

HUM2305: What is the Good Life? Spring 2013

Lecture: T R Period 3 (NRN 0137)

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TEACHING ASSISTANTS

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DISCUSSION SECTIONS

Section	Time	Location	Teaching Assistant	email
0611	R 4	LEI 0104	Christopher Gage	cgage@ufl.edu
0614	R 5	LEI 0104	Christopher Gage	cgage@ufl.edu
0619	R 6	DAU 0342	Christopher Gage	cgage@ufl.edu
0628	R 7	TUR 2353	Rebecca Devlin	radevlin@ufl.edu
0622	R 8	LIT 0221	Rebecca Devlin	radevlin@ufl.edu
0637	R 9	TUR 2354	Rebecca Devlin	radevlin@ufl.edu
064A	R 10	TUR 1101	William Smith	wpsmithiii@ufl.edu
064F	F 3	MAT 0009	William Smith	wpsmithiii@ufl.edu
064H	F 4	MAT 0012	William Smith	wpsmithiii@ufl.edu
0640	F 5	NRN 0184	Shelly Sanderson	shelleysanderson@ufl.edu
0641	F 6	MAT 0113	Shelly Sanderson	shelleysanderson@ufl.edu
0647	F 7	FLG 0275	Shelly Sanderson	shelleysanderson@ufl.edu

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
- <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. Five reading quizzes worth 20 points each will be posted on e-learning at points over the semester. Quizzes will be announced when posted. Each quiz will have five questions, and students will have five days to do each quiz. (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
Total: 1,000 points (100%)	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 8-17)

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. Sara Ahmed, "Killing Joy: Feminism and the History of Happiness," *Signs: Journal of Women in Culture and Society* 35(3) (2010), 571-93.
2. Slavoj Zizek, "Happiness after September 11," in *Welcome to the Desert of the Real: Five Essays on September 11 and Related Dates* (New York and London: Verso, 2002), p.58-83.

WEEKS THREE AND FOUR: SEEKING THE GOOD LIFE (Jan 22-Jan 31)

Gateway Reading:

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

Pillar Reading:

1. Max Weber, *The Protestant Ethic and the Spirit of Capitalism*, chs.1-3.

WEEK FIVE: CELEBRATING THE GOOD LIFE (Feb 5, 7)

Gateway Reading:

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 Reading:

1. Mary Bernstein, “Celebration and Suppression: The Strategic Uses of Identity by the Lesbian and Gay Movement,” *American Journal of Sociology* 103(3) (1997), 531-65.

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

Gateway Reading:

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 Reading:

1. Andrea Dworkin, *Mercy* (New York: Four Walls Eight Windows, 1991), ch.1, 5-29.
2. Cynthia Enloe, *Nimo’s War, Emma’s War: Making Feminist Sense of the Iraq War* (Berkeley: University of California Press, 2010), choose one biographical chapter:
 - a. “Nimo: Wartime Politics in a Beauty Parlor,” p.19-44.
 - b. “Maha: A Widow Returns to Baghdad,” p.45-71.

- c. "Safah: The Girl from Haditha," p.72-92.
- d. "Shatha: A Legislator in Wartime," p.93-125.
- e. "Emma and the Recruiters," p.129-149.
- f. "Danielle: From Basketball Court to Baghdad Rooftop," p.150-170.
- g. "Kim: 'I'm in a Way Fighting My Own War,'" p.171-191.
- h. "Charlene: Picking Up the Pieces," p.192-210.

WEEK SEVEN: OWNING THE GOOD LIFE (Feb 19, 21)

Gateway Material:

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

Pillar Reading:

- 1. Anton Karl Kozlovic, "The Cinematic Christ-Figure," *The Furrow* 55(1) (2004), p.26-30.
- 2. Susan Aronstein and Robert Torry, "Chivalric Conspiracies: Templar Romance and the Redemption of History in *National Treasure* and *The Da Vinci Code*," in *Hollywood in the Holy Land: Essays on Film Depictions of the Crusades and Christian-Muslim Clashes*, ed. Nickolas Haydock and Edward Ridsen (London: McFarland, 2009), 225-245.

WEEK EIGHT: SUSTAINING THE GOOD LIFE (Feb 26, 28)

Gateway Reading:

- 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 Reading:

- 1. E. Melanie DuPuis and David Goodman, "Should We Go 'Home' to Eat?: Toward a Reflexive Politics of Localism," *Journal of Rural Studies* 21(3) (2005), 359-71.

Mid-Term Exam on Thursday February 28 in Lecture

WEEK NINE: CONSTRUCTING THE GOOD LIFE (March 12, 14)

Gateway Material:

- 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. David Leatherbarrow, "Architecture's Unscripted Performance," p.5-20, and Andrew Whalley, "Product and Process: Performance-Based Architecture," p.20-40, in Branko Kolarevic, ed. *Performative Architecture: Beyond Instrumentality* (New York and London: Taylor and Francis, 2005).

WEEK TEN: GOVERNING THE GOOD LIFE (March 19, 21)

Gateway Readings:

1. Sherman A. Jackson, "What is Shariah and Why Does It Matter?"
2. Declaration of the Rights of Man and Citizen.

Pillar Reading:

1. George Orwell, "Shooting an Elephant"

WEEKS ELEVEN AND TWELVE: FIGHTING FOR THE GOOD LIFE (March 26-April 4)

Gateway Reading:

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

Pillar Reading:

1. Gayatri Chakravorty Spivak, "Can the Subaltern Speak?" in Cary Nelson and Lawrence Grossberg, eds. *Marxism and the Interpretation of Culture* (London: Macmillan, 1988), 24-34.
2. Franz Fanon, *The Wretched of the Earth* (Paris: Presence Africaine, 1963), preface, p.7-34.

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

WEEK THIRTEEN: SHARING THE GOOD LIFE (April 9, 11)

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. Kwame Anthony Appiah, "Cosmopolitan Patriots," *Critical Inquiry* 23(3) (1997), 617-39.

WEEKS FOURTEEN: QUESTIONING THE GOOD LIFE (April 16, 18)

Gateway Readings

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

Pillar Reading:

1. Samantha Power, *A Problem from Hell* (New York: HarperCollins, 2002), Preface (p.xi-xx), Ch.1, "Race Murder" (p.1-16), Ch.6, "Cambodia: 'Helpless Giant'" (p.86-154).

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

WEEK FIFTEEN: PERPETUATING THE GOOD LIFE (April 23)

Gateway Reading:

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 Reading:

1. V. Spike Peterson, "Rewriting (Global) Political Economy as Reproductive, Productive, and Virtual (Foucauldian) Economies," *International Feminist Journal of Politics* 4(1) (2002), 1-30.

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>