

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

**Lecture: T R Period 6 (Carleton 100)**

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**DISCUSSION SECTIONS**

Section Number	Time	Location	Teaching Assistant	Department	Email Address
0951	F 6	MAT 007	Robert Taber	History	robtaber@ufl.edu
095E	R 7	LEI 242	Christopher Gage	English	cgage@ufl.edu
095F	R 8	MAEB 234	Christopher Manick	Poli Sci	cmanick@ufl.edu
095G	F 2	TUR 2354	Christopher Gage	English	cgage@ufl.edu
095H	F 3	NRN 184	Christopher Manick	Poli Sci	cmanick@ufl.edu
1C88	F 2	AND 032	Nina Menezes	Music	nina.menezes@ufl.edu
1C89	F 2	LIT 223	Robert Taber	History	robtaber@ufl.edu
1C91	F 5	MAEB 229	Nina Menezes	Music	nina.menezes@ufl.edu
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1C93	F 5	MAT 119	Robert Taber	History	robtaber@ufl.edu
1C94	F 6	RNK 225	Robin Globus	Religion	rglobus@ufl.edu
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1C98	F 6	RNK 230	Eugenia Martinez	Art History	eugenius@ufl.edu
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1D01	F 2	TUR 2305	Robin Globus	Religion	rglobus@ufl.edu
1D02	F 3	FLI 113	Nina Menezes	Music	nina.menezes@ufl.edu
1D04	F 5	WEIM 1084	Sean Peuquet	Music	seanpeuquet@ufl.edu
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1D13	F 4	MCCA 2196	Sean Peuquet	Music	seanpeuquet@ufl.edu
1D14	F 6	RNK 215	Sean Peuquet	Music	seanpeuquet@ufl.edu
1D15	F 3	DAU 342	George Belic	Philosophy	belic@ufl.edu
1D16	F 2	LIT 201	George Belic	Philosophy	belic@ufl.edu
1D40	F 9	LEI 242	Eugenia Martinez	Art History	eugenius@ufl.edu

*Times and locations of TA office hours are posted on Sakai*

## **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**

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/) (<http://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. Pillar readings have been chosen by the individual instructors who have determined how they will be made available.

**All readings for Dr. Wolpert’s sections are available in the Resources folder of the Sakai website for the course.**

Hesse’s *Siddhartha* and Sophocles’ *Antigone* are listed in [Textbook Adoption](#) as “recommended readings,” so they are available in local bookstores for those who would rather read these works in the paperback edition. If you prefer, you can read the free versions by clicking on the hyperlinks in the Resources folder on the Sakai website.

## 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>

## THE UNIVERSITY HUMANITIES & GENERAL EDUCATION REQUIREMENTS

As of Summer B 2012, the university's general education program requires students to take HUM 2305, What is the Good Life, to fulfill 3 credits of the Humanities General Education Requirement. Additional information is available at

- [http://undergrad.aa.ufl.edu/Data/Sites/9/media/good\\_life/humanities\\_course\\_requirement.pdf](http://undergrad.aa.ufl.edu/Data/Sites/9/media/good_life/humanities_course_requirement.pdf)
- <https://catalog.ufl.edu/ugrad/current/advising/info/general-education-requirement.aspx>

## 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 Lecture on **Thursday, October 11** (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. Pop quizzes, based on the required readings, will be given unannounced in discussion sections and during lectures. The assignment for Week Nine (Constructing the Good Life), will be part of the quiz grade. (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, 50 for attendance and 50 for participation, 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 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**. 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 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. **(All readings are in the Resources folder on the Sakai website for the course.)**
2. Dominik Wujastyk, ed., and trans. *The Roots of Ayurveda* (New York: Penguin, 2003), 61-70.
3. Richard Taylor, "Happiness," from his *An Introduction to Virtue Ethics* (Amherst, NY: Prometheus Books, 2002), 107-22.

#### **Pillar Reading:**

1. Herodotus, Book 1 sections 28-46, 85-87. *Section numbers are indicated on the side of the page.*
2. Peter J. Gomes, "Living for Goodness' Sake," Chapter 3 from *The Good Life* (San Francisco: Harper, 2003), 49-69.

