

The Future of Humanity in Hank Green's *A Beautifully Foolish Endeavor*

IDH2930: 25739 – Honors (un)common reads

Tuesday, 5:10-6:00 (Period 10) | Spring 2025

Location: Little 117

Contact information

Instructor Melina Jimenez, mpjimenez@ufl.edu

Peer Instructor Fabiola Vindas Montero

Student hours Fridays, 11:45am - 12:35pm, MAT 220B

Welcome!

Welcome and thank you for signing up for this class! Please call us Melina and Fabi.

Throughout the course, we'll be reading and discussing Hank Green's *A Beautifully Foolish Endeavor* (ABFE), which follows the characters from *An Absolutely Remarkable Thing*. Please read the first book if you haven't yet. You will have small in-class projects like drawing scenes from the book, arguing from characters' points of view, and applying deeper reading strategies. As we go through the course, we encourage you to think critically about the text and the topics we encounter and to push your creativity. Achievement of the learning outcomes will be assessed through engagement in class discussions, an analytical blog post, and the final group project.

If you are struggling with this course, with your other courses, or with life outside of the university, I (Melina) invite you to talk to me or someone that you trust. Whether this is your first, last, or somewhere in-between year at UF, college life can be challenging and sometimes overwhelming. Just talking about those feelings can help. If just talking with your family, your friends, or your instructors isn't enough, there is a list of campus resources on the last page of this syllabus to help you. Fabi and I are happy to help you understand how they can be helpful for you.

You never owe Melina nor Fabi personal information about your mental or physical health. However, you are always welcome to talk to us about whatever you're going through. If you tell us that you're having trouble, we're not going to judge you or think less of you. If you need extra help or if you need to miss a class or need more time with an assignment, please ask. We will work with you to make sure you have the opportunity to engage with the material you may miss because of an illness or other life issues.

Course Goals

In this course, students will

- identify and explain the themes in the book, including but not limited to, identity, human connection, personhood, power, and the impact of technology
- discuss and analyze their perspectives in small-group and whole class settings
- create group projects that reflect the book's themes

Required Texts

A Beautifully Foolish Endeavor by Hank Green. It is available at the [Lynx bookstore](#). While the book is required, a paper copy is not. You are encouraged to access the ebook or audiobook if you find those more suitable.

Students Requiring Accommodations

Students with disabilities who experience learning barriers and would like to request academic accommodations should connect with the [Disability Resource Center](#). 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.

Evaluation of Grades

Assignments		Points
In-class discussions and small projects	11 meetings	20 points each = 220
Introduction discussion posts and replies	1 post & replies	20 points
Analysis blog and replies	1 post & replies	60 points
Final group project	1 project & presentation	100 points
Total		400 points total

Reading, Attendance, and Class Expectations

Each week, you will read between 30 and 70 pages of the book and refer to the guiding questions on a discussion page. Attendance and participation are required for class on Tuesdays, since this is a discussion-based class. A typical class consists of a small group discussion and small project, a short 100-200 word summary with the project posted on the week's discussion page, and a full class discussion for the last 15 minutes or so. You are expected to contribute in your small group discussions and projects, but we recognize that full class discussions are more intimidating. Therefore, the participation grade is based more on the explanation and analysis in the small group discussions and projects than the larger discussions. However, you are encouraged to participate fully in both.

To encourage critical thinking about the themes in the book and how they connect with the world, we will be pushing you to ask deep questions, reflect on your experiences, give constructive feedback, and disagree because of your interpretations or experiences. A simple, "I agree! Your response is great" won't be enough. We also ask for respectful and thoughtful discussions as they will lead to better understandings of the texts and of each other.

Online Discussion Posts and Replies

You will have 2 online discussions posts throughout the semester with responses to your peers: an introduction and a blog in which you analyze. For the blog, choose one or two themes and share them with your audience (i.e. you classmates). Make it fun, creative, and easy to read, with out-of-the-box writing styles.

