	21	
	23	Shakespeare: <i>King Lear</i>
IV	28	
	30	Hobbes: <i>Leviathan</i> (selections)
V	Feb 4	Locke: <i>Essay Concerning Human Understanding</i> (selections)
	6	Kant: <i>Groundwork for the Metaphysics of Morals</i> (selections)
VI	11	
	13	Swift: <i>Gulliver's Travels</i> (Book IV)
VII	18	- READING WEEK- Feb 18-21 -
	20	
VIII	25	- ESSAY #1 DUE -
	27	<u>Guest Lecture</u> : Politics and Morality
IX	Mar 3	Shelley: <i>Frankenstein</i>
	5	
X	10	Marx: <i>The Communist Manifesto</i> (selections)
	12	Film: 'Changing Lanes'
XI	17	
	19	<u>Guest Lecture</u> : Politics & Morality
XII	24	Freud: <i>Civilization and Its Discontents</i>
	26	
XIII	31	Review & Conclusions
	Apr 2	Exam Review
		- ESSAY #2 DUE -
	Apr 8-25	Final Exam Period

**Course Texts:**

Conrad: *Heart of Darkness* (Bantam) ISBN 0553212141  
Machiavelli: *The Prince* (Penguin) ISBN 0140447520  
Shakespeare: *King Lear* (New Penguin) ISBN 0141012293  
Swift: *Gulliver's Travels* (Penguin) ISBN 0141439491  
Shelley: *Frankenstein* (Penguin) ISBN 0141439475  
Greenwood: *Reading the Humanities: How I Lost My Modernity* ISBN 9781772440324  
Selected Readings: (excerpts from)  
Hobbes: *Leviathan*  
Locke: *Essay Concerning Human Understanding*  
Kant: *Groundwork of the Metaphysics of Morals*  
Marx: *The Communist Manifesto*  
Freud: *Civilization and Its Discontents*

**Outline**

Courses in Human Sciences aim to initiate and develop 'dialogues' about fundamental ideas in western culture, aiding students in deciphering, analyzing and synthesizing some of the 'great' voices from the past that continue to be relevant to our life and society. The dialogues fostered by these courses interact with the text, with the teacher, with other students, with other texts, with history, and with other points of view, and are designed to enrich students' intellectual grasp of a background of ideas against which they live their lives and pursue their careers.

The intent of 'dialogue' is to privilege intellectual freedom and nurture independent thought, intelligent argument, informed morality, ethical consciousness, and clarity of expression in speaking and writing in the context of an objective as well as a self-reflective frame of mind. Active participation in dialogue will encourage ownership of points of view while sharpening an awareness of competing or conflicting lines of argument, and help prepare students for life as thoughtful citizens of the modern world.

### **Format**

Lecture and discussion in the course sequence begins in the classical world with the wellspring of western literature and the dawn of western culture. Each subsequent text further engages the dialogue begun between reflection and action while enriching and expanding its intellectual context. The two main streams of western thought, classical and christian, interact in relation to the main dialogue. To the core texts, which represent four historical components of western cultural experience - ancient, medieval, renaissance, modern - are added shorter supplementary texts that further illuminate key course themes.

### **Evaluation**

Four brief in-class written assignments (20 min) will allow students to take argumentative positions on issues discussed in class and engage a written dialogue with the instructor to complement class discussion. These assignments are ungraded - submitting them at the end of class constitutes fulfilment of this requirement. Each is credited towards the final course grade. Students may use anything generated by these exercises - writing, comments, quotations, class notes, etc - as a basis or springboard for the longer essay assignments as they wish.

Two term essays 8 pages in length (2000 words) on topics proposed by the student and are due on the dates shown on the course syllabus.

A final exam composed of both brief point form identifications as well as short and long essay answer questions will cover *all* required course reading.

Four in-class written assignments 20%

Essay #1: 25%

Essay #2: 25%

Final Exam: 30%

Students are expected to attend class regularly and complete the required reading. If you need additional assistance with the course material and would like extra help, the professor is available during office hours or at a mutually agreed upon time.

## **Course Objectives**

1. A recognition of the ethical implications of politics & morality
2. An engagement with issues raised in core texts
3. An understanding of the nature of argument
4. Written sustained responses to an author's argument  
(i.e. a position defended with evidence)
5. An appreciation for otherness & alternative perspectives in the texts

## **Policy on Late Submissions**

Essay due dates as shown in the syllabus are for the convenience of both the student, in submitting the work, and the professor, in grading and remarking on it in a useful, progressive and timely fashion. No 'late penalties' apply, but 'on time' submissions earn the privilege of revision and resubmission for a revised grade with the benefit of the professor's remarks and guidance.

## **Policy on Missed In-class Participation Assignments**

Missed written in-class participation assignments may be completed at another class, but at the risk of distraction from other scheduled class activities.

## **UW Policy Regarding Illness and Missed Tests**

The University of Waterloo Examination Regulations

([www.registrar.uwaterloo.ca/exams/ExamRegs.pdf](http://www.registrar.uwaterloo.ca/exams/ExamRegs.pdf)) state that:

A medical certificate presented in support of an official petition for relief from normal academic requirements must provide all of the information requested on the 'University of Waterloo Verification of Illness' form or it will not be accepted. This form can be obtained from Health Services or at

[www.healthservices.uwaterloo.ca/Health\\_Services/verification.html](http://www.healthservices.uwaterloo.ca/Health_Services/verification.html)

If a student has a test/examination deferred due to acceptable medical evidence, he or she normally will write the test/examination at a mutually convenient time, to be determined by the course instructor.

