

## **HUM2305: What is the Good Life? FALL 2012**

Lecture: TR, 9<sup>th</sup> period (4:05 pm – 4:55 pm)

Room: Turlington L-007

**INSTRUCTORS:** Dr. Victoria Rovine [vrovine@ufl.edu](mailto:vrovine@ufl.edu)  
Dr. Brenda Smith [gesang@ufl.edu](mailto:gesang@ufl.edu)

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Office Hours: --by appointment--

**TEACHING ASSISTANTS:** (your TA will provide you with their office hours)

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### **DISCUSSION SECTIONS**

<b>Section</b>	<b>Time</b>	<b>Location</b>	<b>Teaching Assistant</b>
<b>ID41</b>	<b>F2</b>	<b>Tur B 310</b>	<b>Emminger</b>
<b>ID42</b>	<b>F3</b>	<b>Tur 2306</b>	<b>Bajorek</b>
<b>ID43</b>	<b>F4</b>	<b>Tur 2336</b>	<b>Bajorek</b>
<b>ID44</b>	<b>F5</b>	<b>Tur 2306</b>	<b>Diaz</b>
<b>ID45</b>	<b>F6</b>	<b>Tur 2318</b>	<b>Parker</b>
<b>ID46</b>	<b>F7</b>	<b>Tur 2346</b>	<b>Parker</b>
<b>ID47</b>	<b>F8</b>	<b>Tur 2346</b>	<b>McPeek</b>
<b>ID48</b>	<b>F9</b>	<b>Lei 104</b>	<b>McPeek</b>
<b>ID49</b>	<b>F2</b>	<b>Dau 342</b>	<b>Bajorek</b>
<b>ID50</b>	<b>F3</b>	<b>TurB310</b>	<b>Emminger</b>
<b>ID51</b>	<b>F4</b>	<b>TurB310</b>	<b>Emminger</b>
<b>ID52</b>	<b>F5</b>	<b>Tur 2336</b>	<b>Parker</b>
<b>ID53</b>	<b>F6</b>	<b>Tur 2306</b>	<b>Diaz</b>
<b>ID54</b>	<b>F7</b>	<b>Tur 2336</b>	<b>McPeek</b>
<b>ID55</b>	<b>F8</b>	<b>Tur 1101</b>	<b>McPeek</b>

### **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.

## **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 and bring a hard copy to the next class meeting**, 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 and bring a hard copy to the next class meeting**, 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 and bring a hard copy to the next class meeting**, on the question: What is the Cost of the Good Life? In consultation with the TAs, students will select a subject for the analytical essay. (200 points, 20% of course grade)
4. A one-hour Midterm Exam on **October 11<sup>th</sup>** (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. (100 points, 10% of course grade). TAs will explain the distribution of points for this category. The category includes scheduled and impromptu quizzes as well as the mapping assignment described under the heading "Constructing the Good Life".
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 in the participation portion of your grade (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
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/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 and 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 accompanied by all necessary written documentation and is made in a timely fashion.
  - 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 being used for purposes other than note taking 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 or the teaching assistants may ask students engaging in disruptive behavior to leave the class. If that occurs, the student will be marked absent for the day. The purpose of these rules is to encourage full engagement with course activities and also to prevent unnecessary distractions.
  5. *Computer Use in Class*: You may take notes on a laptop or tablet BUT THAT IS THE ONLY PURPOSE FOR WHICH YOU MAY USE A COMPUTER IN CLASS.
  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 23)

**Gateway and Pillar Readings:** *Begin readings for Week Two*

### WEEK TWO: THINKING ABOUT THE GOOD LIFE (Aug 28, 30)

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

**And we suggest:**

1. Begin reading *Siddhartha* by Hermann Hesse

### WEEKS THREE AND FOUR: SEEKING THE GOOD LIFE (Sept 4, 6 and Sept 11, 13)

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

**Gateway Reading:**

1. Hermann Hesse, *Siddhartha* (1922). The Gutenberg edition:

<http://www.gutenberg.org/files/2500/2500-8.txt>

**Pillar Readings:**

1. Basharat Peer, "Inside Mecca" *The New Yorker* (4/16/12) (on Sakai)
2. The National Geographic: Inside Mecca Part I (Pilgrimage)

[http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=bspq4LGP2Qs&feature=results\\_video&playnet+1&list=PLB7D1F0B177D0295](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=bspq4LGP2Qs&feature=results_video&playnet+1&list=PLB7D1F0B177D0295)

