

HUM2305: What is the Good Life?

(FALL 2011, Sections 014A, 014B, 014C, 014D, 014E, 014F, 014G, 014H, 015A)

Lecture: MW 5th
Room: Pugh Hall 170

INSTRUCTORS

Professor Stuart Finkel: sfinkel@ufl.edu

Office: Keene-Flint Hall 221

Office Hours: Tuesdays, 10:00-11:45am and by appointment

Teaching Preceptors

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Office Hours to be announced

DISCUSSION SECTIONS

014A	R5	MAT007	Andrew Roth
014B	R5	MAT051	William Fischer
014C	R4	CBD316	Andrew Roth
014D	R5	WEIM1084	Rachel Slivon
014E	R6	UST108	William Fischer
014F	R4	DAU342	William Fischer
014G	F6	WEIM1070	Andrew Roth
014H	F5	BLK315	Rachel Slivon
015A	F6	RNK225	Rachel Slivon

COURSE DESCRIPTION

This course examines the enduring question “What is the Good Life?” from the perspectives of the humanities. Topics include the cost of the good life, how people have chosen to live as members of local and global communities, and conceptions and expressions of beauty, power, love, and health.

COURSE WEB SITE

General Good Life course site at <http://undergrad.aa.ufl.edu/hum-course.aspx>

Course materials for Fall 2011 available on Sakai at <https://lss.at.ufl.edu/>

INTRODUCTION/OVERVIEW

Through a close examination of relevant works of visual and expressive arts, architecture, literature, history, religion, and philosophy, students in this class will consider the basic question, “What is the Good Life?” and the price human beings are willing to pay to achieve it. Common elements in all sections of the course include reflecting upon and critiquing readings, a common humanities lecture, museum exhibits, and performances. The course will serve as an invitation to the Humanities and to a lifetime of reflection on the human condition through the unique opportunities available to the students at the University of Florida.

The Humanities, a cluster of disciplines that inquire into the very nature and experience of being human, provide many approaches to the question ‘What is the good life,’ as well as a multiform treasury of responses that comprises the cultural and intellectual legacy of world humanity.

The question is especially relevant for a detailed examination as you become more and more involved in making the decisions that will shape your future and the future of others. In order to make reasonable, ethical, well-informed life choices, it is useful to reflect upon how one might aspire to live both as an individual, and a member of local and global communities.

The course is interdisciplinary and draws on the considerable humanities resources at UF. It is also cross-cultural and draws on the full range of human experience across the world and through time in trying to answer the question: “What is the good life?” The lectures, discussion sections, and other readings are specific to each section of this course.

COMMON ACTIVITIES

This course expects students to become actively engaged in experiences unique to UF. As such, course requirements include attending a performance at the Phillips Center (AnDa Union, October 20th, 7:30pm), visiting the Harn Museum (cell phone tour available between September 1 and October 31, 2011), and participating in a Humanities lecture. More information on these activities can be found at the course Sakai site.

TEXTS

All common (“gateway”) readings and other materials, as well as those assigned specifically by Dr. Finkel (“pillar” readings, images, and videos) are available under the Lesson tab on the course Sakai website except where otherwise indicated.

GENERAL EDUCATION REQUIREMENTS

This course meets three (3) hours of the University of Florida’s General Education Requirement in the Humanities (H) area by providing instruction in the key themes, principles and terminology of several humanities disciplines. By focusing on the history, theory and methodologies used within these disciplines, you will be able to identify and to analyze some of the key elements, biases and influences that shape human thought. By introducing students to the rich legacy of the humanities, this course will emphasize clear and effective analysis and approach to issues and problems from multiple perspectives.

This course has several targeted Student Learning Outcomes. By the conclusion of this course, students will be able to:

- Know the history, underlying theory and methodologies used across several humanities disciplines.
- Identify and analyze key elements, biases, and influences that shape thought within those disciplines.
- Approach issues and problems from multiple disciplinary perspectives.
- Communicate knowledge, thoughts, and reasoning clearly and effectively in forms appropriate to the disciplines, individually and/or in groups.

