

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

**Lecture: T & R Period 2 (8:30 – 9:20AM)  
Room: NRN 137**

**Prof. John M. Watkins, Jr., School of Music**

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Office: 107 Steinbrenner Band Hall

Office Hours: M & W 9AM – 12PM and by appointment

**TEACHING ASSISTANTS**

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David Bradshaw - [davidbradshaw@ufl.edu](mailto:davidbradshaw@ufl.edu)

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**DISCUSSION SECTIONS:**

<b>Section</b>	<b>Time</b>	<b>Location</b>	<b>Teaching Assistant</b>
04F9	R3	TUR B310	Joshua Neumann
04GE	R4	TUR B310	Khadidja Arfi
04GF	R5	TUR B310	Khadidja Arfi
04GG	R6	TUR B310	Khadidja Arfi
04G0	R7	LEI 0242	Jean Hickman
04G1	R8	TUR 2333	Jean Hickman
04G5	R9	TUR 2334	Jean Hickman
04G7	F3	MAT 0116	Joshua Neumann
04G8	F4	NPB 1011	David Bradshaw
04G9	F5	MAEB 0234	Joshua Neumann
04HC	F6	TUR 2346	David Bradshaw
04HD	F7	LEI 0242	David Bradshaw

**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 **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, brief responses, and activities, given sporadically throughout the semester in Lecture and Discussion sections. (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 the University of Florida'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 Courtesies*: 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

*Instructor reserves the right to modify pillar readings with two weeks notice.*

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

Suggestion: Begin reading *Siddhartha*

### 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. Virginia Woolf, "How Should One Read a Book?" from *The Second Common Reader* (NY: Harcourt, Brace & World, 1960); 234-245.
2. Randy Pausch, "Last Lecture – Achieving Your Childhood Dreams"  
[http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ji5\\_MqicxSo&feature=related](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ji5_MqicxSo&feature=related)
3. Ronald Dworkin, "What is the Good Life?" 2011  
<http://www.nybooks.com/articles/archives/2011/feb/10/what-good-life/?pagination=false>

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

### Gateway Reading:

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

### Pillar Reading:

1. The National Geographic: Inside Mecca Part I (Pilgrimage)  
<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=6rlsZfce8jU>
2. Jyoti Thottam-Thimphu, "The Pursuit of Happiness", Time Magazine, October 22, 2012, pages Business 1,2,4, 14 pdf (on Sakai).

3. C.S. Lewis, “Surprised by Joy”, from *Surprised by Joy: The Shape of My Early Life* (1955), Chapter XIV, <http://www.pbs.org/wgbh/questionofgod/ownwords/joy.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:**

1. Aaron Copland, “Music and the Human Spirit,” from *Aaron Copland: Selected Writing 1923-1972* (New York, NY: Routledge, 2004), 26-32.

### **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. Oscar Wilde, “The Preface, Chapter 1, and Chapter 2” from *The Picture of Dorian Gray* (New York: Charterhouse Press, 1904), xiii-xv, 1044 (pages 24-71 in the digitized PDF found on Sakai).
2. Jamie Stringfellow, “Embodying Change: How Movement Can Transform Your Life”, *Spirituality and Health Magazine*, September-October 2012. Pdf 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. VIDEO: Michael Sandel, "What Money Can't Buy," June 2012.  
<http://home.btconnect.com/tipiglen/landethic.html>
2. Mark Gallagher, "Tips for Financial Independence and a Good Life",  
gallagher.com, pdf 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.

**Pillar Readings:**

1. Sherry Ackerman, "The Good Life: How To Create A Sustainable and Fulfilling Lifestyle," <http://postconsumersociety.blogspot.com/>
2. The Boy Scout Outdoor Code,  
<http://www.scouting.org/scoutsource/OutdoorProgram/OutdoorEthics/OutdoorCode.aspx>

**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. Charles Jenks, "The Architecture of Hope" from *The Architecture of Hope* (London: Frances Lincoln Limited, 2010), 11-43.

**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,  
[http://avalon.law.yale/18th\\_century/rightsof.asp](http://avalon.law.yale/18th_century/rightsof.asp)

**Pillar Readings:**

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

2. Ogochukwu Okpala, “Plato’s Republic vs. Democracy”,  
<http://www.neumann.edu/academics/divisions/business/journal/review09/okpala.pdf>

3. Plato, *The Republic*, Book II, pages 357a – end,  
<http://www.sparknotes.com/philosophy/republic/section2.rhtml>

**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 Readings:**

1. Robert F. Worth, “How A Single Match Can Ignite A Revolution,” *The New York Times Week In Review* (New York January 23, 2011)  
[http://www.nytimes.com/2011/01/23/weekinreview/23worth.html?\\_r=1&src=tw\\_rhp](http://www.nytimes.com/2011/01/23/weekinreview/23worth.html?_r=1&src=tw_rhp)
2. Robert F. Kennedy’s ‘Eulogy for Martin Luther King’, Youtube.

**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. Jeanette Winterson, "Art Objects" from *Art Objects*, (New York Knopf, 1997); 3-21.
2. Muriel Barbery, "Journal of the Movement of the World No. 4" from *The Elegance of the Hedgehog*, trans. by A. Anderson, (2006) 194-185. (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. Charles Ives, "Thoreau" from *Essays Before A Sonata*, (New York: W.W. Norton, 1969); 51-69.
2. William Deresiewicz, "Solitude and Leadership" from *The American Scholar*, Spring 2010, Vol. 79, No. 2; 20-31. (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. E. B. White, "Once More to the Lake" in *Essays of E.B. White*, (New York: Harper, 1977); 246-253.

**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>