

# **IDH2930 - Honors UnCommon Read: "*When Breath Becomes Air*"**

**Instructors:** Meredith Beaupre, Honors Pre-Health Coordinator

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**Office Hours:** Schedule with instructors by email

## **Course Information**

**Course Objective:** The objective of this course is to have students thoughtfully engage with Dr. Paul Kalanithi's Pulitzer Prize Finalist memoir "When Breath Becomes Air". Students should gain an appreciation for Dr. Kalanithi's vulnerable contributions and deep reflection by actively engaging in reading and discussions. Reflect on the meaning of the work in relation to the fragility of life and the pain of terminal illnesses. Observe Dr. Kalanithi's priorities towards the end of his life, and how our own priorities might change in the event of such news.

**Meeting Times:** Tuesdays 1:55-2:45pm

**Classroom:** Little Hall 119

**Required Textbook:** "When Breath Becomes Air" by Dr. Paul Kalanithi

## **Grading Scale**

<b>Percent</b>	<b>Grade</b>	<b>Grade Points</b>
<b>92-100</b>	<b>A</b>	<b>4.00</b>
<b>89-91</b>	<b>A-</b>	<b>3.67</b>
<b>86-88</b>	<b>B+</b>	<b>3.33</b>
<b>83-85</b>	<b>B</b>	<b>3.00</b>
<b>80-82</b>	<b>B-</b>	<b>2.67</b>
<b>76-79</b>	<b>C+</b>	<b>2.33</b>
<b>73-75</b>	<b>C</b>	<b>2.00</b>
<b>70-72</b>	<b>C-</b>	<b>1.67</b>
<b>66-69</b>	<b>D+</b>	<b>1.33</b>
<b>63-65</b>	<b>D</b>	<b>1.00</b>
<b>60-62</b>	<b>D-</b>	<b>0.67</b>
<b>0-59</b>	<b>E</b>	<b>0.00</b>

## Grade Component

Grade Component	Points	Percentage
Attendance	15	15%
Participation in Class Discussion	25	25%
Reflections	30	30%
Final Project & Presentation	30	30%

### Attendance and Participation

Attendance and participation are essential for UnCommon Read courses, so attendance will be part of your grade. With that said, things happen- so every student will be given one free absence, no questions asked. For cases of family emergencies, doctor's appointments, significant events, or any University approved absence, please reach out to Lara via email within 24 hours of the absence. Participation will be measured by in-class contributions to discussions.

### Reflections

Students will be asked to complete two reflection assignments on the content of the book halfway through the semester, and after the last class period. Students are expected to thoughtfully reflect on what they have taken away from the material and class discussions.

### Final Project

Students will present a final project during their last two class periods. This project can be done in assigned small groups of 4. The project will be relatively open-ended, and students will be expected to draw connections between themes in the book with another work of art (song, movie, poem, art piece, book, etc.). This will be presented to the class with some prepared material to show. Students may also opt to be creative, and create their own interpretations of the meaning of the book and what they took away from it. This could be a painting, a poem, mixed media, there are many ways to go about this project. Students will be graded on their effort and depth of understanding that is portrayed from their work.

### Honors Academic Point

A minimum grade of B is required to earn Academic points towards your Honors Completion Requirements. (Exception: Honors Quest I and II sections require a C). Once you have earned your final grade in this course, please upload the course information and final grade from your Unofficial Transcript into your Honors Canvas Cohort: Honors Completion module to earn Honors Milestone / Completion credit.

## Course Schedule

<b>Week 1:</b> Introduction to course, Icebreakers
<b>Week 2:</b> Assigned Reading: pages 1-16
<b>Week 3:</b> Assigned Reading: pages 19-38
<b>Week 4:</b> Assigned Reading: pages 39-54
<b>Week 5:</b> Assigned Reading: pages 54-67
<b>Week 6:</b> Assigned Reading: pages 68-87
<b>Week 7:</b> Assigned Reading: pages 88-115 Due Friday 2/28 at 11:59pm: Reflection 1
<b>Week 8:</b> Assigned Reading: pages 119-132
<b>Week 9:</b> Assigned Reading: pages 132-149
<b>Week 10:</b> Assigned Reading: pages 150-166
<b>Week 11:</b> Assigned Reading: pages 167-179
<b>Week 12:</b> Assigned Reading: pages 180-199
<b>Week 13:</b> Assigned Reading: Epilogue
<b>Week 14:</b> In class presentation of final project Due Before 4/22 Class: Final Project

## Course Policies

### Attendance Policy

Requirements for class attendance and make-up assignments and other work are consistent with university policies that can be found at: <https://catalog.ufl.edu/UGRD/academic-regulations/attendance-policies/>. On-time attendance is mandatory. You are permitted one unexcused absence without grade penalty. Additional unexcused absences incur a score of zero for the day's Class Attendance and Participation.

Excusable reasons include:

- In case of illness, upon receipt of a doctor's note or equivalent, or by following the procedure:
- outlined here: <https://care.dso.ufl.edu/instructor-notifications>.
- In case of religious holidays, by informing me via e-mail ahead of time.

- In case of military duty, jury duty, participation in academic conferences, or participation in official university or UAA events, by providing appropriate evidence ahead of time.
- In case of family emergencies or other extenuating circumstances, by following the procedure outlined here: <https://care.dso.ufl.edu/instructor-notifications>.
- In all other cases, or if you are unsure, please e-mail me as soon as feasible. Absences are generally not excused for non-emergency travel and vehicle problems.

