

## HUM2305: What is the Good Life? Spring 2013

Lecture: Tuesday Period 9 (Chemistry Lab 130)  
Thursday Period 9 (Norman Hall 137)

### Dr. Howard Louthan

Contact Info: Send email thru Sakai course site

Office: Flint 219

Office Hours: T R period 10 and by appointment

### TEACHING ASSISTANTS

(Offices and Office hours, TBA)

Kendall Marchman, [krmarchman@ufl.edu](mailto:krmarchman@ufl.edu)

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### DISCUSSION SECTIONS

Section	Time	Location	Teaching Assistant	email
001G	F5	MAEB 229	Katherine Reed	<a href="mailto:katherine.reed@ufl.edu">katherine.reed@ufl.edu</a>
001H	R10	AND 13	David Whitehead	<a href="mailto:dwhitehead64@ufl.edu">dwhitehead64@ufl.edu</a>
0017	F7	MAT 11	Katherine Reed	<a href="mailto:katherine.reed@ufl.edu">katherine.reed@ufl.edu</a>
002A	F8	AND 21	Kendall Marchman	<a href="mailto:krmarchman@ufl.edu">krmarchman@ufl.edu</a>
084F	R11	TUR 2318	David Whitehead	<a href="mailto:dwhitehead64@ufl.edu">dwhitehead64@ufl.edu</a>
0841	F2	TUR 2334	David Whitehead	<a href="mailto:dwhitehead64@ufl.edu">dwhitehead64@ufl.edu</a>
0843	F7	MAT 103	Kendall Marchman	<a href="mailto:krmarchman@ufl.edu">krmarchman@ufl.edu</a>
0845	F9	TUR 1101	Kendall Marchman	<a href="mailto:krmarchman@ufl.edu">krmarchman@ufl.edu</a>
085A	R10	TUR 2328	Kiren Valjee	<a href="mailto:kvaljee@ufl.edu">kvaljee@ufl.edu</a>
085B	R10	TUR 2346	Katherine Reed	<a href="mailto:katherine.reed@ufl.edu">katherine.reed@ufl.edu</a>
085C	R11	TUR 2306	Kiren Valjee	<a href="mailto:kvaljee@ufl.edu">kvaljee@ufl.edu</a>
086E	F2	TUR 2346	Kiren Valjee	<a href="mailto:kvaljee@ufl.edu">kvaljee@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. You may also purchase a copy of Voltaire’s *Candide*, which will be the assignment for week 10. 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 **Thursday, February 28** (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. Pop quizzes, based on the required readings, will be given unannounced in discussion sections and during lectures. Short one-page papers for discussion sessions may be assigned in lieu of quizzes. (100 points, 10% of course grade)
7. Participation in discussion sections. Students are expected to actively engage in class discussions throughout the semester. The assignment for Week Nine (Constructing the Good Life), will be part of the participation grade. (100 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. If students use laptops for activities other than note taking, they will be penalized and not allowed to use the computer for future sessions. 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:**

1. Selections from Aristotle, *Invitation to Philosophy* (Available on Sakai)
2. Gospel of Matthew, Chapters 5-7 (Available on Sakai)
3. M. Scott Peck, "Discipline" *The Road Less Traveled: A New Psychology of Love, Traditional Values and Spiritual Growth* (New York: Simon and Schuster, 1978), 13-20, 32-34, 44-46, 51-58, 64-69 (Available on Sakai)

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

#### **Gateway Reading:**

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

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

**Pillar Reading:**

1. Ayn Rand, “The Mike Wallace interview,” in Marlene Podritske and Peter Schwarz, eds., *Objectively Speaking* (Lanham, MD: Rowman and Littlefield, 2009), 169-177 (Available on Sakai)

2. John Donne, Meditation 17  
<http://www.luminarium.org/sevenlit/donne/meditation17.php>

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

**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. Selections from Dante’s *Divine Comedy* (Available on Sakai)

**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:**

1. Excerpts from Oliver Sacks, “The Mind’s Eye: What the Blind See,” in Philip Zaleski, ed., *The Best American Spiritual Writing 2004* (Boston: Houghton Mifflin Harcourt, 2011), 224-244 (Available on Sakai)

2. Jaron Lanier, “The First Church of Robotics,” in Mary Roach, ed., *The Best American Science and Nature Writing 2011* (Boston: Houghton Mifflin Harcourt, 2011), 238-242 (Available on 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:**

1. Edward O. Wilson, excerpts from *The Diversity of Life* in Robert Percival, ed. *Law and the Environment* (Philadelphia: Temple University Press, 1997) 18-24 (Available on Sakai)
  
2. Michael Sandel, “Markets and Morals” from his *What Money Can’t Buy: The Limits of Markets* (New York: Farrar, Strauss, and Rivoux, 2010), 3-16 (Available on Sakai)

### **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 Thursday February 28 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. **Related Assignment (available in the Resources folder of Sakai).**

#### **Pillar Readings:**

1. Excerpts from Vitruvius, *The Ten Books on Architecture* in *The Architecture Reader*, ed. A. Krista Sykes (New York: George Braziller, 2007), 34-41 (Available on Sakai)

2. Frank Lloyd Wright, "In the Cause of Architecture," in *The Architecture Reader*, ed. A. Krista Sykes (New York: George Braziller, 2007), 96-102 (Available on Sakai)

3. Excerpts from Camillo Sitte, *The Art of Building Cities* in *The City Reader*, ed. Richard LeGates and Frederic Stout (New York: Routledge, 2003), 414-423 (Available on Sakai)

### **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:**

1. Voltaire, *Candide*  
<http://archive.org/stream/candide19942gut/19942.txt>

### **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*.  
<http://classics.mit.edu/Sophocles/antigone.html>

#### **Pillar Readings:**

1. D.F. Malan, "Apartheid: Divine Calling," in *The Anti-Apartheid Reader*, ed. David Mermelstein, (New York: Grove, 1987), 94-98 (Available on Sakai)
2. Desmond Tutu, "Apartheid: An Evil System," in *The Anti-Apartheid Reader*, ed. David Mermelstein, (New York: Grove, 1987), 38-43 (Available on Sakai)
3. Nelson Mandela, "I am prepared to die," in *The Anti-Apartheid Reader*, ed. David Mermelstein, (New York: Grove, 1987), 220-228 (Available on Sakai)

**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:**

1. James Joyce, "The Dead" (Available on Sakai)

### **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:**

1. Wendell Berry, "In Distrust of Movements"  
<http://thegreenhorns.wordpress.com/essays/essay-in-distrust-of-movements-by-wendell-berry/>

2. Václav Havel, "Politics and Conscience," in Jan Bažant, ed., *The Czech Reader* (Durham: Duke University Press), 440-446; 453-456 (Available on Sakai)

**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:**

1. Excerpts from Karel Čapek, *Adam the Creator* (New York: Smith, 1930), 9-21 (Available on Sakai)

**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>