HUM 2305: What is the Good Life?
FALL 2014
Lecture: Tuesday/Thursday/9th period 4:05 – 4:55 pm
Turlington L-007

INSTRUCTOR
Dr. Brenda Smith
Contact Information: gesang@ufl.edu, 273-3174, 302 Music Building (MUB)
Office Hours: M 3 and gladly by appointment

TEACHING ASSISTANTS
Rebecca Bauman, rrbauman@ufl.edu /Office Hours TBA
Sarah Bushey, sbushey@ufl.edu/Office Hours TBA
Aimee Gonzalez, aimeego@ufl.edu/Office Hours TBA
Karen McIlvoy, vaemt@ufl.edu/ Office Hours TBA

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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 Phillips Center, 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](http://undergrad.aa.ufl.edu/hum-course.aspx)
- Course materials are available on Sakai at [https://lss.at.ufl.edu/](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
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.

ASSIGNMENTS AND REQUIREMENTS
1. A forty-five minute Midterm Exam in lecture on Thursday, October 9 (150 points, 15% of the course grade)
2. An Essay (1,000-1,250 words) **due 8:00 AM on Monday, November 3 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, December 15 from 10:00-11:40 AM (Location TBA).** (300 points, 30% of course grade)
4. 4 Quizzes (identification and/or multiple choice). Each quiz is worth 25 points. (100 points, 10% of course grade)
5. 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 Week 14. (30 points)
   d. Essay Outline. (10 points)
   e. Common Activity Assignment. (30 points)
6. 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

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<td>Quizzes: 100 points (10%)</td>
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<td>Attendance: 120 points (12%)</td>
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<td>Essay: 200 points (20%)</td>
<td>790-829 = B-</td>
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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 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.
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 that can be found in the online catalog at [https://catalog.ufl.edu/ugrad/current/regulations/info/attendance.aspx](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 of the scheduled assignment, 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:
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 (Aug 25-Sept 5)

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. (on Sakai)


Pillar Readings:


WEEKS THREE AND FOUR: SEEKING THE GOOD LIFE (Sept 8-19)

Gateway:
Pillar Readings:

2. The National Geographic: Inside Mecca Part I (Pilgrimage)  
http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=bspq4LGP2Qs&feature=results_video&playnet+1&list=PLEB7D1F0B177D0295

WEEK FIVE: EMBODYING THE GOOD LIFE (Sept 22-26)
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)


Pillar Reading:

2. Oscar Wilde, Artist's Preface plus Chapters 1 and 2, The Picture of Dorian Gray; free e-book, xiii-xv, 1-44. (on Sakai)

Good Life Panel Discussion on Tuesday, September 23 at 5:30 pm in the Grand Ballroom of the Reitz Union.  
Students may either (a) attend the live panel discussion or (b) watch the asynchronous video stream available after the discussion. For information on ticket reservation to the live lecture, see the Common Activities handout in Sakai.

PART 2: SOCIETY

WEEK SIX: SHARING THE GOOD LIFE (Sept 29-Oct 3)
Pillar Readings:
1. Peter J. Gomes, “Living for Goodness’ Sake”, Chap. 3 from The Good Life (San Francisco, CA: Harper, 2003); 49-69. (on Sakai)

2. John McPhee, “Reading the River” from Pieces of the Frame” (New York,: Farrar, Straus and Giroux, 1963), 61-72 (on Sakai)
WEEK SEVEN: CELEBRATING THE GOOD LIFE (Oct 6-10)
Gateways:
1. Brenda Smith and Ronald Burrichter, Multimedia Lecture.
2. Excerpt from “Bernstein in Vienna.”
3. Leonard Bernstein’s Video on “Ode to Joy.”

Pillar Readings:
1. Jeanette Winterson, “Art Objects” from Art Objects, (NY, Knopf, 1997); 3-24. (on Sakai)

Mid-Term Exam on Thursday, October 9 in Lecture

WEEK EIGHT: GOVERNING THE GOOD LIFE (Oct 13-16)
Gateway:
Declaration of the Rights of Man and of the Citizen. (on Sakai)

Pillar Readings:

WEEKS NINE AND TEN: FIGHTING FOR THE GOOD LIFE (Oct 20-31)
Gateways:
1. Victoria Pagán, Multimedia Lecture on Antigone, Parts 1&2 (in lieu of lecture on October 21).


Pillar Reading:
Christa Wolf, “Thoughts about September 1, 1939” in The Author’s Dimension, (Chicago, IL: University of Chicago Press, 1993) 285-289 (on Sakai)

**PART 3: NATURE AND THE PHYSICAL ENVIRONMENT**

**WEEK ELEVEN: OWNING THE GOOD LIFE (Nov. 3-7)**

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

Pillar Readings:
1. Alexandra Jacobs, “Happy Feet” The New Yorker (9/14/09). (on Sakai)

   Essay due 8:00 AM on Monday, Nov 3 via Sakai

**WEEK TWELVE: SUSTAINING THE GOOD LIFE (Nov 10-14)**

Gateways:

Pillar Readings:
1. Rachel Carson, “And No birds Sing” from Silent Spring, Chapter 8, (New York: Houghton Mifflin, 1962) 103-127 (on Sakai)


**WEEK THIRTEEN: CONSTRUCTING THE GOOD LIFE (Nov 17-21)**

Gateway:
Margaret Carr, Multimedia Lecture.
Pillar Reading and Video:
   http://www.nytimes.com/2012/02/19/opinion/sunday/house-of-stone.html
   http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=IoRjz8iTVoo

PART 4: EPILOGUE (AFTER THE GOOD LIFE)

WEEKS FOURTEEN AND FIFTEEN: QUESTIONING THE GOOD LIFE (Nov 24-Dec 5)
Gateway:
Henry Thoreau, “Where I Lived, and What I Lived For” and “Conclusion,” from Walden.  
Available online at the following websites:

Pillar Readings:

Sacred Space Postcard due by lecture on Tuesday, November 25

WEEK SIXTEEN: PERPETUATING THE GOOD LIFE (Dec 8-10)
Gateway:

Pillar Readings:

Final Exam (cumulative) on Monday, December 15 from 10:00-11:45 AM (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

FALL HOLIDAYS (NO CLASSES)
September 1: Labor Day
October 17: Homecoming
November 11: Veteran’s Day
November 26--28: Thanksgiving