

# HUM 2305: What is the Good Life?

## FALL 2014

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

### INSTRUCTOR

Dr. David Hackett, Department of Religion  
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Office Hours: *Wednesdays 11:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m. and by appointment*

### TEACHING ASSISTANTS

Brian Bredehoeft, [brianb1@ufl.edu](mailto:brianb1@ufl.edu) Office Hours TBA  
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Section	Time	Location	Teaching Assistant
095B	R7	FLG 265	Knowlton
095F	R9	TUR 2353	Knowlton
1C71	F2	TUR 2318	Knowlton
095D	R4	TUR 2336	Lee
0951	R7	MAEB 0238	Lee
1C72	F2	TUR 2306	Lee
1C66	R8	FLO 0100	Bredehoeft
1C69	R9	FLI 0113	Bredehoeft
1C70	R10	LEI 0104	Bredehoeft
095E	R4	TUR 2342	Dedenbach
095G	R5	MAEB 0234	Dedenbach
1C67	R8	WEIM 1092	Dedenbach
095H	R6	RNK 0230	Fischer
097A	R7	MAT 0116	Fischer
1C68	R9	LIT 0235	Fischer

## 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>
- 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.
- *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 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)
5. 4 Quizzes (identification and/or multiple choice). 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 Week 14. (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
<b>Total: 1,000 points (100%)</b>	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 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](https://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.
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

**Pillar:**

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

**Tuesday, August 26th: Orientation**

**Thursday, August 28th: What is the Good Life?**

**Tuesday, September 2nd: What is Happiness?**

Read Sung, Wujastyk, and Herodotus prior to this lecture

**Thursday, September 4th: 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 8-19)**

**Gateway:**

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

**Pillar:**

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

**Tuesday, September 9th: Leaving Home**

Read *Siddhartha*, "The Son of the Brahmin"

**Thursday, September 11th: Encountering Obstacles**

Read *Siddhartha*, "With the Samanas, Gotama, and Awakening"

**Tuesday, September 16th: Living the Journey**

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

**Thursday, September 18th: 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*.

### **Tuesday, September 23rd: *The Lived Experience***

*Read Skloot interview and Prager*

**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.

### **Thursday, September 25th: *Race As ideology***

## PART 2: SOCIETY

## WEEK SIX: SHARING THE GOOD LIFE (Sept 29-Oct 3)

### Pillars:

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

John J.L. Mood, “Rilke’s Letters on Love” in *his Rilke on Love and other Difficulties* (New York: Norton, 1975), 27-37.

### **Tuesday, September 30th: *Gender and Love***

*Read Bellah and Rilke*

### **Thursday, October 2nd: *Freemasonry***

## 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.”
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 7th: *Sabbath***

View Gateway videos, read Heschel

### **Mid-Term Exam on Thursday, Oct 9 in Lecture**

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

### Gateways:

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

### Pillars:

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

Michael Sandel, “The Lost Art of Democratic Debate,” Ted Talk

[http://www.ted.com/talks/michael\\_sandel\\_the\\_lost\\_art\\_of\\_democratic\\_debate](http://www.ted.com/talks/michael_sandel_the_lost_art_of_democratic_debate)

### **Tuesday, October 14th: *Culture and Character in American History***

Read Bellah

### **Thursday, October 16th: *Individualism and Community***

View Sandel, Read Declaration of the Rights of Man

## 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 Oct. 21).
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.

**Tuesday, October 21st: View Antigone Lecture On-Line**

*Read Antigone, No Live Class*

**Thursday, October 23rd: Interpreting Antigone**

*Read Antigone*

**Tuesday, October 28th: The African American Dialectic of Double Consciousness**

*Read Martin Luther King*

**Thursday, October 30th: Martin Luther King (and Antigone)**

*Look at "Wo-Haw" and read Head*

## PART 3: NATURE AND THE PHYSICAL ENVIRONMENT

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

### Gateway:

The Painted Desert

- a. Article by Geraldine Brooks
- b. Australian Exhibit

### Pillar:

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 3 via Sakai**

**Tuesday, November 4th: *Who Owns Culture?***

*Read Brooks and the Australian Exhibit*

**Thursday, November 6th: *What Money Can't Buy***

*Read Sandel*

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

### **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.

### **Pillar:**

"Roosevelt and Yellowstone," Episode 2 of PBS video on our National Parks

<http://www.pbs.org/nationalparks/history/ep2/4/>

**Tuesday, November 11<sup>th</sup>: NO CLASS – Veteran's Day**

**Thursday, November 13th: *The Ecological Crisis and the Good Life***

*Read Leopold, View PBS video*

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

### **Gateway:**

Margaret Carr, Multimedia Lecture.

### **Pillars:**

1. Randy Hester, "Subconscious Landscapes of the Heart" *Places* 2:3 (1985), 10-22.
2. <http://www.thewildernessdowntown.com/> interactive video

**Tuesday, November 18th: *Landscapes of the Heart***

*Read Hester, look at assignment on Sakai*

**Thursday, November 20th: *Constructing the Good Life***

*View Carr video, View and interact with "the wilderness downtown" video*

## PART 4: EPILOGUE (AFTER THE GOOD LIFE)

### WEEKS FOURTEEN AND FIFTEEN: QUESTIONING THE GOOD LIFE (Nov 24-Dec 5)

#### Gateway:

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

#### **Sacred Space Postcard due by lecture on Tuesday, Nov. 25**

**Tuesday, November 25th: *Thoreau***

*Read Thoreau*

**Thursday, November 27<sup>th</sup>: NO CLASS Thanksgiving**

**Tuesday, December 2nd: *Questioning the Good Life***

**Thursday, December 4<sup>th</sup>: *Questioning the Good Life***

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

#### 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 9<sup>th</sup>: Perpetuating the Good Life**

*Read Bhagavad-Gita*

#### **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