

**HUM2305: What is the Good Life?
Fall 2012**

Professor Sid Dobrin

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Discussion Sections

Section	Time	Location	Teaching Assistant
1C71	F 3	MAT 251	Lankina
1D18	F 3	RNK 215	Moore
1C72	F 4	LEI 142	Sanderson
1C73	F 5	MAT 15	Sanderson
1C74	F 6	NRN 184	Lankina
1C75	F 7	NSC 225	Sanderson
1C76	F 8	TUR 2336	Lankina
1C66	R 5	TUR 2354	Moore
1C67	R 6	LEI 242	Gilmore
1C68	R 7	DAU 342	Gilmore
1D17	R 7	UST 108	Moore
1C69	R 8	LEI 242	Gilmore

Course Description

This course examines the enduring question “What is the Good Life?” from a broad range of humanistic perspectives. 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 What is the Good Life? course site at <http://undergrad.aa.ufl.edu/hum-course.aspx>

Course materials are available on Sakai at: <https://lss.at.ufl.edu/>

Overview

Through a close examination of relevant works of art, architecture, history, literature, music,

religion, and philosophy, students will consider the basic question, “What is the Good Life?” Elements common to all sections include a set of core readings, a common humanities lecture, a museum exhibit, and performances at the Phillip Center. 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, provides 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, visiting the Harn Museum, and participating in the Humanities Common Lecture. More information on these activities can be found at the course Sakai site.

Texts

Required readings and materials for the course consist of two types: “Gateway” and “Pillar.”

Gateway readings are common to all sections of HUM 2305, regardless of the instructor. They are available either through Sakai or by the hyperlinks in the “Weekly Schedule” of the Syllabus.

Pillar readings have been chosen by the individual instructors who have determined how they will be made available.

Hesse’s *Siddhartha* and Sophocles’ *Antigone* are listed in Textbook Adoption as “recommended readings,” so they are available in local bookstores for those who prefer to read these works in the paperback edition. If you prefer, you can read the free versions by clicking on the hyperlinks in the syllabus.

Enhancement Materials

In addition to the readings, some weeks you will be assigned enhancement materials, including on-line presentations, podcasts, audio and video files, etc. Examples are available at <http://undergrad.aa.ufl.edu/resources.aspx>

University Humanities Requirement

Effective Summer B 2012, each student who matriculates as a first-time-in-college student (FTIC) at UF will be required to complete HUM 2305 with a minimum grade of C. FITC students are expected to enroll in HUM 2305 during their first year and complete the course no later than their fourth fall/spring semester.

General Education Requirements

This course also 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 (Short Essay One), **due 8:00 AM on Monday, September 24, via Sakai**, on how Siddhartha exemplifies the themes of the Good Life learned thus far. Detailed assignment instructions will be supplied prior to the due date. (100 points, 10% of course grade)
2. One 500-word essay (Short Essay Two), **due 8:00 AM on Tuesday, October 30, via Sakai**, on a topic relating to one or more of the three events experienced outside of class. 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. (100 points, 10% of course grade)
3. One 1000-word essay (Analytical Essay), **due 8:00 AM on Monday, November 19 via Sakai**, on the question: What is the Cost of the Good Life? In consultation with the

teaching preceptors, students will select a subject for the analytical essay. (200 points, 20% of course grade)

4. A one-hour Midterm Exam on **Thursday, October 11, 2012**. (200 points, 20% of the course grade)
5. A one-hour Final Exam during the course's assembly exam scheduled time: **Saturday, December 8 at 12:30 PM**. (200 points, 20% of course grade)
6. Quizzes. Throughout the semester, the instructor will post ten fill-in-the-blank/multiple choice type quizzes about assigned readings and class lectures. The quizzes are designed to encourage you to keep up with the reading and pay attention to the lectures. If you keep up with the readings and attend the lectures, you will have no problem getting all of the answers on the quiz correct. If you have not read the assignments or have not attended the lectures, your chances of doing as well diminish. (100 points, 10% of course grade).
7. Attendance and participation in discussion sections. Students are expected to actively engage in class discussions throughout the semester. (100 points, 10% of course grade)

Attendance

Attendance will be taken during each lecture and discussion section. 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 three unexcused absences; 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-) in your participation grade.

