

HUM2305: What is the Good Life?

FALL 2012

Lecture: Monday Wednesday Period 3 9:35 AM

Room: CSE Building Room A101

INSTRUCTOR Assistant Director John Maze, School of Architecture

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TEACHING ASSISTANTS

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DISCUSSION SECTIONS

Section	Time	Location	Teaching Assistant
011C	F2	TUR 2328	Winn
015D	F3	LIT 223	Litrico
015G	W4	LIT 223	Dusenberry
015H	F5	MAT 108	Litrico
015F	R3	FLI 115	Winn
0944	R5	TUR 2349	Dusenberry
016A	W5	FLI 109	Caraccioli
016B	W6	TUR B310	Litrico
01G6	W7	TUR B310	Caraccioli
011D	W4	ROG 129	Winn
015C	W9	TUR 2353	Caraccioli
013H	R4	UST 108	Dusenberry

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/>

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:

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 either through Sakai or by the hyperlinks in the “Weekly Schedule” of the Syllabus.

Pillar readings have been chosen and are available through Sakai as are the Gateway readings.

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 assistants, students will select a subject for the analytical essay. (200 points, 20% of course grade)
4. A one-hour Midterm Exam in **Week 8, on Wednesday, October 10 in class** (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: oral and written. Will be given at the discretion of instructor and teaching assistants (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-). Of the 100 possible Attendance points, 50 will be allotted to *participation* and 50 to *attendance*.

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.

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: 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>
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

(Aug 22-24)

Gateway and Pillar Readings:

Begin readings for Week Two

WEEK TWO: THINKING ABOUT THE GOOD LIFE

(Aug 27-31)

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:

1. Marcel Proust, "Another Memory" from *The Complete Short Stories of Marcel Proust*, trans. by J. Neugroschel, (NY: Cooper Square Press, 2001); 186-188.
2. Virginia Woolf, "How should One Read a Book?" from *The Second Common Reader* (NY: Harcourt, Brace & World, 1960); 234-245.

WEEKS THREE AND FOUR: SEEKING THE GOOD LIFE

(Sept 3-14)

Labor Day (no class): September 3

Gateway Reading:

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

Pillar Readings:

1. The National Geographic: Inside Mecca Part I (Pilgrimage)
<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=6rlsZfce8jU>

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

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 Readings:

1. Ciaran Carson, *Last Night’s Fun: In and Out of Time with Irish Music* (UK: First North Point Press, 1996). On Sakai.
2. Colin Irwin, *In Search of the Craic: On Man’s Pub Crawl Through Irish Music* (London: Carleton Publishing Group, 2003). On Sakai.

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 through Sakai)

Pillar Readings:

1. “The Diamond Necklace” by Guy de Maupassant
http://www.gutenberg.org/catalog/world/readfile?fk_files=1799242&pageno=52
2. My Friend, Maya: <http://blog.korotkov.tv/my-friend-maya/>

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

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 Activity:

1. On Sakai – due at week’s end at 5:00 Friday, 5 October. Then go enjoy the weekend because next week is our midterm.

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: On Sakai.

Pillar Work:

1. William McDonough: The Wisdom of Designing Cradle to Cradle. <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=loRjz8iTVoo>
2. Philip Glass, *Koyaanisqatsi: Life out of Balance*. <http://vimeo.com/21811390>

Mid-Term Exam will be during Week Eight on Wednesday, October 10 during class.

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 Readings:

1. Vickery, Robert, "Sharing Architecture," (Charlottesville: University Press of Virginia, 1983)1-23.
2. Lynch, Kevin, "Form Values in Urban History," from *Good City Form*. (Cambridge: MIT Press, 1984)

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 Readings:

1. Tzemach Lemmon, Gayle, *The Dressmaker of Khair Khana* (New York: Harper Collins Publishers, 2011)

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>

Pillar Readings:

1. Carlos Fuentes, "How I Started to Write," in *The Art of the Personal Essay*, ed. P. Lopate, (NY: Anchor/Doubleday, 1994); 432-453.

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

Homecoming (no class): November 9

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

Veteran's Day Observed (no class): Monday, November 12

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:

1. Jeanette Winterson, "Art Objects" from *Art Objects*, (NY, Knopf, 1997); 3-24. Muriel Barbery, "Journal of the Movement of the World No. 4" from *The Elegance of the Hedgehog*, trans. by A. Anderson, (New York, Europa editions, 2006); 184-185. Selections from the writing of Laurie Patton.
2. Lily Yeh and Barefoot Artists http://barefootartists.org/Lilys_Warrior_Angel_11_2.pdf

**WEEKS FOURTEEN AND FIFTEEN: QUESTIONING THE GOOD LIFE
(Nov 19, 26-30)**

Gateway Readings:

1. 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/waldeno2.html>
 - b. <http://thoreau.eserver.org/walden18.html>

Pillar Readings:

1. Charles Ives, "Thoreau" from *Essays before a Sonata*, (NY: W.W. Norton, 1969); 51-69.
2. William Deresiewicz, "Solitude and Leadership" from *The American Scholar*, Spring 2010, Vol. 79. No. 2; 20-31.

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

Thanksgiving Break: November 21-23

WEEK SIXTEEN: PERPETUATING THE GOOD LIFE
(Dec 3-5)

Gateway Readings:

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 Readings:

- 1.E.B. White, "Once More to the Lake" in *Essays of E.B. White*, (NY: Harper, 1977); 246-253.
- 2.Philip Roth, "Femme Fatale" in *Anne Frank: Reflections on her Life and Legacy*, ed. Enzer and Solotaroff-Enzer, (Urban, IL: University of Illinois Press, 2000); 229-243.

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>