

## IDH 2930 - (Un)Common Read (Section 0182-26267)

Fall 2020

Class: Fridays 4:05 – 4:55 p.m. (9<sup>th</sup> period) on Zoom through e-Learning

### Instructor

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Zoom *open* office hours for general questions: Friday after class  
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### (Un)Common Read

- Jules Evans. *Philosophy for Life and Other Dangerous Situations* (Novato, CA: New World Library, 2013). ISBN: 978-1608682294

The book *Philosophy for Life and Other Dangerous Situations* makes ancient Greek philosophies easily accessible and relevant for modern day life. It is divided into different “teaching sessions,” starting from “Morning Roll Call: Socrates and the Art of Street Philosophy” and the “morning session” (Epictetus and the Art of Maintaining Control; Musonius Rufus and the Art of Fieldwork; Seneca and the Art of Managing Expectations) to the “noon session” (Epicurus and the Art of Savoring the Moment), “early-afternoon session” (Heraclitus and the Art of Cosmic Contemplation; Pythagoras and the Art of Memorization and Incantation; Skeptics and the Art of Cultivating Doubt), “late-afternoon session” (Diogenes and the Art of Anarchy; Plato and the Art of Justice; Plutarch and the Art of Heroism; Aristotle and the Art of Flourishing), and finally “Graduation: Socrates and the Art of Departure.” Students will practice living according to the philosophy we discuss each week and write about and discuss their experiences.

### Student Learning Outcomes

**Content Objectives:** Students will learn about different ways of approaching the world by practicing 11 ancient Greek philosophies for one week at a time.

**Communication Objectives:** In written and oral form, students will discuss the philosophies and the benefits and obstacles of applying the philosophies in modern life.

**Critical Thinking Objectives:** Students will critically evaluate the benefits and costs of living according to the ancient Greek philosophies in modern life.

## Requirements

**Readings and Class Participation:** An interaction between students and instructor will be the basis of all classes. Hence, it is absolutely essential that you read the assigned material in advance so that you are able to participate in class discussions.

For each class, starting **after** our first meeting, you will write at least one question related to the assigned readings and bring the question to class for discussion and class participation credit.

**Attendance:** Attendance of class is required because non-attendance by several students at a time will destroy the dynamic of the class. Students who miss all or part of a class session must e-mail an excuse for their absence. Excused absences must be consistent with university policies in the [Undergraduate Catalog](#) and require appropriate documentation.

**Zoom Etiquette:** Turn on your video during Zoom meetings. Do not use your electronic devices to take or receive calls, text messages, or view material unrelated to the course during the Zoom meeting. Always be respectful of the ideas of others. If you disagree with the opinion or view of a classmate, express your own comments in a way that is respectful. Be open-minded!

**Practicing Ancient Greek Philosophy Assignments:** You will follow a different ancient Greek philosophy for one week each week during the semester (without engaging in any unlawful or harmful activity) and write about your experience as follows (600 words minimum each week).

1. Describe the philosophy you followed this week in detail: What did the philosophy require you to do?
2. What exactly did you do to follow this philosophy? Give concrete examples.
3. What were the obstacles you encountered when you tried to follow this philosophy? Give concrete examples.
4. What did you learn by following this philosophy? Give concrete examples.
5. How would you need to change your life if you wanted to follow this philosophy for more than a week?

Each assignment submission should contain a heading that identifies the philosophy you followed. **You will earn 8 points for each submission if you answer each of the 5 questions in sufficient detail and write at least 600 words of original text** (excluding headings and quotations) for a total of 88% of your final grade.

Submit assignments via e-Learning in Canvas after the file has been saved as a Word document (\*.doc or \*.docx). **The deadline for submission is noon each Friday** (except for the first day of class), so that I have time to read your answers before class. For general information about e-Learning in Canvas visit <https://elearning.ufl.edu/keep-learning/>.

To submit your MS Word file in e-Learning, go to the University of Florida e-Learning Support Services home page at <http://elearning.ufl.edu> (bookmark this page). To sign into e-Learning in Canvas, click on the **“Log in to e-Learning”** link using your assigned Gatorlink username and password. If you do not have a Gatorlink ID or if you cannot remember your Gatorlink login

information, go to the Gatorlink website at <http://gatorlink.ufl.edu> or to the CIRCA Help Desk in the Hub (phone: 392-HELP) for assistance.