### WEEK FIVE: CELEBRATING THE GOOD LIFE

(Sept 18, 20)

**Gateway Readings:**

1. Brenda Smith and Ronald Burrichter, 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. (on Sakai)

**Pillar Reading:**

1. Jeanette Winterson, “Art Objects” from *Art Objects*, (NY, Knopf, 1997); 3-24. (on Sakai)

**WEEK SIX: EMBODYING THE GOOD LIFE**

(Sept 25, 27)

**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*. (on Sakai)

**Pillar Readings:**

1. Guy de Maupassant, “The Diamond Necklace” (1884)  
[http://www.gutenberg.org/catalog/world/readfile?fk\\_files=1799242&pageno=52](http://www.gutenberg.org/catalog/world/readfile?fk_files=1799242&pageno=52)
2. Steven Millhauser, “A Change in Fashion” in *Dangerous Laughter* (2008) (on Sakai)

**Short Essay 1 due 8:00 AM on Monday, Sept 24 via Sakai and hard copy due in class Sept 25**

**WEEK SEVEN: OWNING THE GOOD LIFE**

(Oct 2, 4)

**Gateway Materials:**

1. Geraldine Brooks, “The Painted Desert”  
[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:**

1. Alexandra Jacobs, "Happy Feet" *The New Yorker* (9/14/09). (on Sakai)

**WEEK EIGHT: SUSTAINING THE GOOD LIFE  
(Oct 9, 11)**

**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)

**Special Events:**

**10/9** Guest lecturer: Prof. Katrina Schwartz (Dept. of Political Science, UF)

**10/11 MIDTERM EXAM IN CLASS**

**10/10 7:00 HUMANITIES LECTURE by Dr. George Rupp (Columbia University)  
O'Connell Center (also known as the O'Dome)**

**WEEK NINE: CONSTRUCTING THE GOOD LIFE  
(Oct 16, 18)**

**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--Google Earth project (on Sakai)

**Pillar Reading:**

1. Anthony Shadid, "Excerpt: House of Stone" *New York Times* (2/18/12)

<http://www.nytimes.com/2012/02/19/opinion/sunday/house-of-stone.html>

**WEEK TEN: GOVERNING THE GOOD LIFE  
(Oct 23, 25)**

**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 Reading:**

1. Louis Menand, "The Politics of Slavery" in *The Metaphysical Club: A Story of Ideas in America* (2001), 3-22. (on Sakai)

**WEEKS ELEVEN AND TWELVE: FIGHTING FOR THE GOOD LIFE  
(Oct 30, Nov 1 and Nov 6, 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*. <http://classics.mit.edu/Sophocles/antigone.html>

**Pillar Reading:**

1. Bessie Head, "The Prisoner Who Wore Glasses" (1973). (on Sakai)

**Short Essay 2 due 8:00 AM on Tuesday October 30 via Sakai and hard copy in class.**

**Homecoming (no class): November 9**

**WEEK THIRTEEN: SHARING THE GOOD LIFE  
(Nov 13, 15)**

**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:**

1. Muriel Barbery, "Journal of the Movement of the World No. 4" from *The Elegance of the Hedgehog*, trans. By A. Anderson, (2006) 184-185. (on Sakai)

**WEEKS FOURTEEN AND FIFTEEN: QUESTIONING THE GOOD LIFE**  
(Nov 20 and Nov 27, 29)

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

**Pillar Readings:**

1. William Deresiewicz, "Solitude and Leadership" from *The American Scholar*, Spring 2010, Vol. 79. No. 2; 20-31 (on Sakai)
2. Mark Twain, "Extracts from the Diaries of Adam and Eve" (1904). (on Sakai)
3. Phillip Roth, "Femme Fatale" in *Anne Frank: Reflections on her Life and Legacy*, ed. Enzer and Solotaroff-Enzer, (2000); 229-243. (on Sakai)

**Analytical Essay due 8:00 AM on Monday, November 19 via Sakai and hard copy to class on Tues 11/20.**

**Thanksgiving Break: November 21-23**

**WEEKS SIXTEEN: PERPETUATING THE GOOD LIFE**  
(Dec 4--classes end December 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. (on Sakai)

**Pillar Reading:**

1. Ahmed Ibrahim Al-Fagih, *The Locusts* (on Sakai) (or access via Words Without Borders site: <http://wordswithoutborders.org/article/the-locusts>)

**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 necessary arrangements 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>