ASSIGNMENTS AND REQUIREMENTS

1. One 500-word essay, due Tue., September 27th, 2011, by noon. Submit via Sakai. Topic: How *Siddhartha* exemplifies the themes of the Good Life learned thus far. Detailed assignment instructions will be supplied prior to the due date. (10% of course grade)
2. One 500-word essay, due Tue., November 1st, 2011, by noon. Submit via Sakai. Topic: Writing about one or more of the three events experienced outside of class (the Harn Exhibit, the performance, or common Humanities lecture). Students will choose one or more of the events and evaluate the experience as it relates to the Good Life theme. Detailed instructions will be supplied prior to the due date. (10% of course grade)
3. One 1000-word essay on the question: What is the Cost of the Good Life? The first draft of the paper is due in Week 13 in your discussion section (November 17 or 18). Please submit two copies, one for your preceptor and one for a student peer review. Instructions for peer review will be provided in advance. Completed peer reviews are due in discussion sections in Week 15 (December 1 or 2). Students must submit two copies of the reviewed paper, one for the instructor and one for the student author. The final draft must be submitted via Sakai by noon on Tue., December 6, 2011. *Please note: If you do not complete your peer review in a punctual and satisfactory manner, you will not receive a grade for your own paper.* (20% of course grade total for draft, final, and peer reviewing)
4. A one-hour Midterm Exam in lecture class on Wed., October 12, 2011. (20% of course grade)
5. A one-hour Final Exam on university assigned exam schedule: Tue., December 13, 2011. (20% of course grade)
6. Oral and written quizzes--given at the discretion of instructor and teaching assistants. (10% of course grade)
7. Attendance and participation in discussion sections. Students are expected to actively engage in class discussions throughout the semester. (10% of course grade)

ATTENDANCE

Regular attendance and completion of required reading is expected in this course. Students are responsible for all the material covered in this course. Lectures will complement the reading. Attendance will be taken during each lecture and discussion section. Do not register for this class if you cannot arrive on time. Tardiness harms your understanding of the material and disrupts the class. After the first late arrival, the instructor reserves the right to mark you absent for the day. The instructors will *not* provide notes, or discuss material that has already been covered in class. You are allowed one absence; after that each unexcused absence will result in a one-step grade reduction (e.g. from a B+ to B, or a B to a B-).

GORDON RULE REQUIREMENTS

This course is an E2 Gordon Rule Course, which means that students will have a minimum of 2,000 written words evaluated on the effectiveness, organization, clarity and coherence of the writing, as well as the grammar, punctuation and usage of standard written English.

Please make sure that your essays fulfill the minimum word requirements so that you can receive Gordon Rule credit for this class. Please keep in mind that in order to secure E2 Gordon Rule credit for this course, you will need to earn a C grade or better **and** satisfy the writing requirements of this course. It is possible not to meet the writing requirement and still pass the class. Students should review their degree audits after receiving their grades to verify receipt of credit for the writing component.

GRADING SCALE AND ASSIGNMENT SUMMARY

Grade Proportion	Grade Scale	Grade Value
Analytical essay 20%	100-93=A	A=4.0
First Short Essay 10%	92-90=A-	A-=3.67
Second Short Essay 10 %	89-86=B+	B+=3.33
Mid-Term Exam 20%	85-82=B	B=3.00
Participation 10%	81-79=B-	B-=2.67
Quizzes 10%	78-75=C+	C+=2.33
Final Exam 20%	75-72=C	C=2.00
	71-69=C-	C-=1.67
	68-66=D+	D+=1.33
	65-62=D	D=1.00
	61-60=D-	D-=0.67
	59-0=E	E=0.00

Please note: An earned grade of "C- " will not be a qualifying grade for major, minor, Gen. Ed., Gordon Rule, or basic distribution credit.