Grading Scale and Assignment Summary

Grade Proportion	Grade Scale	Grade Value
Short Essay 1: 100 points (10%)	100-93 = A	A = 4.0
Short Essay 2: 100 points (10%)	92-90 = A-	A- = 3.67
Analytical Essay: 200 points (20%)	89-87 = B+	B+ = 3.33
Mid-Term Exam: 200 points (20%)	86-83 = B	B = 3.00
Participation and Attendance: 100 points (10%) (50—Attendance/ 50—participation)	82-79 = B-	B- = 2.67
Quizzes: 100 points (10%)	78-75 = C+	C+ = 2.33
Final Exam: 200 points (20%)	74-72 = C	C = 2.00
Total: 1,000 points (100%)	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>.

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 due in class should be handed directly to your TA. **All other assignments must be submitted online through Sakai.**
2. *Late or Make-Up Assignments:* You may receive an extension on an assignment *only* in extraordinary circumstances and *only* if the request for the extension is (a) prompt, (b) timely, and (c) accompanied by all necessary written documentation.
 - In the case of an absence due to participation in an official university activity, observance of a religious holiday, performance of a military duty, or other formal services that conflict with the scheduled assignment (e.g., jury duty), the student is required to notify the instructor of the conflict *before the assignment is due*, and if possible at the start of the semester.
 - 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.
 - For further information on University of Florida’s attendance policy, consult <https://catalog.ufl.edu/ugrad/current/regulations/info/attendance.aspx>

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.
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.

Weekly Schedule

Week One: Introduction

Thursday, August 23, 2012

Course Introduction

Gateway and Pillar Readings:

Begin Readings for Week Two

Week Two: Thinking About the Good Life

Tuesday, August 28, 2012

Thursday, August 30, 2012

Gateway Reading:

1. 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. (available through Sakai)

2. Dominik Wujastyk, ed., and trans. *The Roots of Ayurveda* (New York: Penguin, 2003), 61-70. (available through Sakai)

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

Pillar Readings:

"What is a Good Life?" by Ronald Dworkin. *New York Review of Books* (February 10, 2011): <http://www.nybooks.com/articles/archives/2011/feb/10/what-good-life/?pagination=false>

Excerpts from *Man's Search for Meaning* by Viktor Frankl: <http://www.pbs.org/wgbh/questionofgod/voices/frankl.html>

Weeks Three and Four: Seeking the Good Life

Tuesday, September 4, 2012

Thursday, September 6, 2012

Tuesday, September 11, 2012

Thursday, September 13, 2012

Gateway Reading:

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

Pillar Viewing:

Film: *The Razor's Edge* (screening during lecture)

Week Five: Celebrating the Good Life

Tuesday, September 18, 2012

Thursday, September 20, 2012

Gateway Readings:

1. Brenda Smith, Multimedia Lecture on “Leonard Bernstein, Music and the Celebration of Life.” <http://streaming.video.ufl.edu/~hum2305/Beethoven/Beethoven.html>
2. Leonard Bernstein’s Video on “Ode to Joy.”
http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=nZJ1Tgf4JL8&feature=BFa&list=FLiDpEi9JG_Dk&index=47
3. Abraham Joshua Heschel, “A Palace in Time,” Chapter One from his *The Sabbath* (New York: Farrar, Straus and Giroux, 2005), 12-25. (Available through Sakai)

Pillar Reading:

“Drinking,” From *Courtesans and Fishcakes: The Consuming Passions of Classical Athens* by Davidson

