HUM 2305: What is the Good Life?
Spring 2015
Lecture: M W Period 10 (Carleton 0100)

INSTRUCTOR

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TEACHING ASSISTANTS

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Section	Time	Location	Teaching Assistant
088C	R2	TUR B310	Laura Dedenbach
088E	R2	DAU0342	Jennifer Lyon
088H	R2	TUR2322	David Goss
089E	R2	TUR1101	Shaun Duke
0891	R3	TUR2353	Shaun Duke
0897	R3	TUR2354	Laura Dedenbach
0899	R3	FLG0274	Jennifer Lyon
14FB	R4	RNK0215	Laura Dedenbach
14FC	R4	RNK0220	Jennifer Lyon
14FD	R5	RNK0230	David Goss
14FE	R6	WEIL0273	Kerri Blumenthal
14FF	R7	WEIL0279	Kerri Blumenthal
2D65	R8	FLI0113	Kerri Blumenthal
2D66	R9	AND0021	Shaun Duke
2D67	R4	LEI0242	David Goss

COURSE DESCRIPTION

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 multi-disciplinary and cross-cultural approaches to explore the question "What is the good life?," students consider the cost of the good life, examine how people have chosen to live as members of local and global communities, and analyze conceptions and expressions of beauty, power, love, and health.

COURSE OBJECTIVES

Students are provided instruction in multi-disciplinary approaches used in the humanities to study the good life through an analysis of juxtaposed works of art, architecture, history, literature, music, religion, and philosophy.

- **Content Objectives:** Students will identify how different people from different societies across time conceptualize the good life, what meaning and value individuals ascribe to the lives that they live or want to live, and what are the choices, costs, and benefits of the good life.
- **Communication Objectives:** Students will communicate concepts, expressions, and representations of the good life clearly and effectively in written and oral form as stated in the rubrics of the course.
- **Critical Thinking Objectives:** Students will analyze the conflicts and tensions that arise between the individual and the community, the normative and the exceptional, culture and nature, needs and wants, pleasure and happiness, short-term benefits and long-term consequences of the pursuit of the good life. They will critically evaluate the costs and benefits of the good life in order to make sound decisions.

COURSE FORMAT

Elements common to all sections include the required "gateway" readings, the three common activities, and the course assignments. In addition, there are "pillar" readings assigned by the individual instructors. The faculty select pillars to complement the gateways, while also drawing on their own areas of interest and expertise to make the course a unique experience for the students in their sections.

COMMON ACTIVITIES

This course expects students to become actively engaged in experiences unique to UF. As such, course requirements include attending the Good Life Performance at the Constans Theatre, seeing the Good Life exhibit at the Harn Museum, and watching the Common Lecture. More information on these activities can be found on the course Sakai site.

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/

THE UNIVERSITY HUMANITIES & GENERAL EDUCATION REQUIREMENTS

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

- https://catalog.ufl.edu/ugrad/current/advising/info/general-education-requirement.aspx

- https://catalog.ufl.edu/ugrad/current/advising/info/general-education-requirement.aspx

TEXTS

Required readings and materials for the course consist of two types: "Gateways" and "Pillars." Gateways are common to all sections of HUM 2305 regardless of the instructor. Pillars have been chosen by the individual instructors. The following required readings are available in local bookstores and online retailers either as eBooks or paperbacks:

- Hermann Hesse, *Siddhartha*, translated by Joachim Neugroschel (New York: Penguin Books, 2002). ISBN: 978-0142437186. Gateway.
- *Sophocles' Antigone*, translated by Ruby Blondell (Newburyport, MA: Focus Publishing, 1998). ISBN: 978-0941051255. Gateway.
- José Saramago, *The Tale of the Unknown Island* (New York: Houghton Mifflin, 1999). ISBN: 9780156013031. Pillar.

All other required readings and materials are in the Resources folder of the course's Sakai webpage.

