

HUM2305: What is the Good Life?

FALL 2012

Lecture: Tuesday and Thursday, Period 2 (8:30-9:20 a.m.)

Room: 137 Norman Hall

INSTRUCTOR

Dr. David G. Hackett

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Office: 122 Anderson Hall

Office Hours: Tuesday 11:30-1:30; Thursday 12:40-1:40 and by appointment

TEACHING ASSISTANTS

(Offices and Office Hours TBA)

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DISCUSSION SECTIONS

Section	Time	Location	Teaching Assistant
1D81	Thursday 3	Turlington B310	Sara Kovachich
1D82	Thursday 3	Little 207	Tamar Ditzian
1D83	Thursday 5	Leigh 242	David Whitehead
1D84	Thursday 6	Turlington B310	David Whitehead
1D85	Thursday 7	Turlington B310	David Whitehead
1D86	Thursday 8	Leigh 104	Sara Kovachich
1D87	Thursday 9	Turlington 2336	Sara Kovachich
1D88	Friday 2	Turlington 2342	Matthew Michel
1D89	Friday 3	Weimer 1092	Tamar Ditzian
1D90	Friday 2	Anderson 13	Tamar Ditzian
1D91	Friday 5	Norman 184	Matthew Michel
1D92	Friday 6	Weimer 1094	Matthew White
1D93	Friday 7	Weimer 1092	Matthew Michel
1D94	Friday 8	Turlington 2334	Matthew White
1D95	Friday 9	Turlington 1101	Matthew White

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 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/>

The Sakai course site for this particular version of the Good Life course is

<https://elearning2.courses.ufl.edu/portal/site/1b118c8e-1f6c-4f00-8f7f-e9e2c1078f43>

Course materials are available through the Resources tab on this site.

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

Students are required to attend the following **three** Common Activities (the Harn Cell Phone Tour, The Phillips Performance, and the Common Humanities Lecture):

1. *The Harn Cell Phone Tour (September 1 - October 27)*

The Cell Phone Tour is at the [Harn Museum of Art](#) (UF Cultural Plaza, SW 34th Street and Hull Road, 352-392-9826). The Harn is open Tuesday - Friday (11 a.m. - 5 p.m.), Saturday (10 a.m. - 5 p.m.), and Sunday (1 p.m. - 5 p.m.).

When students enter the Harn Museum, they need to go to the reception desk and tell the receptionist that they are students in HUM 2305 (What is the Good Life?). They will sign their names in the HUM 2305 folder, and they will receive a card that explains how they can take the cell phone tour of the Good Life Exhibit. For students who would prefer to experience a traditional tour that is more individualized, docents are available to lead them through the Harn's Good Life Exhibit and to answer any questions about the works in the exhibit.

2. *The Phillips Performance*

Students are required to attend **one** of the performances at the [Phillips Center](#) (UF Cultural Plaza, 315 Hull Road, 352-392-ARTS) associated with HUM 2305. Tickets will be distributed in section.

The performances are as follows:

- a. [Tannahill Weavers](http://www.tannahillweavers.com/) (<http://www.tannahillweavers.com/>) on Thursday, September 27 at 7:30 p.m.
- b. [Ragamala Indian Dance](http://ragamala.net/) (ragamala.net/) on Tuesday, October 2 at 7:30 p.m.
- c. [Rioult](http://www.rioult.org/) (<http://www.rioult.org/>) on Thursday, October 25 at 7:30 p.m.

3. *The Humanities Common Lecture*

On Wednesday, October 10, Dr. George Rupp (CEO of the International Rescue Committee and former president of Columbia University) will deliver the Humanities Common Lecture at 7:00 p.m. in the O'Connell Center.

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 through the Resources tab on the course web site.

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 and through the Resources tab on the course web site.

Pillar readings have been chosen by this course's instructor and are available through the Resources tab on the course web site.