ACADEMIC HONESTY

Students must conform to UF's academic honesty policy regarding plagiarism and other forms of cheating. This means that on all work submitted for credit by students at the University of Florida, the following pledge is either required or implied: "On my honor, I have neither given nor received unauthorized aid in doing this assignment." The university specifically prohibits cheating, plagiarism, misrepresentation, bribery, conspiracy, and fabrication. For more information about the definition of these terms and other aspects of the Honesty Guidelines, see <http://www.dso.ufl.edu/judicial/academic.php> and <http://www.chem.ufl.edu/~itl/honor.html>.

All students found to have cheated, plagiarized, or otherwise violated the Honor Code in *any assignment* for this course will be prosecuted to the full extent of the university honor policy, including judicial action and the sanctions listed in paragraph XI of the Student Conduct Code. For serious violations, you will fail this course.

STUDENTS WITH DISABILITIES

Please do not hesitate to ask for accommodation for a documented disability. Students requesting classroom accommodation must first register with the Dean of Students Office (<http://www.dso.ufl.edu/drp/>). The Dean of Students Office will provide documentation to the student, who must then provide this documentation to the Instructor when requesting accommodation. Please ask the instructor if you would like any assistance in this process.

OTHER POLICIES, RULES, AND RESOURCES

1. *Handing in Assignments*: Assignments should both be submitted on the class Sakai website electronically and also turned in as a hard copy to your Preceptor. Please also keep a dated electronic copy of all of your papers.
2. *Late or Make-Up Assignments*: You may receive an extension on an assignment *only* in extraordinary circumstances *and* with prior approval from the instructor. If an extension is not granted, the assignment will be marked down 1/3 grade (e.g., from B+ to B) for each day late.
3. *Completion of All Assignments*: You must complete all written and oral assignments and fulfill the requirement for class participation in order to pass the course.
4. *Common Courtesy*: Cell phones and other electronic devices must be turned off during class. Students who receive or make calls or text messages during class will be asked to leave and marked absent for the day. The instructors may ask students engaging in disruptive behavior, including but not limited to whispering or snoring, to leave the class. If that occurs, the student will be marked absent for the day.
5. *Computer Use in Class*: You may take notes on a laptop computer **ONLY WITH PRIOR PERMISSION OF THE INSTRUCTOR**. Such permission is usually granted only in cases of documented disabilities. If you are given permission to use a computer in class, you must sit in the back row where the TAs can check your screen to make sure you are taking notes rather than playing poker, emailing, or otherwise straying off task.
6. *Counseling Resources*: Resources available on-campus for students include the following:
 - a. University Counseling Center, 301 Peabody Hall, 392-1575, personal and career counseling;
 - b. Student Mental Health, Student Health Care Center, 392-1171, personal counseling;
 - c. Sexual Assault Recovery Services (SARS), Student Health Care Center, 392-1161, sexual counseling;
 - d. Career Resource Center, Reitz Union, 392-1601, career development assistance and counseling.
7. *Software Use*: All faculty, staff, and students of the University are required and expected to obey the laws and legal agreements governing software use. Failure to do so can lead to monetary damages and/or criminal penalties for the individual violator. Because such violations are also against University policies and rules, disciplinary action will be taken as appropriate.

COURSE SCHEDULE

WEEK ONE: THINKING ABOUT THE GOOD LIFE

(Lectures: Aug. 22nd & 24th)

Gateway Materials:

Vivien Sung, *Five fold Happiness: Chinese concepts of luck, prosperity, longevity, happiness, and wealth*. (San Francisco: Chronicle Books, 2002); 11- 12; 18- 19; 34, 49, 70-71; 94-95 and 97; 152, 156-157; 204-205; 207; 210-211, 214.

Dominik Wujastyk, ed., and trans. *The Roots of Ayurveda* (New York: Penguin, 2003), 61-62, 67-70.

Pillar Materials:

Marquis de Condorcet, excerpts from *Sketch for a Historical Picture of the Progress of the Human Mind*. Online at <http://www.fordham.edu/halsall/mod/condorcet-progress.html>

WEEK TWO: THINKING ABOUT THE GOOD LIFE (cont.)

(Lectures: Aug. 29th & 31st)

Gateway Materials:

Richard Taylor, "Happiness," from his *An Introduction to Virtue Ethics* (Amherst, NY: Prometheus Books, 2002), 107-22.