“A Celebration of Life...” by Rene Dubos

www.clas.ufl.edu/users/sdobrin/CelebrationofLife.pdf

Pillar Viewing:

- Eric Whitacre’s *Virtual Choirs* (screenings during lecture)
- Perpetuum Jazzile, “Africa” (screenings during lecture)
- Harlem Gospel Choir (screenings during lecture)
- Ladysmith Black Mambazo (screenings during lecture)

Week Six: Embodying the Good Life

Tuesday, September 25, 2012

Thursday, September 27, 2012

Gateway Readings:

1. Interview and excerpt from Rebecca Skloot, *The Immortal Life of Henrietta Lacks* (New York: Crown, 2010). Available online at the National Public Radio website at the following address:
<http://www.npr.org/templates/story/story.php?storyId=123232331> (37 minutes)
2. Emily Prager, “Our Barbies, Ourselves,” originally titled “Major Barbie” by Emily Prager. Originally appeared in the December 1991 issue of *Interview*. (Available through Sakai)

Pillar Readings:

“What’s a Culture Snob to Do?” by James Wolcott

<http://www.vanityfair.com/culture/features/2009/08/wolcott200908>

“A Double Edged Sword: Understanding Vanity Across Cultures” Srinivas Durvasula and Steven Lysonski. *Journal of Consumer Marketing*, Vol. 25 Issue 4, pp 230 - 244 (Fall, 2008).

DOI: [10.1108/07363760810882425](https://doi.org/10.1108/07363760810882425) [URL to be added]

Short Essay 1 due 8:00 AM on Monday, September 24 via Sakai

Week Seven: Owning the Good Life

Tuesday, October 2, 2012

Thursday, October 4, 2012

Gateway Materials:

The Painted Desert by Geraldine Brooks

1. http://www.griffithreview.com/images/stories/edition_articles/ed2_pdfs/brooksed2.pdf

2. http://www.nma.gov.au/exhibitions/ngurrara_the_great_sandy_desert_canvas/home

Pillar Readings:

John Berger, *Ways of Seeing* (London, Penguin Books, 1972) p. 129-154. (Available through Sakai)

Week Eight: Sustaining the Good Life

Tuesday, October 9, 2012

Thursday, October 11, 2012

Gateway Readings:

1. 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>

2. Brochure from the Aldo Leopold Foundation. (Available through Sakai)

Pillar Readings:

“Four Challenges of Sustainability,” David W. Orr (Available through Sakai)

“The Conundrum of Consumption,” Alan Thein Durning (Available through Sakai)

“The Story of E-Waste: What Happens to Tech Once It’s Trash,” by Gord Gable

<http://www.gizmodo.com.au/2011/04/the-story-of-e-waste-what-happens-to-tech-once-its-trash/#more-449320>

“Would You Like that Book in Paper or Plastic?” by Erika Engelhaupt

<http://pubs.acs.org/doi/pdf/10.1021/es087144e>

“Tuna’s End,” by Paul Greenberg

http://www.nytimes.com/2010/06/27/magazine/27Tuna-t.html?_r=2

Pillar Viewing:

“The Story of Stuff,” by Annie Leonard

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=9GorqroigqM>

Mid-Term Exam during Week Eight [Thursday]

Week Nine: Constructing the Good Life

Tuesday, October 16, 2012

Thursday, October 18, 2012

Gateway Materials:

1. Margaret Carr, Multimedia lecture on UF’s “The Plaza of the Americas.”

http://streaming.video.ufl.edu/~hum2305/Good_Life_final.html

2. Related Assignment. (Available through Sakai)

Pillar Readings:

Selections from *Species of Spaces and Other Pieces* by Georges Perec. (Available through Sakai)

Selections from *Cosmicomics*, Italo Calvino. (Available through Sakai)

Week Ten: Governing the Good Life

Tuesday, October 23, 2012

Thursday, October 25, 2012

Gateway Readings:

