

IUF 1000: What is the Good Life?

Fall 2018

Course Description

Drawing on the disciplines that make up the Humanities and the considerable resources at UF in support of the Humanities, this course investigates the very nature and experience of being human.



Applying multi-disciplinary to explore what is a 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.

Part 1 (Individual) and Part 2 (Society) of the course consist of “gateway” works, common to all sections regardless of instructor, and “pillar” works, assigned by the head instructors to their own sections. Faculty select pillars to complement the gateways while also drawing on their own areas of interest and expertise. For Part 3, students explore in depth a Special Topic, which is developed by their head instructor and is the subject of their term paper. Part 3 provides a synthesis of the materials covered in Parts 1 and 2.

For Part 4 (This I Believe), students reflect on what they have learned through a short audio essay.

Course Format for Fall 2018

Sections with face-to-face lectures meet once per week for a lecture by the head instructor and once per week for a discussion led by a TA. The third contact hour is an online discussion.

Sections with online lectures meet in the classroom once per week for a discussion led by an instructor or TA. The other two contact hours are an online lecture and an online discussion.

Special Topics of the Fall 2018 Head Instructors

Baweja: “A Just Good Life” explores how humanities provides a framework for thinking and asking questions about ethical living to achieve a just good life for all.

Capaldo: “Imaging Nature” explores the various ways in which individuals and societies have conceptualized nature over time and space and how humans have searched for and found meaning in the physical landscape.

Falke: “Giving the Good Life” explores the role that charity may play in achieving the good life, both for the recipient of charity and for the giver.

Maze: “Building, Dwelling, Thinking” explores how we dwell, shape our human experience through creative acts, and make our mark upon the land.

Nichols: “Pleasure and the Pursuit of the Good Life” explores what role pleasure and the pursuit of pleasure play in one’s quest for the good life.

Wise: “What Are People for” explores how individuals have conceived of the good life for themselves and how they have done so in the context of the society around them.

Online Lecture Sections (Bargrizen, Clark, Michel): “Staging the Good Life” uses Sophocles’ *Antigone* to explore what happens to people and their community when individuals have radically different ideas about what is right.