

# HUM2305: What is the Good Life?

## Spring 2013

Lecture: MW 3<sup>rd</sup>, CSE A101

**Selman Hershfield, Mickey Schafer**

Contact Info: [selman@phys.ufl.edu](mailto:selman@phys.ufl.edu), Office: 2138 NPB, Hours: by appt. , 392-9387  
[msscha@ufl.edu](mailto:msscha@ufl.edu), Office: 201 Rolfs, Hours: Thursday 4th-5th , 273-2743

### TEACHING ASSISTANTS

- Paige Fowler -- [pfowler@ufl.edu](mailto:pfowler@ufl.edu)
- Eugenia Martinez/Lauren Smith -- [eugenius@ufl.edu](mailto:eugenius@ufl.edu) / [laurenbsmith@ufl.edu](mailto:laurenbsmith@ufl.edu)
- George Belic -- [belic@ufl.edu](mailto:belic@ufl.edu)
- Brian Bredehoft -- [brianb1@ufl.edu](mailto:brianb1@ufl.edu)

### DISCUSSION SECTIONS

Section	Time	Location	Teaching Assistant	email
04H0	W4	TUR 2336	Paige Fowler	<a href="mailto:pfowler@ufl.edu">pfowler@ufl.edu</a>
06H1	W5	TUR B310	Paige Fowler	<a href="mailto:pfowler@ufl.edu">pfowler@ufl.edu</a>
06H2	W6	TUR 1315	Paige Fowler	<a href="mailto:pfowler@ufl.edu">pfowler@ufl.edu</a>
06H3	W7	TUR B310	Eugenia Martinez / Lauren Smith	<a href="mailto:eugenius@ufl.edu">eugenius@ufl.edu</a> / <a href="mailto:laurenbsmith@ufl.edu">laurenbsmith@ufl.edu</a>
06H4	W8	TUR B310	Eugenia Martinez / Lauren Smith	<a href="mailto:eugenius@ufl.edu">eugenius@ufl.edu</a> / <a href="mailto:laurenbsmith@ufl.edu">laurenbsmith@ufl.edu</a>
06H5	W9	TUR B310	Eugenia Martinez / Lauren Smith	<a href="mailto:eugenius@ufl.edu">eugenius@ufl.edu</a> / <a href="mailto:laurenbsmith@ufl.edu">laurenbsmith@ufl.edu</a>
06H6	R2	TUR 2322	George Belic	<a href="mailto:belic@ufl.edu">belic@ufl.edu</a>
06H7	R3	MAT 0251	George Belic	<a href="mailto:belic@ufl.edu">belic@ufl.edu</a>
06H8	R4	FLI 0113	George Belic	<a href="mailto:belic@ufl.edu">belic@ufl.edu</a>
06H9	R5	TUR 2349	Brian Bredehoft	<a href="mailto:brianb1@ufl.edu">brianb1@ufl.edu</a>
061A	R6	TUR 2346	Brian Bredehoft	<a href="mailto:brianb1@ufl.edu">brianb1@ufl.edu</a>
061E	R7	FLI 0121	Brian Bredehoft	<a href="mailto:brianb1@ufl.edu">brianb1@ufl.edu</a>

### 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 listening to the Common Good Life 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 in the Resources tab of Sakai. 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.

## **THE UNIVERSITY HUMANITIES & GENERAL EDUCATION REQUIREMENTS**

As of Summer B 2012, undergraduates are required 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. An Oral Presentation on one of the gateway or pillar readings as assigned by your teaching assistant. (100 points, 10% of course grade)
2. One 500-word essay (Short Essay), **due 8:00 AM on Wednesday, March 27, 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 Wednesday, April 17 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 **Wednesday, February 27** (200 points, 20% of the course grade)
5. A one-hour Final Exam during the course's assembly exam scheduled time: Monday, April 29 at 7:30 AM. (200 points, 20% of course grade)
6. Quizzes: Short quizzes will be given in discussion section most weeks based on the assigned readings for that week (no quizzes during exam weeks). Students should always come to discussion sections having read the assigned reading and being prepared to take a quiz on it. (100 points, 10% of course grade)
7. Participation in discussion sections. Students are expected to actively engage in class discussions throughout the semester. (100 points, 10% of course grade – see additional information below)
  - i. As part of the participation grade, students will write short responses (100 words-- using the blog function in Sakai) to a question posed in lecture each week prior to attending discussion section. These will be graded only for submitting a response, not for content (pass/fail). The responses will form the starting point for small group discussions. Responses are only shared within your discussion section, not the entire class. This activity will count for 30% (30 points) of your participation grade.

- ii. The assignment for Week Nine (Constructing the Good Life), Sacred Spaces, will be part of the participation grade. It will count for 20% (20 points).

## 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 1% (10 point) reduction of your final grade.**

## GRADING SCALE AND ASSIGNMENT SUMMARY

Grade Proportion	Grade Scale	Grade Value
Oral Presentation: 100 points (10%)	1,000-930 = A	A = 4.0
Short Essay: 100 points (10%)	929-900 = A-	A- = 3.67
Analytical Essay: 200 points (20%)	899-870 = B+	B+ = 3.33
Mid-Term Exam: 200 points (20%)	869-830 = B	B = 3.00
Participation: 100 points (10%)	829-790 = B-	B- = 2.67
Quizzes: 100 points (10%)	789-750 = C+	C+ = 2.33
Final Exam: 200 points (20%)	749-720 = C	C = 2.00
<b>Total: 1,000 points (100%)</b>	719-690 = C-	C- = 1.67
	689-660 = D+	D+ = 1.33
	659-620 = D	D = 1.00
	619-600 = D-	D- = 0.67
	599-0 = 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. 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. *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

