HUM 2305: What is the Good Life?
Spring 2014
Lecture: MW 3 CSE A101

INSTRUCTOR

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Matthew Michel, mmichel@ufl.edu. Office Hours: W8, TBA
Carissa Nicholson, carissan@ufl.edu. Office Hours: M4 period, FAD233

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<th>Section</th>
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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
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 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 Constans Theatre. 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 Constans Theatre, 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.

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


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:


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

**TOP HAT**

Students are required to purchase a Top Hat semester subscription to participate in lecture polls. *When you set up your account, you must provide Top Hat with your UF email address in order to receive credit* (see announcements in Sakai for more information).

**ASSIGNMENTS AND REQUIREMENTS**

1. One 500-word essay (Short Essay), **due 8:00 AM on Friday, February 7 via Sakai**. Students compare or contrast how the Good Life is depicted in two of the required readings (one gateway and one pillar). Detailed instructions will be supplied prior to the due date. (100 points, 10% of course grade)

2. A forty-five minute Midterm Exam in lecture on **Wednesday, February 26** (100 points, 10% of the course grade)

3. One 1000-word essay (Analytical Essay), **due 8:00 AM on Monday April 14 via Sakai**, on the question: What is the Cost of the Good Life? Detailed instructions will be supplied prior to the due date. (200 points, 20% of course grade)

4. A ninety-minute (non-cumulative) Final Exam during the course’s assembly exam scheduled time: **Monday, April 28 from 12:30-2:00 PM (Location TBA)**. (250 points, 25% of course grade)

5. Six (fill-in-the-blank) Quizzes. Each quiz is worth 20 points (5 questions, 4 points per question). Lowest quiz is dropped. (100 points, 10% of course grade)

6. Participation. (120 points, 12% of course grade)
   a. Participation in weekly discussions. (50 points)
   b. Oral Presentation on gateways/pillars as assigned by your teaching assistant. (50 points)
   c. Construction assignment for Week 9. (20 points)
7. Attendance. (130 points, 13% of course grade)
   a. Lecture Responses. (50 points, based on the student’s average on Top Hat)
      Students will receive the full 50 points if they score at least 75%; otherwise a
      proportional fraction of points. Students may not make up missed responses
      regardless of the reason (e.g., absence, illness, technical error, failure to register
      with the CRS, etc.). See announcements in Sakai for more information on Top Hat.
   b. Discussion Attendance. (60 points, 6 points per discussion section meeting, one
      unexcused absence)
   c. Common Activities. (10 points for the Harn Tour, 10 points for Hobson’s Choice)

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<th>GRADING SCALE AND ASSIGNMENT SUMMARY</th>
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<tr>
<td>Attendance: 130 points (13%)</td>
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<td>Participation: 120 points (12%)</td>
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<td>Quizzes: 100 points (10%)</td>
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<td>Short Essay: 100 points (10%)</td>
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<td>Analytical Essay: 200 points (20%)</td>
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<td>Mid-Term Exam: 100 points (10%)</td>
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<td>Final Exam: 250 points (25%)</td>
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<td><strong>Total: 1,000 points (100%)</strong></td>
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*Please note: An earned grade of “C-” will not be a qualifying grade for major, minor,
Gen. Ed., 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/process/student-conduct-honor-code/

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 6C1-4.047 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/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. **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.
WEEKLY SCHEDULE

WEEKS ONE AND TWO: THINKING ABOUT THE GOOD LIFE (Jan 6-17)

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.


Pillars:


WEEKS THREE AND FOUR: SEEKING THE GOOD LIFE (Jan 21-31)

Gateway:

Pillars:
Kathryn Schulz, “On Being Wrong”

Common Lecture by Professor Melissa Lane, Princeton University.
Monday, January 27 at 5:30 pm in the Grand Ballroom of the Reitz Union.
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.

Good Life Performance
Hobson’s Choice from Thursday, January 30 through Friday, February 7 (except Monday) in the Constans Theatre (see the Common Activities handout in Sakai).

WEEK FIVE: CELEBRATING THE GOOD LIFE (Feb 3-7)

Gateways:
1. Brenda Smith and Ronald Burrichter, Multimedia Lecture (in lieu of class lecture on Feb. 3)
2. Excerpt from “Bernstein in Vienna”
2. Leonard Bernstein’s Video on “Ode to Joy.”

Pillars:
1. Giovanni, Winter Poem
2. Copeland, Music and the Human Spirit

Short Essay due 8:00 AM on Friday, February 7 via Sakai.

WEEK SIX: EMBODYING THE GOOD LIFE (Feb 10-14)

Gateways:
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)

Pillars:
Zoe Whitall, “The Hot Fat Girl Manifesto”
Neil Harbisson Interview, First Recognized Cyborg
WEEK SEVEN: OWNING THE GOOD LIFE (Feb 17-21)

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

Pillars:
John Berger, Ways of Seeing, 129-154
Michel Sandel, Markets and Morals
Annie Leonard, “The Story of Stuff”
Lars Eighner, “On Dumpster Diving”

WEEK EIGHT: SUSTAINING THE GOOD LIFE (Feb 24-28)

Gateways:

2. Brochure from the Aldo Leopold Foundation.

Pillars:
William McDonough: The Wisdom of Designing Cradle to Cradle.
http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=IoRjz8iTVoo

Mid-Term Exam on Wednesday, February 26 in Lecture

WEEK NINE: CONSTRUCTING THE GOOD LIFE (March 10-14)

Gateways:
1. Margaret Carr, Multimedia Lecture (in lieu of the class lecture on March 12).

2. Related Assignment (available in the Resources folder of Sakai). Due at the start of Discussion Section for Week 9.

Pillars:
WEEK TEN: GOVERNING THE GOOD LIFE (March 17-21)

Gateways:

2. Declaration of the Rights of Man and Citizen.

Pillars:
Literacy Test, Louisiana 1964

WEEKS ELEVEN AND TWELVE: FIGHTING FOR THE GOOD LIFE (March 24-April 4)

Gateways:
1. Victoria Pagán, Multimedia Lecture on Antigone, Parts 1&2 (in lieu of class on March 24).


Pillars:
Malcom X, “The Ballot or the Bullet”

WEEK THIRTEEN: SHARING THE GOOD LIFE (April 7-11)

Gateways:
1. Song of Songs.

2. Plato, Symposium 210a-212b (Diotima's Ladder of Love).

Pillars:
Lily Yeh and Barefoot Artists  http://barefootartists.org/Lilys_Warrior_Angel_11_2.pdf

WEEKS FOURTEEN: QUESTIONING THE GOOD LIFE (April 14-18)

Gateway:

Pillars:
Ralph Waldo Emerson, “Nature”
William Deresiewicz, “The Disadvantages of an Elite Education”

Analytical Essay due 8:00 AM on Monday, April 14 via Sakai.

WEEK FIFTEEN: PERPETUATING THE GOOD LIFE (April 21-23)

Gateway:

Pillars:
Twyla Tharp "The Creative Habit: Learn it and Use it for Life"

Final Exam (non-cumulative) on Monday, April 28 from 12:30-2:00 PM (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 20: Martin Luther King Jr. Day
March 1-8: Spring Break