ASSIGNMENTS AND REQUIREMENTS

1. A forty-five minute Midterm Exam in lecture on Monday, February 16 in Lecture. (150 points, 15% of the course grade)
2. An Essay (1,000-1,250 words) **due 8:00 AM on Monday, March 23 via Sakai.** Detailed instructions will be supplied prior to the due date. (200 points, 20% of course grade)
3. A Final Exam (cumulative) during the course's assembly exam scheduled time: **Monday, April 27 from 10:00-11:40 AM (Location TBA)**. (300 points, 30% of course grade)
5. 4 Quizzes (identification). Each quiz is worth 25 points. (100 points, 10% of course grade)
6. Discussion Activities. (130 points, 13% of course grade)
    a. Participation in weekly discussions. (30 points)
    b. Oral Presentation. (30 points)
    c. Sacred Space Postcard, due by discussion section for Week 13. (30 points)
    d. Essay Outline. (10 points)
    e. Common Activity Assignment. (30 points)
7. Attendance. (120 points, 12% of course grade)
    a. Lecture (50 points, one unexcused absence before and after the midterm)
    b. Discussion Attendance. (50 points, one unexcused absence)
    c. Common Activities. (10 points for the Harn Tour, 10 points for the Good Life Performance)

GRADING SCALE AND ASSIGNMENT SUMMARY

Grade Proportion	Grade Scale	Grade Value
Quizzes: 100 points (10%)	930-1,000 = A	A = 4.0
Attendance: 120 points (12%)	900-929 = A-	A- = 3.67
Activities: 130 points (13%)	870-899 = B+	B+ = 3.33
Mid-Term Exam: 150 points (15%)	830-869 = B	B = 3.00
Essay: 200 points (20%)	790-829 = B-	B- = 2.67
Final Exam: 300 points (30%)	750-789 = C+	C+ = 2.33
Total: 1,000 points (100%)	720-749 = C	C = 2.00
	690-719 = C-	C- = 1.67
	660-689 = D+	D+ = 1.33
	620-659 = D	D = 1.00
	600-619 = D-	D- = 0.67
	0-599 = E	E = 0.00

https://catalog.ufl.edu/ugrad/current/regulations/info/grades.aspx

**Please note: An earned grade of "C-" will not be a qualifying grade for major, minor, Gen. Ed., or basic distribution credit.*

ACADEMIC HONESTY

UF students are bound by The Honor Pledge which states, "We, the members of the University of Florida community, pledge to hold ourselves and our peers to the highest standards of honor and integrity by abiding by the Honor Code. 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 Honor Code. 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 Honor Code specifies a number of behaviors that are in violation of this code and the possible sanctions. Furthermore, you are obligated to report any condition that facilitates academic misconduct to appropriate personnel. If you have any questions or concerns, please consult with the instructor or TAs in this class.

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/drc). 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. *Attendance and Make-up Policy*: Requirements for class attendance and make-up exams, assignments, and other work in this course are consistent with university policies: https://catalog.ufl.edu/ugrad/current/regulations/info/attendance.aspx
   - 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 university-approved absence (e.g., jury duty) which the student knows about in advance, the student is expected to notify the instructor of the conflict *before the assignment is due*, and if possible at the start of the semester.
   - If a student does not hand in the Essay on time and an extension has not been granted, the Essay will be marked down 1/3 grade (e.g., from B+ to B) for each day it is late.
   - For all other assignments, the students will not be granted an extension or be permitted to make up the assignment without an acceptable reason, such as an illness or serious family emergencies, in accordance with university policies on absences.

3. *Grading Policy*: If you have questions about your grade on an assignment, please make an appointment to meet with your TA within a week after the assignment has been returned so your TA can explain how you were graded. If after meeting with your TA, you wish to dispute your grade, you may email your instructor to request that the instructor re-grade the assignment. The instructor will then re-grade the assignment and the second grade will stand, regardless of whether it is higher or lower than the original grade. You may request re-grading or dispute a grade up to one week after the assignment has been returned to you or the grade released.

4. *Common Courtesy*: Cell phones and other electronic devices must be set to vibrate mode 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 a student engaging in disruptive behavior, including but not limited to whispering or snoring, to leave the class, and the student will be marked absent for the day.

5. *Counseling Resources*: Resources available on-campus for students include the following:
   a. University Counseling and Wellness Center, 3190 Radio Rd, 392-1575;

b. Student Health Care Center, 392-1161;
c. Dean of Students Office, 202 Peabody Hall, 392-1261

6. Course Evaluation: Students are expected to provide feedback on the quality of instruction in this course by completing online evaluations at evaluations.ufl.edu. Evaluations are typically open during the last two or three weeks of the semester, but students will be given specific times when they are open. Summary results of these assessments are available to students at https://evaluations.ufl.edu/results/."