1. 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

2. Declaration of the Rights of Man and Citizen.

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

Pillar Readings:

****NEED TO ADD ONE MORE**

Pillar Viewing:

Violence, Warfare, and Society

http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ks_LwN4HwiA

Weeks Eleven and Twelve: Fighting For the Good Life

Tuesday, October 30, 2012

Thursday, November 1, 2012

Tuesday, November 6, 2012

Thursday, November 8, 2012

Gateway Readings:

1. Martin Luther King, "Letter from a Birmingham Jail," (1963).

http://www.africa.upenn.edu/Articles_Gen/Letter_Birmingham.html

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

Pillar Readings:

"First They Came," Martin Niemöller. (Available through Sakai)

"And Then They Came for Me," by Lasantha Wickramatunga

<http://www.thesundayleader.lk/archive/20090111/editorial-.htm>

Huffington Post on Lasantha Wickramatunga

http://www.huffingtonpost.com/2009/01/08/lasantha-wickramatunga-sr_n_156206.html

"Small Change: Why the Revolution will not be Tweeted," by Malcolm Gladwell

http://www.newyorker.com/reporting/2010/10/04/101004fa_fact_gladwell

Short Essay 2 due 8:00 AM on Tuesday October 30 via Sakai.

Week Thirteen: Sharing the Good Life

Tuesday, November 13, 2012

Thursday, November 15, 2012

Gateway Readings:

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

2. Plato, *Symposium* 210a-212b (Diotima's Ladder of Love).

<http://www.mesacc.edu/~yount/text/plato-ladder.html>

3. Guido Guinizelli's Manifesto of Love.

<http://www.elfinspell.com/GuidoGuinizelliPoems.html>

Pillar Readings:

“Flickr and Public Image-Sharing: Distant Closeness and Photo Exhibition,” by Nancy A. Van House, University of California Berkeley. (Available through Sakai)

“Give and Take: A Study of Consumer Photo-Sharing Culture and Practice,” by Andrew D. Miller and W. Keith Edwards, Georgia Tech. (Available through Sakai)

“The Sharing Culture Grows and Grows,” by Chris Brogan.

<http://www.quepublishing.com/articles/article.aspx?p=1823360&seqNum=6>

“How Google earth is Preserving, Sharing Indigenous Culture,” by Zoe Fox

<http://mashable.com/2012/06/25/google-earth-surui-cultural-map/>

Weeks Fourteen and Fifteen: Questioning the Good Life

Tuesday, November 20, 2012

Tuesday, November 27, 2012

Gateway Readings:

Henry Thoreau, “Where I Lived, and What I Lived For” and “Conclusion,” from *Walden*.

Available online at the following websites:

a. <http://thoreau.eserver.org/walden02.html>

b. <http://thoreau.eserver.org/walden18.html>

Pillar Readings:

Plato, The Euthyphro

<http://eawc.evansville.edu/anthology/euthyphro.htm> or <http://classics.mit.edu/Plato/euthyphro.html>

“Is the American Dream Dead?” by Chris Taylor

<http://blogs.reuters.com/reuters-money/2011/06/23/is-the-american-dream-dead/>

Analytical Essay due 8:00 AM on Monday, November 19 via Sakai.

Thanksgiving Break: November 21-23

Weeks Fifteen and Sixteen: Perpetuating the Good Life

Thursday, November 29, 2012

Tuesday, December 4, 2012

Gateway Readings:

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

Pillar Readings:

“Rethinking the American Dream,” by David Kamp

<http://www.vanityfair.com/culture/features/2009/04/american-dream200904>

Final Exam: Saturday, December 8 at 12:30 PM.

Since this is an assembly exam, which must be taken at its formally scheduled time, every student must make whatever arrangements are necessary to be present on this day and at this time to take the final.

For university policies on final examinations, please consult http:

<https://catalog.ufl.edu/ugrad/current/regulations/info/exams.aspx>