ENHANCEMENT MATERIALS

In addition to the readings, some weeks you may be assigned enhancement materials, including on-line presentations, podcasts, audio and video files, etc. These also will be made available through the Resources tab on the course web site.

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 Tuesday, September 25, 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 Tuesday, November 20 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 in **Week 8, Thursday, October 11th in Lecture** (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. At different times during the semester in the discussion section you will be given a pop quiz based on that week's gateway reading(s). These will together account for 80 points. The Week Nine assignment will count for 20 points of the total quiz grade. (Total quiz grade then is 100 points, 10% of the total course grade)

7. Attendance and participation in discussion sections. Students are expected to be present and actively engage in class discussions throughout the semester. (50 points for attendance + 50 points for participation = 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 attendance grade reduction (e..g, from B+ to B, or a B to a B-).

For the university's policy on attendance please consult <https://catalog.ufl.edu/ugrad/current/regulations/info/attendance.aspx>

FINAL EXAMINATION

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

No alternative time will be granted except in extraordinary situations, such as specified in the undergraduate catalog, and only if necessary written documentation is provided.

For the university's policy on final examinations, please consult <https://catalog.ufl.edu/ugrad/current/regulations/info/exams.aspx>

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
Attendance: 100 points (10%)	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>
1. *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.
2. *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.
3. *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.

4. *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 (Aug 22-24)

Gateway and Pillar Readings:

Begin readings for Week Two

Thursday, August 24th Lecture

Discussion Sections

WEEK TWO: THINKING ABOUT THE GOOD LIFE (Aug 27-31)

Gateway Readings:

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 on Sakai).
2. Dominik Wujastyk, ed., and trans. *The Roots of Ayurveda* (New York: Penguin, 2003), 61-70 (Available on Sakai).
3. Richard Taylor, "Happiness," from his *An Introduction to Virtue Ethics* (Amherst, NY: Prometheus Books, 2002), 107-22 (Available on Sakai).

Pillar Readings:

1. Mary Oliver, "The Summer Day" from her New and Selected Poems (Boston: Beacon Press, 1992), 94 (Available on Sakai).
2. Dawna Markova, "May We Not Die Unlived Lives" from her I Will Not Die An Unlived Life: Reclaiming Purpose and Passion (Newburyport, Mass: Conari Press, 2000) (Available on Sakai).

Tuesday, August 28th Lecture

Thursday, August 30th Lecture

Discussion Sections

WEEKS THREE AND FOUR: SEEKING THE GOOD LIFE
(Sept 3-14)

Gateway Reading:

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

Pillar Readings:

1. James W. Fowler, "Stages of Faith," Faith Development and Pastoral Care (Philadelphia: Fortress Press, 1987), 63-71 (Available on Sakai).
2. M. Scott Peck, "Discipline" The Road Less Traveled: A New Psychology of Love, Traditional Values and Spiritual Growth (New York: Simon and Schuster, 1978), 13-20, 32-34, 44-46, 51-58, 64-69 (Available on Sakai).
3. Ranier Maria Rilke, Letters to a Young Poet (New York: Norton, 1954), 34-35 (Available on Sakai).
4. "Lillies of the Field" from the New Testament Matthew 6: 25-34 The Jerusalem Bible (New York: Doubleday, 1961) (Available on Sakai).

Tuesday, September 4th Lecture

Thursday, September 6th Lecture

Discussion Sections

Tuesday, September 11th Lecture

Thursday, September 13th Lecture

Discussion Sections

WEEK FIVE: CELEBRATING THE GOOD LIFE
(Sept 17-21)

Gateway Readings:

1. Brenda Smith and Ronald Burcher, 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 on Sakai).

Tuesday, September 18th Lecture

Thursday, September 20th Lecture

Discussion Sections

**WEEK SIX: EMBODYING THE GOOD LIFE
(Sept 24-28)**

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 on Sakai).

Pillar Reading:

Barbara Fields, "Ideology and Race in American History" in J. Morgan Kousser and James M. McPherson eds. Region, Race, and Reconstruction: Essays in Honor of C. Vann Woodward (Oxford, 1982), 143-157 (Available on Sakai).