The University acknowledges that, due to the pluralistic nature of the university community, some students may on religious grounds require alternative times to write tests and examinations. Elective travel arrangements (such as travel plans) are not considered acceptable grounds for granting an alternative examination time.

## Other Information

**Academic Integrity:** In order to maintain a culture of academic integrity, members of the University of Waterloo and its Federated and Affiliated Colleges are expected to promote honesty, trust, fairness, respect and responsibility.

**Discipline:** A student is expected to know what constitutes academic integrity, to avoid committing academic offences, and to take responsibility for their actions. A student who is unsure whether an action constitutes an offence, or who needs help in learning how to avoid offences (e.g. plagiarism, cheating) or about 'rules' for group work or collaboration should seek guidance from the course professor, academic advisor, or the Associate Dean. When misconduct has been found to have occurred, disciplinary penalties will be imposed under St Jerome's University Academic Discipline Policy and UW Policy 71 - Student Discipline. For information on categories of offences and types of penalties, students should refer to Policy 71 - Student Discipline,

<http://uwaterloo.ca/secretariat/policies-procedures-guidelines/policy-71>.

**Grievance:** A student who believes that a decision affecting some aspect of his or her university life has been unfair or unreasonable may have grounds for initiating a grievance. Students who decide to file a grievance should refer to Policy 71 – Student Petitions and Grievances. In such a case, contact Dr Scott Kline ([scott.kline@uwaterloo.ca](mailto:scott.kline@uwaterloo.ca)), Associate Dean of St Jerome's University.

**Appeals:** A student may appeal the finding or penalty in a decision made under Policy 71 – Student Discipline or Policy 70 – Student Petitions and Grievances if a ground for an appeal can be established. In such a case, contact Dr John Rempel ([jrempel@uwaterloo.ca](mailto:jrempel@uwaterloo.ca)), Appeals Officer of St Jerome's University.

**Academic Integrity website (Arts):**

[http://arts.uwaterloo.ca/arts/ugrad/academic\\_responsibility.html](http://arts.uwaterloo.ca/arts/ugrad/academic_responsibility.html)

**Academic Integrity Office (UW)** <http://uwaterloo.ca/academic-integrity/>

**Note for students with disabilities:** The AccessAbility Services (AS) Office, located in Needles Hall, Room 1132, collaborates with all academic departments to arrange appropriate accommodations for students with disabilities without compromising the academic integrity of the curriculum. If you require academic accommodations to lessen the impact of your disability, please register with the AS Office at the beginning of each academic term.

**Turnitin.com:** Plagiarism detection software (Turnitin) will be used to screen assignments in this course. This is being done to verify that use of all material and sources in assignments is documented. In the first lecture of the term, details will be provided about the arrangements for the use of Turnitin in this course.

*Note: Students must be given a reasonable option if they do not want their assignment screened by Turnitin. See <http://uwaterloo.ca/academic-integrity/integrity-waterloo-faculty/turnitin-waterloo> for more information.*

**Great Dialogues I & II & III & IV**  
**HUMSC 101 & 102 & 201 & 301**  
**Course Descriptions**

**Great Dialogues I: Reflection & Action**  
**HUMSC 101**

What is the relationship between thinking and action? Do they pull us in different directions? Can they be integrated? This course investigates how our own dialogue with core texts from antiquity (e.g. Homer, Plato, Christian scriptures) to the present (e.g. Descartes, Arendt) offers ways of understanding the dilemmas and issues raised by these texts and present in our culture and in ourselves.

No Special Consent Required

**Great Dialogues II: Politics & Morality**  
**HUMSC 102**

What is the relationship between politics and morality? Are they opposites? Can they be integrated? This course investigates how our own dialogue with core texts from the Renaissance to the present (e.g. Machiavelli, Shakespeare, Freud, Conrad, Arendt) offers ways of thinking through the dilemmas and issues raised by these texts and present in our culture and in ourselves.

No Special Consent Required

**Great Dialogues III: Reason and Faith**  
**HUMSC 201**

What is the nature of, and relationship between, reason and faith? Does this fundamental distinction lead to other distinctions such as those between explanation and revelation, the rational and the intuitive? What impact do such modes of thought have on notions such as providence, perception and truth? What comparisons and contrasts can be drawn between each mode and prevailing modern perspectives? This course investigates how a dialogue with core texts (e.g. Boethius, Aquinas, Dante, Bacon, Milton, Descartes, Hume, Austen) offers ways of understanding these issues.

Prereq: Level at least 2A.

**Great Dialogues IV: The Sacred and the Profane**  
**HUMSC 301**

What is the nature of and relationship between the sacred and the profane? This course will examine diverse manifestations of the sacred and the profane by emphasizing the nature of their interaction and the impact on our understanding of contemporary human civilization. A dialogical method in exploring these ideas will be encouraged. Areas to be investigated include space, time, ritual, culture, morality, life and death. The readings will be taken from core texts spanning a wide variety of fields and authors (e.g. Eliade, Wittgenstein, Heidegger, Pieper, Charles Taylor, Mary Douglas, etc.)

Prereq: Level at least 3A or one of HUMSC 101, HUMSC 102, HUMSC 201