Pillar Materials:

The Complete Works of Chuang Tzu, pp. 29-35, 37-41, 46-51.

Harn Cell Phone Tour, "Constructing the Good Life,"

Samuel P. Harn Museum of Art, available Sept. 1st through Oct. 31st.

<http://www.harn.ufl.edu/>

WEEKS THREE AND FOUR: SEEKING A GOOD LIFE

(Lectures: Sep. 7th, 12th, & 14th)

Gateway Materials:

Herman Hesse, *Siddhartha* (1922). <http://www.gutenberg.org/files/2500/2500-8.txt>

Pillar Materials:

National Geographic, *Inside Mecca* (film): <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=KFQHgdmJqjo>

Zora Neale Hurston, "Drenched in Light."

WEEK FIVE: CELEBRATING A GOOD LIFE (Lectures: Sep. 19th & 21st)

Gateway Materials:

Brenda Smith, Multimedia Lecture on “Leonard Bernstein, Music and the Celebration of Life.”
Abraham Joshua Heschel, “A Palace in Time,” Chapter One from his *The Sabbath* (New York: Farrar, Straus and Giroux, 2005), 12-25.

Pillar Materials:

[Reprised: Zora Neale Hurston, “Drenched in Light.”]

Petronius, “The Banquet of Trimalchio” from *The Satyricon*. Online at
<http://www.fordham.edu/halsall/ancient/petronius-satyricon-feast.asp>

Carnival Night (directed by Eldar Ryazanov), http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=g_m017ebtD8
[Note: click “CC” on video’s bottom control bar to show subtitles]

WEEK SIX: EMBODYING A GOOD LIFE (Lectures: Sep. 26th & 28th)

Gateway Materials:

Interview and excerpt from Rebecca Skloot, *The Immortal Life of Henrietta Lacks* (New York: Crown, 2010). Online at <http://www.npr.org/templates/story/story.php?storyId=123232331> (37 min)

Emily Prager, “Our Barbies, Ourselves,” originally titled “Major Barbie” by Emily Prager.
Originally appeared in the December 1991 issue of *Interview*.

Pillar Materials:

Franz Kafka, “The Metamorphosis.” Online at <http://www.gutenberg.org/ebooks/5200>

Essay One Due at noon, Tuesday, Sept. 27th, on course *Sakai* website.

WEEK SEVEN: OWNING THE GOOD LIFE (Lectures: Oct. 3rd and 5th)

Gateway Materials:

The Painted Desert by Geraldine Brooks

http://www.griffithreview.com/images/stories/edition_articles/ed2_pdfs/brooksed2.pdf and
http://www.nma.gov.au/exhibitions/ngurrara_the_great_sandy_desert_canvas/about_the_canvas

Pillar Materials:

Leo Tolstoy, “How Much Land Does a Man Need?” Online at

http://en.wikisource.org/wiki/How_Much_Land_Does_a_Man_Need%3F

Excerpts from Karl Marx & Friedrich Engels, *The Communist Manifesto*.

American Petroleum Institute, *Destination Earth*. View online at:

<http://www.archive.org/details/Destinat1956>

WEEK EIGHT: SUSTAINING THE GOOD LIFE (Lecture: Oct. 10th)

Gateway Materials:

Aldo Leopold, "The Land Ethic," from *A Sand County Almanac and Sketches Here and There* (New York: Oxford University Press, 1948), 201-226.

<http://home.btconnect.com/tipiglen/landethic.html> and <http://www.aldoleopold.org/about/LandEthic.pdf>

Mid-Term Exam in class on Wed., Oct. 12th

WEEK NINE: CONSTRUCTING THE GOOD LIFE (Lectures: Oct. 17th & 19th)

Gateway Materials:

Margaret Carr, Multimedia lecture on UF's "The Plaza of the Americas."

Pillar Materials:

[Reprised: Condorcet, excerpts from *Sketch for a Historical Picture of the Progress of the Human Mind.*]

Fëdor Dostoevsky, part one of *Notes from Underground*. Online at

<http://www.gutenberg.org/files/600/600.txt>

Yevgeny Zamyatin, excerpts from *We*.