Short Essay 1 due 8:00 AM on Tuesday, September 25th via Sakai

Tuesday, September 25th Lecture

Thursday, September 27th Lecture

Discussion Sections

WEEK SEVEN: OWNING THE GOOD LIFE
(Oct 1-5)

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 Reading:

Michael Sandel, "Markets and Morals" from his What Money Can't Buy: The Limits of Markets (New York: Farrar, Strauss, and Rivoux, 2010), 3-16 (Available on Sakai).

Tuesday, October 2nd Lecture

Thursday, October 4th Lecture

Discussion Sections

WEEK EIGHT: SUSTAINING THE GOOD LIFE
(Oct 8-12)

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 on Sakai).

Tuesday, October 9th Lecture

Common Humanities Lecture

Dr. George Rupp, CEO of International Rescue Committee and former president of Columbia University, will be speaking on **October 10 at 7:00 pm** in the O'Connell Center.

Thursday, October 11th: Mid-Term Exam

Discussion Sections

WEEK NINE: CONSTRUCTING THE GOOD LIFE
(Oct 15-19)

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 Reading:

Randy Hester, "Subconscious Landscapes of the Heart" Places 2:3 (1985), 10-22 (Available on Sakai).

Tuesday, October 16th Lecture

Thursday, October 18th Lecture

Discussion Sections

WEEK TEN: GOVERNING THE GOOD LIFE
(Oct 22-26)

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 Reading:

Robert N. Bellah et al "Culture and Character: The Historical Conversation" in Habits of the Heart: Individualism and Commitment in America (Berkeley: University of California Press, 1985), 27-51 (Available on Sakai).

Tuesday, October 23rd Lecture

Thursday, October 25th Lecture

Discussion Sections

WEEKS ELEVEN AND TWELVE: FIGHTING FOR THE GOOD LIFE
(Oct 29-Nov 8)

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>

Enhancement Materials:

Gwendolyn Zohara Simmons
Fighting for the Good Life (MediaSite presentation)
<http://undergrad.aa.ufl.edu/resources.aspx>

Victoria Pagan
Sophocles' *Antigone* Part 1 (MediaSite presentation)
Sophocles' *Antigone* Part 2 (MediaSite presentation)
<http://undergrad.aa.ufl.edu/resources.aspx>

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

Tuesday, October 30th Lecture

Thursday, November 1st Lecture

Discussion Sections

Tuesday, November 6th Lecture

Thursday, November 8th Lecture

Homecoming, November 9th

WEEK THIRTEEN: SHARING THE GOOD LIFE
(Nov 12-16)

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 Reading:

John J.L. Mood, "Rilke's Letters on Love" in his Rilke on Love and other Difficulties (New York: Norton, 1975), 27-37 (Available on Sakai).

Tuesday, November 13th Lecture

Thursday, November 15th Lecture

Discussion Sections

**WEEKS FOURTEEN AND FIFTEEN: QUESTIONING THE GOOD LIFE
(Nov 19-20, 27)**

Gateway Reading:

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>

Analytical Essay due 8:00 AM on Tuesday, November 20th via Sakai.

Tuesday, November 20th Lecture

Thanksgiving Break: November 21-23

Tuesday, November 27th Lecture

Discussion Sections

WEEKS FIFTEEN AND SIXTEEN: PERPETUATING THE GOOD LIFE
(Nov. 29, Dec 4)

Gateway Reading:

1. 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 Reading:

1. Anthony Appiah, "Prologue and Conclusion" from In My Father's House (Oxford University Press, 1992) (Available on Sakai).

Enhancement Materials:

Victoria Rovine

Ending a Good Life Part 1 (MediaSite presentation)

Ending a Good Life Part 2 (MediaSite presentation)

<http://undergrad.aa.ufl.edu/resources.aspx>

Thursday, November 29th Lecture

Tuesday, December 4th Lecture:

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