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

#### **Gateway Reading:**

1. Herman Hesse, *Siddhartha* (1922).

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

### Gateway Readings:

1. Brenda Smith and Ronald Burrichter, Multimedia Lecture on “Leonard Bernstein, Music and the Celebration of Life.”
2. Leonard Bernstein’s Video on “Ode to Joy.”
3. Abraham Joshua Heschel, “A Palace in Time,” Chapter One from his *The Sabbath* (New York: Farrar, Straus and Giroux, 2005), 12-25.

### Pillar Readings:

1. Victor Turner, “Betwixt and Between: The Liminal Period in *Rites de Passage*,” Chapter 4 from his *The Forest of Symbols* (Ithaca: Cornell University Press, 1967), 93-113.
2. James Davidson, *Courtesans and Fishcakes: The Consuming Passions of Classical Athens* (London: HarperCollins, 1997), Chapter 2 (“Drinking”), 36-79

## 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 (37 minutes)
2. Emily Prager, “Our Barbies, Ourselves,” originally titled “Major Barbie” by Emily Prager. Originally appeared in the December 1991 issue of *Interview*.

### Pillar Readings:

1. Oscar Wilde, *The Picture of Dorian Gray*, preface (pages xiii-xv), chapters 1 (pages 1-20) and 2 (pages 21-44). Free ebook edition (see Sakai)

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

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

### Gateway Materials:

1. The Painted Desert
  - a. Article by Geraldine Brooks
  - b. Australian Exhibit

### Pillar Readings:

1. John Berger, *Ways of Seeing* (London, Penguin Books, 1972), 129-54
2. Michael Kimmelman, "Who Draws the Borders of Culture?" *New York Times*, May 5, 2010

### **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.
2. Brochure from the Aldo Leopold Foundation.

#### **Pillar Readings:**

1. Cynthia Barnett, *Mirage: Florida and the Vanishing Water of the Eastern U.S.* (Ann Arbor: University of Michigan Press, 2007), Chapter 7.
2. *Murphy's Well-Being*. A video trailer to the video installation on the Koppers Superfund Site.

Common Lecture by Dr. George Rupp, CEO of the International Rescue Committee and Former President of Columbia University, on Wednesday, October 10 at 7:00 PM in the O'Connell Center

### **Mid-Term Exam on Thursday, October 11 in Lecture**

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

#### **Gateway Materials:**

1. Margaret Carr, Multimedia lecture on UF's "The Plaza of the Americas."
2. [Related Assignment \(available in the Resources folder of Sakai\)](#).

#### **Pillar Readings:**

1. Kirk Savage, "The Politics of Memory: Black Emancipation and the Civil War Monument," In *Commemorations: The Politics of National Identity*, edited by John Gillis (Princeton: Princeton University, 1994) 127-49.

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

#### **Gateway Readings:**

1. Sherman A. Jackson, "What is Shariah and Why Does It Matter?"

2. Declaration of the Rights of Man and Citizen.

**Pillar Readings:**

1. Pericles' Funeral Oration (Thucydides 2.34-46).

**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).
2. Sophocles' *Antigone*.

**Pillar Readings:**

1. Gayle Tzemach Lemmon, *The Dressmaker of Khair Khana* (New York: Harper Collins, 2011).
2. Marianne McDonald "Black Antigone and Gay Oedipus" (**optional**)

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

**Homecoming (no section meetings): November 9**

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

**Gateway Readings:**

1. Song of Songs.
2. Plato, *Symposium* 210a-212b (Diotima's Ladder of Love).
3. Guido Guinizelli's Manifesto of Love.

**Pillar Readings:**

1. Kenneth Fletcher, "Befriending Luna the Killer Whale," *The Smithsonian*, April 14, 2008.
2. Clive Thompson, "I'm So Totally, Digitally Close to You," *New York Times*, September 5, 2006.

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

## WEEKS FOURTEEN AND FIFTEEN: QUESTIONING THE GOOD LIFE (Nov 20, 27)

### Gateway Readings:

1. Henry Thoreau, "Where I Lived, and What I Lived For" and "Conclusion," from *Walden*. Available online at the following websites:

### Pillar Readings:

1. Herman Melville, "Bartleby the Scrivener."
2. Ursula LeGuin, "The Ones Who Walk Away From Omelas."

### Thanksgiving Break: November 21-23

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

### 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.

### Pillar Readings:

1. Samuel Beckett, *Waiting for Godot*. Either the youtube video, if still active, or the text also online (see Sakai).

### 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>