7. The Materials and Supplies fee for the course is $10.95.

WEEKLY SCHEDULE

PART 1: THE INDIVIDUAL

WEEKS ONE AND TWO: THINKING ABOUT THE GOOD LIFE (Jan 6-16)

Gateways:

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. Herodotus, *The History*, translated by David Greene (Chicago: University of Chicago, 1987), I.29-33, 85-87 (on Solon and Croesus).

4. President Bernie Machen, "All That & More: The True Purposes of College," delivered on Thursday, January 24, 2013 in the Grand Ballroom of the Reitz Union, University of Florida, Gainesville, FL

Pillars:

Jorge Luis Borges, "The Ethnographer," a short story. Available at http://wtf.tw/ref/borges.html

WEEKS THREE AND FOUR: SEEKING THE GOOD LIFE (Jan 20-30)

Gateway:

1. Hermann Hesse, *Siddhartha*, translated by Joachim Neugroschel (New York: Penguin

Books, 2002).

Pillar:
Constantine P. Cavafy, "Ithaka," a poem. Available at http://www.cavafy.com/poems/content.asp?cat=1&id=74

GOOD LIFE PERFORMANCE of *METAMORPHOSES*

Metamorphoses is playing between January 30 and February 8 (except Monday) in the Constans Theatre (see the Common Activities handout in Sakai).

WEEK FIVE: EMBODYING THE GOOD LIFE (Feb 2-6)

Gateways:
1. "'Henrietta Lacks': A Donor's Immortal Legacy"(audio interview, 37 min) and an excerpt from Rebecca Skloot, *The Immortal Life of Henrietta Lacks* (New York: Crown, 2010). Available at the National Public Radio website.

2. Emily Prager, "Our Barbies, Ourselves," originally titled "Major Barbie" by Emily Prager. Originally appeared in the December 1991 issue of *Interview.*

Pillars:
Anne Hull, "Letter from Plant City, Florida: The Strawberry Girls", *The New Yorker*, August 11, 2008 and Video: Brian Finke Returns to the Strawberry Festival, *The New Yorker*, March 22, 2011 available at http://www.newyorker.com/online/blogs/photobooth/2011/03/video-brian-finke-returns-to-the-strawberry-festival.html

Binayavanga Wainaina, "I Am a Homosexual, Mum" (A lost chapter from *One Day I Will Write About This Place*), January 19, 2014. Available at http://africasacountry.com/i-am-a-homosexual-mum/

PART 2: SOCIETY

WEEK SIX: SHARING THE GOOD LIFE (Feb 9-13)

Pillar:
The New Year, a film (2010) by Brett Haley. Trailer at http://www.thenewyearfilm.com

COMMON LECTURE by Professor Eisenbichler, University of Toronto.
Wednesday, February 11 at 5:30 pm in the University Auditorium.

Students may either (a) attend the live lecture or (b) watch the asynchronous video stream available after the lecture and until the Analytical Essay is due. For information on ticket reservation to the live lecture, see the Common Activities handout in Sakai.

WEEK SEVEN: CELEBRATING THE GOOD LIFE (Feb 16-20)

Mid-Term Exam on Monday, Feb 16 in Lecture

Gateways:
1. Brenda Smith and Ronald Burrichter, Multimedia Lecture.

2. Excerpt from "Bernstein in Vienna."

3. Leonard Bernstein's Video on "Ode to Joy."

4. Abraham Joshua Heschel, "A Palace in Time," Chapter One from his *The Sabbath* (New York: Farrar, Straus and Giroux, 2005), 12-25.

Pillar:
Introducing Itzhak Perlman, video available at http://video.pbs.org/video/2284609555/

WEEK EIGHT: GOVERNING THE GOOD LIFE (Feb 23-27)

Gateways:
1. Declaration of the Rights of Man and of the Citizen.