After you have successfully logged into e-Learning, click on our class folder. **For further assistance please contact e-Learning Support Services at (352) 392-4357 or email: [learning-support@ufl.edu](mailto:learning-support@ufl.edu)**

To submit a Q & A entry via e-Learning, navigate to our course and click on **Assignments** in the menubar. Do the following to submit an assignment:

**Step 1:** Click the Q & A entry you want to submit.

**Step 2:** Click on the "Submit Assignment" link.

**Step 3:** To upload your file, click the **Choose File** button. Browse for a file to upload.

**Step 4:** Check "This assignment submission is my own, original work"

**Step 5:** Click **Submit Assignment** when you are done. After you have submitted your work, you will see information in the Sidebar about your submission. If you choose, you may resubmit another version of your assignment using the **Re-submit Assignment** link.

To view your grades, click on **Grades** in the menubar.

**Cheating:** I define copying parts or all of an author's or another student's work or allowing another student to copy parts or all of your work as cheating.

**WARNING:** Students who are caught cheating in this way will fail the class immediately!

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 (<http://www.dso.ufl.edu/sccr/process/student-conduct-honor-code/>) specifies a number of behaviors that are in violation of this code and the possible sanctions. If you have any questions or concerns, please consult with the instructor in this class.

**Exams:** There are no exams in this course. ☺

## Grading

Requirement	% of Final Grade
Practicing Ancient Greek Philosophy Assignments	88%
Class Attendance	6%
Class Participation	6%

I will not grade on a curve, i.e. your grade will depend on your absolute performance, not your performance compared to other students.

The points that you will earn can be translated into letter-grades as follows:

92.5 - 100.0 = A	72.5 - <77.5 = C
90.0 - <92.5 = A-	70.0 - <72.5 = C-
87.5 - <90.0 = B+	67.5 - <70.0 = D+
82.5 - <87.5 = B	62.5 - <67.5 = D
80.0 - <82.5 = B-	60.0 - <62.5 = D-
77.5 - <80.0 = C+	<60.0 = E

For information on current UF grading policies for assigning grade points, see <https://catalog.ufl.edu/ugrad/current/regulations/info/grades.aspx>

Requirements for class attendance and assignments 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>

## Student Evaluations

Students are expected to provide professional and respectful feedback on the quality of instruction in this course by completing course evaluations online via GatorEvals. Guidance on how to give feedback in a professional and respectful manner is available at <https://gatorevals.ua.ufl.edu/students/>. Students will be notified when the evaluation period opens, and can complete evaluations through the email they receive from GatorEvals, in their Canvas course menu under GatorEvals, or via <https://ufl.bluera.com/ufl/>. Summaries of course evaluation results are available to students at <https://gatorevals.ua.ufl.edu/public-results/>.

## UF Policies

**Accommodations for Students with Disabilities:** Students with disabilities who experience learning barriers and would like to request academic accommodations should connect with the Disability Resource Center by visiting [disability.ufl.edu/students/get-started](http://disability.ufl.edu/students/get-started). It is important for students to share their accommodation letter with their instructor and discuss their access needs, as early as possible in the semester.

**Software Use:** All faculty, staff, and students of the University are required and expected to obey the laws and legal agreements governing software use. Failure to do so can lead to monetary damages and/or criminal penalties for the individual violator. Because such violations are also against University policies and rules, disciplinary action will be taken as appropriate. We, the members of the University of Florida community, pledge to uphold ourselves and our peers to the highest standards of honesty and integrity.

