

IUF 1000: What is the Good Life?

FALL 2015

Lecture: T Th Period 3, NRN (Norman Hall) 137

INSTRUCTOR

Dr. David Hackett, Department of Religion
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Office Hours: Tuesday 11:30-1:00; Thursday 10:30-12:00 and by appointment

TEACHING ASSISTANTS

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Section	Time	Location	Teaching Assistant
095F	R6	LEI 0242	Todd
095G	R7	TUR B310	Todd
095B	R8	RNK 0230	Todd
095H	R7	LEI 0104	Ghonim
1C66	R8	TUR 2322	Ghonim
095D	R9	TUR 2350	Ghonim
095E	R5	TUR B310	Mones
0951	R7	LEI 0242	Mones
1C68	R9	LEI 0242	Mones
1C67	R9	LEI 0104	McCarthy
1C70	R10	TUR B310	McCarthy
1C72	F2	TUR 2322	McCarthy
097A	R8	DAU 0342	Merivaki
1C69	R9	TUR 1101	Merivaki
1C71	F2	TUR B310	Merivaki

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 and seeing the Good Life exhibit at the Harn Museum. More information on these activities can be found on the course Canvas site.

COURSE WEB SITE

- General Good Life course site at <http://undergrad.aa.ufl.edu/hum-course.aspx>
- Course materials are available on Canvas 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>

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.

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 8**. (150 points, 15% of the course grade)
2. An Essay (1,000-1,250 words) **due 8:00 AM on Monday, November 2 via Canvas**. 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 14 from 10:00-11:40 AM (Location TBA)**. (300 points, 30% of course grade)
5. 5 Quizzes (identification). Each quiz is worth 24 points. (120 points, 12% of course grade)
6. Discussion Activities. (110 points, 11% of course grade)
 - a. Participation in weekly discussions. (30 points)
 - b. Oral Presentation. (30 points)
 - c. Sacred Space Postcard, due in discussion section for Week 13. (30 points)
 - d. Essay Outline and Thesis Statement. (10 points)
7. Attendance. (120 points, 12% of course grade)
 - a. Lecture and Discussion. (100 points, 2 unexcused absences are permitted and will be factored in by 6 extra-credit points)
 - b. 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: 120 points (12%)	930-1,000 = A	A = 4.0
Attendance: 120 points (12%)	900-929 = A-	A- = 3.67
Activities: 110 points (11%)	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 Canvas.**
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>
 - 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:
 - 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 (Aug 24-Sept 4)

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.29-45, 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

Pillar:

1. Mary Oliver, “The Summer Day” from her *New and Selected Poems* (Boston: Beacon Press, 1992), 94.

Tuesday, August 25th: Orientation

Thursday, August 27th: What is the Good Life?

Tuesday, September 1st: What is Happiness?

Read Sung, Wujastyk, and Herodotus prior to this lecture

Thursday, September 3rd: What is the Purpose of a College Education?

Read Machen and Oliver prior to this lecture

WEEKS THREE AND FOUR: SEEKING THE GOOD LIFE (Sept 8-18)

Gateway:

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

Pillar:

1. Rainer Maria Rilke, from his *Letters to a Young Poet* (New York: Norton, 1954), 34-35.

Tuesday, September 8th: Leaving Home

Read *Siddhartha*, “The Son of the Brahmin”

Thursday, September 10th: Encountering Obstacles

Read *Siddhartha*, “With the Samanas, Gotama, and Awakening”

Tuesday, September 15th: Living the Journey

Read *Siddhartha*, “Kamala, Amongst the People, Samsara”
and Rilke, “Living the Questions”

Thursday, September 17th: What is Enlightenment?

Read *Siddhartha*, “By the River, The Ferryman, The Son, Om and Govinda”

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)

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

3. Kevin Connolly, *Double Take: A Memoir* (Harper 2009), Chapter 3: “What If?” and Chapter 11: “Snapshot.”

Pillar:

1. “The Fighting Whities,” https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=B_mzZRX-JVQ

Tuesday, September 22nd: *The Lived Experience*

Read Skloot interview, Prager and Connolly

Thursday, September 24th: *Race As ideology*

View “The Fighting Whities”

Common Activity Performances of *Raisin Cane*, September 27, 28, and 29

PART 2: SOCIETY

WEEK SIX: SHARING THE GOOD LIFE (Sept 28-Oct 2)

Pillars:

1. Robert N. Bellah et al “Love and Marriage” in *Habits of the Heart: Individualism and Commitment in America* (Berkeley: University of California Press, 1985), 85-112
2. John J.L. Mood, “Rilke’s Letters on Love” in *his Rilke on Love and other Difficulties* (New York: Norton, 1975), 27-37.
3. Mark C. Carnes, “Manmade Religion: Victorian Fraternal Rituals” in David Hackett ed. *Religion and American Culture*, 1st ed. (New York: Routledge, 1995), 315-326.