You are still responsible for turning assignments in on time unless an extension has been requested via e-mail and approved by the instructor prior to the deadline. In case of true documented emergencies, the instructor may waive this requirement.

## **Late Work**

Late work will not be accepted for reflections or the final project unless there are extenuating circumstances that could not have been predicted. Please reach out to instructors in this case.

## **University Honesty Policy**

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 Conduct Code specifies a number of behaviors that are in violation of this code and the possible sanctions. Click [here](#) to read the Conduct Code. If you have any questions or concerns, please consult with the instructor or TAs in this class.

## **Zoom Conference Privacy**

Should it become necessary or convenient to hold classes virtually using zoom, those class sessions may be audio-visually recorded for students in the class to refer back and for enrolled students who are unable to attend live. Students who participate with their camera engaged or utilize a profile image are agreeing to have their video or image recorded. If you are unwilling to consent to have your profile or video image recorded, be sure to keep your camera off and do not use a profile image. Likewise, students who un-mute during class and participate orally are agreeing to have their voices recorded. If you are not willing to consent to have your voice recorded during class, you will need to keep your mute button activated and communicate exclusively using the "chat" feature, which allows students to type questions and comments live. The chat will not be recorded or shared. Unauthorized sharing of recorded materials is prohibited.

## **Services for Students with Disabilities**

The Disability Resource Center coordinates the needed accommodations of students with disabilities. This includes registering disabilities, recommending academic accommodations within the classroom, accessing special adaptive computer equipment, providing interpretation services and mediating faculty-student disability related issues. 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.

You must submit this documentation prior to submitting assignments or taking quizzes or exams.

Accommodations are not retroactive; therefore, students should contact the office as soon as possible in the term for which they are seeking accommodations. The DRC may be contacted by visiting 001 Reid Hall, calling 352-392-8565, or visiting their web site at <https://disability.ufl.edu>.

## **In Class Recording**

Students are allowed to record video or audio of class lectures. However, the purposes for which these recordings may be used are strictly controlled. The only allowable purposes are (1) for personal educational use, (2) in connection with a complaint to the university, or (3) as evidence in, or in preparation for, a criminal or civil proceeding. All other purposes are prohibited. Specifically, students may not publish recorded lectures without the written consent of the instructor.

## **Use of Generative AI**

Students are allowed to use generative artificial intelligence (AI) tools, such as UF's NaviGator AI, for writing assignments. Any such use must be appropriately acknowledged and cited, following the guidelines established by the APA Style Guide, including the specific version of the tool used. Submitted work should include the exact prompt used to generate the content as well as the AI's full response in an Appendix. Because AI generated content is not necessarily accurate or appropriate, it is each student's responsibility to assess the validity and applicability of any generative AI output that is submitted. You may not earn full credit if inaccurate, invalid, or inappropriate information is found in your work. Deviations from these guidelines will be considered violations of the UF Honor Code. Note that expectations for use of AI in student work may vary across your courses and instructors. Please email me if you have questions regarding what is permissible and not for a particular course or assignment.

Adapted from Harvard University (<https://oue.fas.harvard.edu/ai-guidance>)

## Course Evaluation

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.aa.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.aa.ufl.edu/public-results/>.

## Campus Resources

### Health and Wellness

- *U Matter, We Care*: If you or someone you know is in distress, please contact [umatter@ufl.edu](mailto:umatter@ufl.edu), 352-392-1575, or visit U Matter, We Care website to refer or report a concern and a team member will reach out to the student in distress.
- *Counseling and Wellness Center*: Visit the Counseling and Wellness Center website or call 352-392-1575 for information on crisis services as well as non-crisis services.
- *Student Health Care Center*: Call 352-392-1161 for 24/7 information to help you find the care you need, or visit the Student Health Care Center website.
- *University Police Department*: Visit UF Police Department website or call 352-392-1111 (or 9-1-1 for emergencies).
- *UF Health Shands Emergency Room / Trauma Center*: For immediate medical care call 352-733-0111 or go to the emergency room at 1515 SW Archer Road, Gainesville, FL 32608; Visit the UF Health Emergency Room and Trauma Center website.
- *GatorWell Health Promotion Services*: For prevention services focused on optimal wellbeing, including Wellness Coaching for Academic Success, visit the GatorWell website or call 352-273-4450.

### Academic Resources

- *E-learning technical support*: Contact the UF Computing Help Desk at 352-392-4357 or via e-mail at [helpdesk@ufl.edu](mailto:helpdesk@ufl.edu).
- *Career Connections Center*: Reitz Union Suite 1300, 352-392-1601. Career assistance and counseling services.
- *Library Support*: Various ways to receive assistance with respect to using the libraries or finding resources.
- *Teaching Center*: Broward Hall, 352-392-2010 or to make an appointment 352- 392-6420. General study skills and tutoring.

- *Writing Studio*: 2215 Turlington Hall, 352-846-1138. Help brainstorming, formatting, and writing papers.
- *Student Complaints On-Campus*: Visit the Student Honor Code and Student Conduct Code webpage for more information.
- *On-Line Students Complaints*: View the Distance Learning Student Complaint Process.

Honors Program, 201 Walker Hall, 352-392-1519

Quick questions for an Honors advisor? Email [advisor@honors.ufl.edu](mailto:advisor@honors.ufl.edu)

Need an Honors advising appointment? Schedule via Microsoft Bookings:  
<https://bit.ly/ufhonorsadvising>