

HUM 2305: What is the Good Life? Spring 2014

Lecture: M W Period 4 (Pugh 170)

INSTRUCTOR

Dr. Andrew Wolpert, Associate Professor of Classics and Course Director of HUM 2305
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Office Hours: Wednesday 11:45 am -1:15 pm and by appointment

TEACHING ASSISTANTS (office hours and location TBA)

Mr. Nikolas Bajorek, nikbajorek@ufl.edu
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Section	Time (Period)	Location	Teaching Assistant
o85B	W 5	FLG 275	Nikolas Bajorek
o874	W 7	LIT 0237	Nikolas Bajorek
o88E	W 8	TUR 2342	Nikolas Bajorek
o85C	W 6	LEI 0142	Jaya Reddy
o88B	W 7	LIT 235	Jaya Reddy
o88H	W 9	DAU 0342	Jaya Reddy
o85A	W 5	FLI 115	Katherine Reed
o86E	W 6	LEI 242	Katherine Reed
o88C	W 8	TUR 2336	Katherine Reed

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 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

- 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>

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.
- *Sophocles' Antigone*, translated by Ruby Blondell (Newburyport, MA: Focus Publishing, 1998). ISBN: 978-0941051255.
- Top Hat Monocle Semester Subscription. ISBN: 9780986615108.

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)

GRADING SCALE AND ASSIGNMENT SUMMARY

Grade Proportion	Grade Scale	Grade Value
Attendance: 130 points (13%)	930-1,000 = A	A = 4.0
Participation: 120 points (12%)	900-929 = A-	A- = 3.67
Quizzes: 100 points (10%)	870-899 = B+	B+ = 3.33
Short Essay: 100 points (10%)	830-869 = B	B = 3.00
Analytical Essay: 200 points (20%)	790-829 = B-	B- = 2.67
Mid-Term Exam: 100 points (10%)	750-789 = C+	C+ = 2.33
Final Exam: 250 points (25%)	720-749 = C	C = 2.00
Total: 1,000 points (100%)	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

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:* 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.
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:

1. "The Onion," by Wislawa Szymborska, in *View with a Grain of Sand: Selected Poems*, translated from the Polish by Stanislaw Baranczak and Clare Cavanagh (New York: Harcourt Brace and Co, 1995) 120-121.
2. "Parthenogenesis," by Pablo Neruda, in *Five Decades: A Selection (Poems: 1925-1970)*, edited and translated by Ben Belitt (New York: Grove, 1974), 192-195.
3. Joel K. Kupperman, "Myth One: Pursuing Comfort and Pleasure Will Lead to the Best Possible Life" from *Six Myths about the Good Life: Thinking About What Has Value* (Indianapolis: Hackett, 2006), 1-21.

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

Gateway:

1. Hermann Hesse, *Siddartha*, translated by Joachim Neugroschel (New York: Penguin Books, 2002).

Pillars:

1. Albert C. Brooks, "A Formula for Happiness," *New York Times*, December 14, 2013.

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 Burcher, Multimedia Lecture (in lieu of class lecture on Feb. 3).
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.

Pillars:

1. Victor Turner, "Betwixt and Between: The Liminal Period in Rites de Passage," Chapter 4 from his *The Forest of Symbols* (Ithaca: Cornell University Press, 1967), 93-113.
2. Muriel Barbery, "Journal of the Movement of the World No. 4" from *The Elegance of the Hedgehog*, translated by A. Anderson, (New York: Europa Editions, 2006), 184-185.

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

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

Gateways:

1. Interview (37 minutes) and excerpt from Rebecca Skloot, *The Immortal Life of Henrietta Lacks* (New York: Crown, 2010).
2. Emily Prager, "Our Barbies, Ourselves," originally appeared in the December 1991 issue of *Interview*.

Pillars:

1. Oscar Wilde, *The Picture of Dorian Gray*, Preface (pages **xiii-xv**), Chapter 1 (pages 1-20) and Chapter 2 (pages 21-44).

WEEK SEVEN: OWNING THE GOOD LIFE (Feb 17-21)

Gateways:

1. The Painted Desert: Article by Geraldine Brooks **and** Australian Exhibit

Pillars:

1. John Berger, *Ways of Seeing* (London: Penguin Books, 1972), 129-54.
2. Michael Sandel, "Markets and Morals," in *What Money Can't Buy: The Limits of Markets* (New York: Farrar, Straus, and Giroux, 2010), 3-15.

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

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.
2. Brochure from the Aldo Leopold Foundation.

Pillars:

1. Wangari Maathai, *Unbowed: A Memoir* (New York: Alfred A. Knopf, 2006), Epilogue: "A Canopy of Hope."

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:

1. Kirk Savage, "The Politics of Memory: Black Emancipation and the Civil War Monument," in *Commemorations: The Politics of National Identity*, edited by John Gillis (Princeton: Princeton University, 1994), 127-49.

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

Gateways:

1. Sherman A. Jackson, "What is Shariah and Why Does It Matter?"

2. Declaration of the Rights of Man and Citizen.

Pillars:

1. Plato, *Protagoras* 320c–328d, translated by Benjamin Jowett (New York: The Liberal Arts Press, 1956), 18–27.
2. Freeman, Samuel, “Introduction,” “2. The Original Position and Social Doctrine,” “3. The Veil of Ignorance,” and “6. The Arguments for the Principles of Justice from the Original Position, from ‘Original Position,’” *The Stanford Encyclopedia of Philosophy* (Spring 2012 Edition), Edward N. Zalta (ed.)
<http://plato.stanford.edu/archives/spr2012/entries/original-position>

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

Gateways:

1. Victoria Pagán, Multimedia Lecture on *Antigone*, 1&2 (in lieu of class on March 24).
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, Straus, and Giroux, 1997), 169-176.

Pillars:

1. Plato, *Crito* 48b–54e in *The Trial and Death of Socrates*, translated by G.M.A. Grube (Indianapolis: Hackett Publishing, 1975), 48–54
2. Nelson Mandela, *Long Walk to Freedom*, Vol. 2: 1962-1994 (London: Abacus, 1994), Chapter 115, 431-38 .

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

Gateways:

1. Song of Songs.
2. Plato, *Symposium* 210a-212b (Diotima's Ladder of Love).
3. Guido Guinizelli's Manifesto of Love.

Pillars:

1. Kenneth Fletcher, "Befriending Luna the Killer Whale," *The Smithsonian*, April 14, 2008.
2. Mark Twain, *The Diaries of Adam and Eve*, reprinted in *Harper's Magazine* 298.1789 (1999): 55–62.

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

Gateway:

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

Pillar:

1. Ursula LeGuin, "The Ones Who Walk Away From Omelas." Reprinted in Ursula LeGuin, *The Wind's Twelve Quarters* (New York: Harper and Row, 1975), 276–84.
2. T. S. Eliot, "The Love Song of J. Alfred Prufrock" from *Prufrock and Other Observations* (London: The Egoist Ltd., 1917).

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

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

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:

1. Philip Roth, *Ghost Writer* (New York: Farrar, Straus, and Giroux, 1979), 122–55.

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