**Student Privacy:** There are federal laws protecting your privacy with regards to grades earned in courses and on individual assignments. For more information, please see: <http://registrar.ufl.edu/catalog0910/policies/regulationferpa.html>

<b>Tentative Class Schedule</b>		
<b>Date</b>	<b>Topic</b>	<b>Readings</b>
09/04	Socrates and the Art of Street Philosophy Introduction: Epictetus and the Art of Maintaining Control	<i>Evans</i> : pp. 1-21 <i>Evans</i> : pp. 25-38
09/11	Discussion: Epictetus and the Art of Maintaining Control Introduction: Musonius Rufus and the Art of Fieldwork	<i>Evans</i> : pp. 25-38 <i>Evans</i> : pp. 38-56
09/18	Discussion: Musonius Rufus and the Art of Fieldwork Introduction: Seneca and the Art of Managing Expectations	<i>Evans</i> : pp. 38-56 <i>Evans</i> : pp. 57-73
09/25	Discussion: Seneca and the Art of Managing Expectations Introduction: Epicurus and the Art of Savoring the Moment	<i>Evans</i> : pp. 57-73 <i>Evans</i> : pp. 77-96
10/02	Discussion: Epicurus and the Art of Savoring the Moment Introduction: Heraclitus and the Art of Cosmic Contemplation	<i>Evans</i> : pp. 77-96 <i>Evans</i> : pp. 99-114
10/09	Discussion: Heraclitus and the Art of Cosmic Contemplation Introduction: Pythagoras and the Art of Memorization and Incantation	<i>Evans</i> : pp. 99-114 <i>Evans</i> : pp. 115-127
10/16	Discussion: Pythagoras and the Art of Memorization and Incantation Introduction: Sceptics and the Art of Cultivating Doubt	<i>Evans</i> : pp. 115-127 <i>Evans</i> : pp. 129-146
10/23	Discussion: Sceptics and the Art of Cultivating Doubt Introduction: Diogenes and the Art of Anarchy	<i>Evans</i> : pp. 129-146 <i>Evans</i> : pp. 149-167
10/30	Discussion: Diogenes and the Art of Anarchy Introduction: Plato and the Art of Justice	<i>Evans</i> : pp. 149-167 <i>Evans</i> : pp. 169-185
11/06	Discussion: Plato and the Art of Justice Introduction: Plutarch and the Art of Heroism	<i>Evans</i> : pp. 169-185 <i>Evans</i> : pp. 187-200
11/13	Discussion: Plutarch and the Art of Heroism Introduction: Aristotle and the Art of Flourishing	<i>Evans</i> : pp. 187-200 <i>Evans</i> : pp. 201-220
11/20	Discussion: Aristotle and the Art of Flourishing	<i>Evans</i> : pp. 201-220
11/27	THANKSGIVING: No class!	
12/04	Socrates and the Art of Departure: What is the Good Life?	<i>Evans</i> : pp. 221-234

## Resources

### Health and Wellness

**U Matter, We Care:**

If you or a friend is in distress, please contact [umatter@ufl.edu](mailto:umatter@ufl.edu) or 352 392-1575 so that a team member can reach out to the student.

**Counseling and Wellness Center:** <http://www.counseling.ufl.edu/cwc>, and 392-1575; and the University Police Department: 392-1111 or 9-1-1 for emergencies.

**Sexual Assault Recovery Services (SARS)**

Student Health Care Center, 392-1161.

**University Police Department** at 392-1111 (or 9-1-1 for emergencies), [or http://www.police.ufl.edu/](http://www.police.ufl.edu/).

### Academic Resources

**E-learning technical support**, 352-392-4357 (select option 2) or e-mail to Learning-support@ufl.edu. <https://lss.at.ufl.edu/help.shtml>.

**Career Resource Center**, Reitz Union, 392-1601. Career assistance and counseling. <https://www.crc.ufl.edu/>.

**Library Support**, <http://cms.uflib.ufl.edu/ask>. Various ways to receive assistance with respect to using the libraries or finding resources.

**Teaching Center**, Broward Hall, 392-2010 or 392-6420. General study skills and tutoring. <https://teachingcenter.ufl.edu/>.

**Writing Studio, 302 Tigert Hall**, 846-1138. Help brainstorming, formatting, and writing papers. <https://writing.ufl.edu/writing-studio/>.

**Student Complaints Campus:**

[https://www.dso.ufl.edu/documents/UF\\_Complaints\\_policy.pdf](https://www.dso.ufl.edu/documents/UF_Complaints_policy.pdf).

**On-Line Students Complaints:** <http://www.distance.ufl.edu/student-complaint-process>.