Tuesday, September 29th: *Love Relationships*

Read Bellah and Rilke

Thursday, October 1st: *Freemasonry*

Read Carnes

WEEK SEVEN: CELEBRATING THE GOOD LIFE (Oct 5-9)

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.

Tuesday, October 6th: Sabbath

View Gateway videos, read Heschel

Mid-Term Exam on Thursday, Oct 8 in Lecture

No Discussion sections this week

WEEK EIGHT: GOVERNING THE GOOD LIFE (Oct 13-16)

Gateways:

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

Pillars:

1. Robert N. Bellah et al “Culture and Character: The Historical Conversation” in *Habits of the Heart: Individualism and Commitment in America* (Berkeley: University of California Press, 1985), 27-51
2. Michael Sandel, “The Lost Art of Democratic Debate,” Ted Talk
http://www.ted.com/talks/michael_sandel_the_lost_art_of_democratic_debate

Tuesday, October 13th: Culture and Character in American History

Read Bellah

Thursday, October 15th: Individualism and Community

View Sandel, Read Declaration of the Rights of Man

WEEKS NINE AND TEN: FIGHTING FOR THE GOOD LIFE (Oct 19-30)

Gateways:

1. Victoria Pagán, Multimedia Lecture on *Antigone*, Parts 1&2 (in lieu of lecture on Oct. 20).
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.

Pillar:

1. William B. Gravely, “The Dialectic of Double-Consciousness in Black American Freedom Celebrations, 1808-1863,” in David Hackett ed. *Religion and American Culture: A Reader* (New York: Routledge, 2003), 121-138.

Tuesday, October 20th: View Antigone Lecture On-Line

Read Antigone, No Live Class

Thursday, October 22nd: Interpreting Antigone

Read Antigone

Tuesday, October 27th: The African American Dialectic of Double Consciousness

Look at “Wo-Haw”, Read Gravely

Thursday, October 29th: Martin Luther King (and Antigone)

Read Martin Luther King and Head

PART 3: NATURE AND THE PHYSICAL ENVIRONMENT

WEEK ELEVEN: OWNING THE GOOD LIFE (Nov. 2-5)

Gateway:

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

Pillar:

1. Michael Sandel, “Markets and Morals” from his *What Money Can’t Buy: The Limits of Markets* (New York: Farrar, Strauss, and Rivoux, 2010), 3-16

Essay due 8:00 AM on Monday, Nov 2 via Canvas

Tuesday, November 3rd: Who Owns Culture?

Read Brooks and the Australian Exhibit

Thursday, November 5th: What Money Can’t Buy

Read Sandel

Homecoming November 6th

No Discussion sections on this Friday (though there ARE discussion sections on Thursday)

WEEK TWELVE: SUSTAINING THE GOOD LIFE (Nov 9-11)

Gateway:

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

Tuesday, November 10th: NO CLASS – Veteran’s Day

Thursday, November 12th: *The Ecological Crisis and the Good Life*
Read Leopold

WEEK THIRTEEN: CONSTRUCTING THE GOOD LIFE (Nov 16-20)

Gateway:

1. Margaret Carr, Multimedia Lecture.

Pillar:

1. Randy Hester, "Subconscious Landscapes of the Heart" *Places* 2:3 (1985), 10-22.

Tuesday, November 17th: *Landscapes of the Heart*
Read Hester, look at Sacred Space Postcard assignment on Canvas

Thursday, November 19th: *Constructing the Good Life*
View Carr video

Sacred Space Postcard due by discussion section this week

PART 4: EPILOGUE (AFTER THE GOOD LIFE)

WEEKS FOURTEEN AND FIFTEEN: QUESTIONING THE GOOD LIFE (Nov 23-Dec 4)

Gateway:

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

Pillar:

1. Clement Moore, "A Visit from Saint Nicholas"
<http://www.poetryfoundation.org/poem/171924>

Tuesday, November 24th: *Thoreau*
Read Thoreau

Thursday, November 26th: NO CLASS Thanksgiving

Tuesday, December 1st: Questioning the Good Life

Read Clement Moore

Thursday, December 3rd: Questioning the Good Life

WEEK SIXTEEN: PERPETUATING THE GOOD LIFE (Dec 7-9)

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.

Tuesday, December 8th: Perpetuating the Good Life

Read Bhagavad-Gita

Final Exam (cumulative) on Monday, December 14 from 10:00-11:40 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. An alternative time will not be granted unless there is an acceptable reason for the student 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 7: Labor Day

November 6: Homecoming

November 11: Veteran's Day

November 25 - 27: Thanksgiving