### WEEKS ONE and TWO: THINKING ABOUT THE GOOD LIFE (Jan 7-18)

#### 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.
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:

- Andrew Seligman, The Era of New Positive Psychology -- [http://www.ted.com/talks/lang/en/martin\\_seligman\\_on\\_the\\_state\\_of\\_psychology.html](http://www.ted.com/talks/lang/en/martin_seligman_on_the_state_of_psychology.html)

### WEEKS THREE AND FOUR: SEEKING THE GOOD LIFE (Jan 21-Feb 1)

#### Gateway Reading:

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

#### Pillar Reading:

- Kate Zernicke, *The Harvard Guide to Happiness*
- Kathryn Schulz, *On Being Wrong* -- [http://www.ted.com/talks/kathryn\\_schulz\\_on\\_being\\_wrong.html](http://www.ted.com/talks/kathryn_schulz_on_being_wrong.html)

### WEEK FIVE: CELEBRATING THE GOOD LIFE (Feb 4-8)

#### Gateway Readings:

1. Brenda Smith and Ronald Burcher, 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:**

- Yes, Virginia, There really is a Santa Claus -- [http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Yes,\\_Virginia,\\_there\\_is\\_a\\_Santa\\_Claus](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Yes,_Virginia,_there_is_a_Santa_Claus) (read letter from image on side – you do not need to read the whole Wikipedia entry, though you are welcome to do so!)
- (in class performance of Bhangra Dance Group)

**WEEK SIX: EMBODYING THE GOOD LIFE (Feb 11-15)**

**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:**

- DNA Gives new Insights into Michelle Obama's Roots -- [http://www.nytimes.com/2012/06/17/us/dna-gives-new-insights-into-michelle-obamas-roots.html?pagewanted=3&\\_r=2](http://www.nytimes.com/2012/06/17/us/dna-gives-new-insights-into-michelle-obamas-roots.html?pagewanted=3&_r=2)
- Trio of Poems :
  - I Hear America Singing -- Walt Whitman;
  - I, Too, Sing America – Langston Hughes;
  - Learning to Love America -- Shirley Geok-Lin Lim (pdf in Sakai)

**WEEK SEVEN: OWNING THE GOOD LIFE (Feb 18-22)**

**Gateway Materials:**

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

**Pillar Readings:**

- Michael Sandel – Markets and Morals: <http://rationallyspeaking.blogspot.com/2012/06/michael-sandel-on-markets-and-morals.html>

## WEEK EIGHT: SUSTAINING THE GOOD LIFE (Feb 25-March 1)

### 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.

## Mid-Term Exam on Wednesday February 27 in Lecture

## WEEK NINE: CONSTRUCTING THE GOOD LIFE (March 11-15)

### Gateway Materials:

1. Margaret Carr, Multimedia lecture on UF's "The Plaza of the Americas."
2. **Sacred Space Assignment (available in the Resources folder of Sakai).**

### Pillar Readings:

- Edward Burtynsky, *Manufactured Landscapes*, TED -- [http://www.ted.com/talks/lang/en/edward\\_burtynsky\\_on\\_manufactured\\_landscapes.html](http://www.ted.com/talks/lang/en/edward_burtynsky_on_manufactured_landscapes.html)
- National Parks PBS Website, *Roosevelt and Yellowstone* – read page, listen to the two short videos on right of page -- <http://www.pbs.org/nationalparks/history/ep2/4/>

## WEEK TEN: GOVERNING THE GOOD LIFE (March 18-22)

### 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:

- **Michael Sandel: The Lost Art of Democratic Debate** -- [http://www.ted.com/talks/michael\\_sandel\\_the\\_lost\\_art\\_of\\_democratic\\_debate.html](http://www.ted.com/talks/michael_sandel_the_lost_art_of_democratic_debate.html)

## WEEKS ELEVEN AND TWELVE: FIGHTING FOR THE GOOD LIFE (March 25-April 5)

### Gateway Readings:

1. Martin Luther King, "Letter from a Birmingham Jail" (1963).
2. Sophocles' *Antigone*.



**Pillar Reading:**

- NPR interview with Arnold Schwarzenegger – listen to program from 23:25-26:50; transcript available in Sakai -- <http://www.npr.org/books/authors/138231420/arnold-schwarzenegger>

**Short Essay due 8:00 AM on Wednesday March 27 via Sakai.**

**WEEK THIRTEEN: SHARING THE GOOD LIFE (April 8-12)****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:**

- Leisa Reichelt, *Ambient Intimacy* -- <http://www.disambiguity.com/ambient-intimacy/>
- Transcript of interview with Hal Niedzviecki – Peep Culture  
<http://ttbook.org/book/transcript/transcript-hal-niedzviecki-peep-diaries>

**WEEKS FOURTEEN: QUESTIONING THE GOOD LIFE (April 15-19)****Gateway Readings:**

1. Henry Thoreau, “Where I Lived, and What I Lived For” and “Conclusion,” from *Walden*.

**Pillar Readings:**

- William Deresiewicz, *Solitude and Leadership* -- <http://theamericanscholar.org/solitude-and-leadership/>

**Analytical Essay due 8:00 AM on Wednesday, April 17 via Sakai.**

**WEEK FIFTEEN: PERPETUATING THE GOOD LIFE (April 22-24)****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:**

- William James, *On a Certain Blindness in Human Beings*,  
<http://www.uky.edu/~eushe2/Pajares/jcertain.html>

**Final Exam: Monday, April 29 at 7:30 AM**

***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>