View images of (1) The Crystal Palace, from the London Exhibition, 1851, and
(2) Constructivist Architecture (early 20th century).

AnDa Union: "From the Steppes to the City. Music from Inner Mongolia," Phillips Center for the Performing Arts, Thursday, October 20, 7:30pm.

<http://performingarts.ufl.edu/events/2011/anda-union/>

WEEK TEN: GOVERNING THE GOOD LIFE (Lectures: Oct. 24th & 26th)

Gateway Materials:

Sherman A. Jackson, "What is Shariah and Why Does It Matter?"

http://www.huffingtonpost.com/sherman-a-jackson/what-is-shariah-and-why-d_b_710976.html

Declaration of the Rights of Man and Citizen (1789).

http://avalon.law.yale.edu/18th_century/rightsof.asp

Pillar Materials:

Declaration of Independence of the United States of America (1776). Online at

<http://www.loc.gov/rr/program/bib/ourdocs/DeclarInd.html>

V. I. Lenin, excerpts from *State and Revolution* (1918).

WEEKS ELEVEN AND TWELVE: FIGHTING FOR A GOOD LIFE (Lectures: Oct. 31st, Nov. 2nd, 7th & 9th)

Gateway Materials:

Martin Luther King, "Letter from Birmingham Jail," (1963).
http://www.africa.upenn.edu/Articles_Gen/Letter_Birmingham.html

Antigone. <http://classics.mit.edu/Sophocles/antigone.html>

Pillar Materials:

Vera Figner, excerpts from *Memoirs of a Revolutionary*.

Essay Two Due at noon, Tuesday, Nov. 1st, on course Sakai website.

WEEK THIRTEEN: SHARING A GOOD LIFE (Lectures: Nov. 14th & 16th)

Gateway Materials:

Guido Guinizelli's Manifesto of Love. <http://www.elfinspell.com/GuidoGuinizelliPoems.html>

Song of Songs. <http://www.hebrewsongs.com/songofsongs.htm>

Plato, *Symposium* 210a-212b (Diotima's Ladder of Love).
<http://www.mesacc.edu/~yount/text/plato-ladder.html>

Pillar Materials:

Sigmund Freud, selections from *Civilization and its Discontents*.

First draft of analytical essay due this week in discussion section and then distributed for peer review.

WEEKS FOURTEEN AND FIFTEEN: QUESTIONING THE GOOD LIFE (Lectures: Nov. 21st, 23rd, 28th, & 30th)

Gateway Materials:

Henry Thoreau, "Where I Lived, and What I Lived For" and "Conclusion," from *Walden*.
Online at <http://thoreau.eserver.org/walden02.html> and <http://thoreau.eserver.org/walden18.html>

Pillar Materials:

[Reprinted: Fëdor Dostoevsky, part one of *Notes from Underground*.]

Herman Melville, "Bartleby the Scrivener." Online at
<http://www.gutenberg.org/files/11231/11231.txt>

Nikolai Gogol, "The Overcoat." Online at http://en.wikisource.org/wiki/The_Cloak

T. S. Eliot, "The Waste Land." Online at http://en.wikisource.org/wiki/Waste_Land

WEEK SIXTEEN: PERPETUATING THE GOOD LIFE

(Lectures: Dec. 5th & 7th)

Gateway Materials:

Chapter Two of Barbara Stoler Miller, trans. *The Bhagavad-Gita : Krishna's Counsel in Time of War* (New York: Bantam Classics, 1986), 31-41.

Pillar Materials:

Albert Camus, "The Myth of Sisyphus."

Dudley Clendinen, "The Good Short Life." Online at

<http://www.nytimes.com/2011/07/10/opinion/sunday/10als.html?pagewanted=all>

Essay Three Due at noon, Tuesday, Dec. 6th, on course *Sakai* website.

FINAL EXAM, Tuesday December 13th, 7:30-9:30am, Pugh Hall 170

Please note: The exam must be taken during scheduled exam time, with no exceptions.