

# **HUM2305: What is the Good Life?**

## **FALL 2012**

Lectures: Monday & Wednesday Period 4 (10:40-11:30 a.m.)  
Room: Little Hall 0109

### **INSTRUCTOR**

Dr. John Palmer (Philosophy)  
Email: palmerj@ufl.edu  
Office: 301 Griffin-Floyd Hall  
Office Hours: Friday 9:00 – 11:00 a.m.

### **TEACHING ASSISTANTS**

Khadidja Arfi (Anthropology)	Jody Berman (Art History)
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Office: TBA	Office: TBA
Office Hours: TBA	Office Hours: TBA

### **DISCUSSION SECTIONS**

<b>Section</b>	<b>Time</b>	<b>Location</b>	<b>Teaching Assistant</b>
011E	R3	FLG 0275	Arfi
011F	F5	MAT 0107	Berman
011G	R6	FLI 0113	Arfi
012B	W5	MCCB 1108	Berman
013G	W6	MCCA 3194	Berman
095A	R5	TUR 2353	Arfi

### **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?” 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, you need to examine how you should live both as an individual and a member of local and global communities. 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.

Drawing on the cluster of disciplines that make up the Humanities and the considerable resources at UF in support of the Humanities, this course inquires into the very nature and experience of being human. Applying interdisciplinary and cross-cultural approaches to explore the question “What is the good life?,” it examines a multiform treasury of responses that comprises the cultural and intellectual legacy of world humanity.

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 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. All pillar readings other than the required texts listed immediately below will be made available under the "Resources" tab of the course web site.

#### *Required Texts*

- Gayle Tzemach Lemmon. *The Dressmaker of Khair Khana*. HarperCollins 2011. ISBN: 0062190873. (UF 2012 Common Reading Program Book).
- Peter Singer, *How Are We to Live?* Prometheus Books 1995. ISBN: 0879759666.
- Homer, *The Iliad*. Trans. E. Vieu. Penguin Classics. ISBN: 0140275363.

#### *Recommended Texts*

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

As of Summer B 2012, the university's general education program has been changed to require students to take HUM 2305, What is the Good Life, to fulfill 3 credits of the Humanities designation. Further information on the completion of this requirement is available at [http://undergrad.ua.ufl.edu/Data/Sites/9/media/good\\_life/humanities\\_course\\_requirement.pdf](http://undergrad.ua.ufl.edu/Data/Sites/9/media/good_life/humanities_course_requirement.pdf)

## 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 (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, Wednesday 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. Short quizzes on the week's readings and lectures will be administered at the beginning of most discussion sections. (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-).

## 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 & 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
<b>Total: 1,000 points (100%)</b>	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/sccr/currentstudents.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 any other conflict (e.g., jury duty) that the student knows about in advance of the scheduled assignment, 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.

## 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 Readings (for Monday)

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 Reading for Monday:

"Discourse on the Noble Quest" (*Ariyapariyesana Sutta*) and "Setting in Motion the Wheel of Truth" (*Dhammacakkappavattana Sutta*) from the Buddhist Pali Canon.

#### Pillar Reading for Wednesday:

Aristotle, *Nicomachean Ethics* Bk. 1, chs. 4-5, 7 & Bk. 10, chs. 6-8

### WEEKS THREE AND FOUR: SEEKING THE GOOD LIFE

(Sept 3-14)

#### Labor Day (no class): September 3

#### Gateway and Pillar Reading:

Herman Hesse, *Siddhartha* (1922). Recommended Text, also available on-line in the Gutenberg edition: <http://www.gutenberg.org/files/2500/2500-8.txt>

**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](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**

Gayle Tzemach Lemmon, *The Dressmaker of Khair Khana*. Required Text. UF 2012 Common Reading Program Book.

**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 Reading for Monday:**

Peter Singer, *How Are We To Live?* Chapters 1 & 2.

**Pillar Reading for Wednesday:**

Peter Singer, *How Are We To Live?* Chapter 4.

**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](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](http://www.nma.gov.au/exhibitions/ngurrara_the_great_sandy_desert_canvas/home)

**Pillar Reading for Monday:**

Peter Singer, *How Are We To Live?* Chapters 7 & 8.

**Pillar Reading for Wednesday:**

Peter Singer, *How Are We To Live?* Chapter 10.

**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 through Sakai)

**Pillar Reading for Monday:**

Peter Singer, *How Are We To Live?* Chapter 11.

**Mid-Term Exam: Wednesday, October 10**

**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](http://streaming.video.ufl.edu/~hum2305/Good_Life_final.html)

2. Related Assignment. (available through Sakai)

**Pillar Readings:**

1. Chartres Cathedral: Plates and Photographs

2. Philip Ball, *Universe of Stone: A Biography of Chartres Cathedral*. Chapter 5: "Building by Numbers: Science and Geometry at the School of Chartres"

**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](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](http://avalon.law.yale.edu/18th_century/rightsof.asp)

**Pillar Readings for Monday:**

1. "A New Measure of Well-Being from a Happy Little Kingdom"
2. Derek Bok, *The Politics of Happiness*. Introduction.

**Pillar Readings for Wednesday:**

Derek Bok, *The Politics of Happiness*. Chapter 1.

**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](http://www.africa.upenn.edu/Articles_Gen/Letter_Birmingham.html)
2. *Antigone*. Recommended Text, also available on-line at  
<http://classics.mit.edu/Sophocles/antigone.html>

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

**Pillar Reading for Wednesday, Oct 31:**

Plato, *Apology of Socrates*.

**Pillar Reading for Monday, Nov 5:**

Homer, *Iliad*. Books 1 & 3.

**Pillar Reading for Monday, Nov 7:**

Homer, *Iliad*. Books 6 & 9.

**Homecoming (no discussion sections): 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 Reading:**

Homer, *Iliad*. Books 1 (704-end), 15-16.

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

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

**Gateway Readings (for Monday, Nov 19)**

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/walden02.html>
  - b. <http://thoreau.eserver.org/walden18.html>

**Thanksgiving Break: November 21-23**

**Pillar Reading for Monday, Nov 26:**

Homer, *Iliad*. Books 18-20.

**Pillar Reading for Monday, Nov 26:**

Homer, *Iliad*. Books 22 & 24.

**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:**

Leo Tolstoy, *The Death of Ivan Ilyich*.

**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.**

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

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

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