Pillars:
James C. Scott, "The Uses of Disorder and 'Charisma'" from *Two Cheers for Anarchism: Six Easy Pieces on Autonomy, Dignity, and Meaningful Work and Play* (Princeton University Press, Princeton NJ, 2012)

James Baldwin, "The Discovery of What It Means To Be an American," from *Nobody Knows My Name* (Vintage Books, New York, 1993), pp. 3-12

Aleksandar Hemon, "If God Existed, He Would Be a Solid Midfielder" from *The Book of My Lives* (Farrar, Strauss and Giroux, New York, 2013), 2013 National Book Critics Award

WEEKS NINE AND TEN: FIGHTING FOR THE GOOD LIFE (March 9-20)

Gateways:

1. Victoria Pagán, Multimedia Lecture on *Antigone*, Parts 1&2 (in lieu of lecture on March 9).

2. *Sophocles' Antigone*, translated by Ruby Blondell (Newburyport, MA: Focus Publishing, 1998).

3. Martin Luther King, "Letter from a Birmingham Jail" (1963).

4. "Wo-Haw Between Two Worlds," a drawing by Kiowa artist/warrior Wo-Haw, c. 1875.

5. Bessie Head, "The Prisoner Who Wore Glasses" in *Under African Skies*, edited by Charles R. Larson (New York: Farrar, Strauss, and Giroux, 1997), 169-176.

Pillars:
Chinua Achebe, "My Home Under Imperial Fire," from *Home and Exile* (Oxford University Press, New York, 2000), pp. 1-35

PART 3: NATURE AND THE PHYSICAL ENVIRONMENT

WEEK ELEVEN: OWNING THE GOOD LIFE (March 23-27)

Gateways:
The Painted Desert
a. Article by Geraldine Brooks
b. Australian Exhibit

Pillars:
Sarah Ahmed, "Happy Objects" from the *Promise of Happiness* (Duke University Press, Durham, 2010), pp. 21-49. Also available at https://wiki.brown.edu/confluence/download/attachments/73535007/Ahmed%2B-%2BHappy%2BObjects.pdf

Vikram Seth, "Homeless," a poem from *The Humble Administrator's Garden* (Carcanet, Manchester, 1985)

Essay due 8:00 AM on Monday, March 23 via Sakai

WEEK TWELVE: SUSTAINING THE GOOD LIFE (March 30-April 3)

Gateways:

1. Aldo Leopold, "The Land Ethic," from *A Sand County Almanac and Sketches Here and There* (New York: Oxford University Press, 1948), 201-226.

Pillars:
Mike Davis, "Who Will Build the Ark? Utopian Thinking in an Age of Catastrophe," Lecture delivered at Ludiwg-Maximilians-University, Munich, 2008 and available at http://unigesellschaft.de/pdf/talk_davis_en.pdf

WEEK THIRTEEN: CONSTRUCTING THE GOOD LIFE (April 6-10)

Gateways:
1. Margaret Carr, Multimedia Lecture.

Pillars:
Peter Kraftl, "Architectural Movements, Utopian Moments: (In)Coherent Renderings of the Hundertwasser-Haus, Vienna " *Geografiska Annaler: Series B*, 92:4, December 2010, pp. 327-345

Sacred Space Postcard due by discussion section meeting

PART 4: EPILOGUE (AFTER THE GOOD LIFE)

WEEKS FOURTEEN: QUESTIONING THE GOOD LIFE (April 13-17)

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

Pillar:
Aleksandar Hemon, " The Aquarium," The New Yorker, June 13, 2011. Available at http://www.newyorker.com/reporting/2011/06/13/110613fa_fact_hemon

Jonathan Franzen, "Agreeable," The New Yorker, May 31, 2010 available at http://www.newyorker.com/fiction/features/2010/05/31/100531fi_fiction_franzen

WEEK FIFTEEN: PERPETUATING THE GOOD LIFE (April 20-22)

Gateway:
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.

Pillars:

José Saramago, *The Tale of the Unknown Island* (Harcourt, Brace and Company, New York, 1998)

Steve Jobs, Commencement Address at Stanford University, 2005. Available at http://news.stanford.edu/news/2005/june15/jobs-061505.html

Final Exam (cumulative) on Monday, April 27 from 10:00-11:40 a.m. (Location TBA)

The Final 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

Spring HOLIDAYS (NO CLASSES)

January 19: Martin Luther King Jr Day
March 2-6: Spring Break