Final Group Project

You will be working in groups of 2 or 3 students to create a project of your choosing. This could be a video, blog, podcast, book, alternate imagining, marketing materials, or something else. Throughout the semester, as you interact with your peers, find partners who have strengths that compliment your own. The small projects and in-class discussions that we have worked on throughout the semester should also inform your project. Your project will be posted on Canvas for your peers to see and comment on, and your project must also have an authentic external audience (for example, Hank Green on Bluesky), so it must be shared IRL. Share your brilliance with the world! You will also present your project in the final meeting of the semester.

Make-Up Policy

If you miss or do not complete an online discussion or assignment, Melina or Fabi will send you a gentle reminder to make sure that you are doing ok. We prefer late engagement to no engagement at all. But timely engagement is the best! The final project has a stricter deadline because it will be our last assignment. But as with everything else, if you are struggling with that assignment, please talk to us.

If you need to miss class, please email Melina (mpjimenez@ufl.edu) or message her on Canvas and be prepared to post your discussion responses for the week on the discussion page.

Materials and Supplies Fees

None

Grading Scale

Letter Grade	A	A-	B+	B	B-	C+	C	C-	D+	D	D-	E
Percentage	94 - 100	90 - 93	88 - 89	84 - 87	80 - 83	78 - 79	74 - 77	70 - 73	68 - 69	64 - 67	60 - 63	59 - 0

Honors Grading Requirement

A minimum grade of B is required to earn Academic points towards your Honors Completion Requirements. 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 Completion credit. If you have questions about this, please consult the Honors Program information under Campus Resources.

University Student Honor Code

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. [See the UF Conduct Code website for more information.](#) If you have any questions or concerns, please consult with the instructors in this class.

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/>

Course 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. [Click here to read the In-Class Recording policy.](#)

Publication without permission of the instructor is prohibited. To “publish” means to share, transmit, circulate, distribute, or provide access to a recording, regardless of format or medium, to another person (or persons), including but not limited to another student within the same class section. Additionally, a recording, or transcript of a recording, is considered published if it is posted on or uploaded to, in whole or in part, any media platform, including but not limited to social media, book, magazine, newspaper, leaflet, or third party note/tutoring services. A student who publishes a recording without written consent may be subject to a civil cause of action instituted by a person injured by the publication and/or discipline under UF Regulation 4.040 Student Honor Code and Student Conduct Code.

Semester Schedule

Wk	Date	Weekly readings and topics for discussion
1	1.13 - 1.19	<p>Read: ABFE Syllabus before first day of class on Tues, Jan 14</p> <p>Discuss: Introduce yourselves, discuss the syllabus, get acquainted with the Canvas page</p> <p>Online discussion post: introductions and responses</p>
2	1.20 - 1.26	<p>Read: Read or review <i>An Absolutely Remarkable Thing</i></p> <p>Discuss: the characters, the plot, and the themes</p> <p>Project: Create a casting sheet and a mindmap of the themes</p>
3	1.27 - 2.2	<p>Read: pages 1-41</p> <p>Discuss: Where are they now? Reflect on who you are and who you present to the world.</p>
4	2.3 - 2.9	<p>Read: pages 42- 77 (35 pages)</p> <p>Discuss: What do good, great, and inevitable mean? compare the Thread to Petrawicki's views</p> <p>Project: Apply the practice of <i>pardes</i></p>
5	2.10 - 2.16	<p>Read: pages 78- 120 (42 pages)</p> <p>Discuss: What is life? Reflect on friends who made you realize something major about yourself.</p>
6	2.17 - 2.23	<p>Read: pages 121-172 (51 pages)</p> <p>Discuss: What is personhood and mind vs self? reflect on the story you tell yourself</p> <p>Project: Apply the practice of <i>pardes</i></p>
7	2.24 - 3.2	<p>Read: pages 173-203 (33)</p> <p>Discuss: What is going on with the characters?</p> <p>Project: Draw what's going on</p>
8	3.3 - 3.9	<p>Read: pages 204-237 (33)</p> <p>Discuss: What are the characters' arguments?</p> <p>Project: Argue for a certain character's perspective</p>
9	3.10 - 3.16	<p>Read: pages 238-288 (50)</p> <p>Discuss: What does creating vs capturing value mean? How do power and destabilization connect?</p> <p>Project: Create a mindmap connecting to real world events</p>
10	3.17-3.23	No readings or discussion posts this week - Happy spring break!
11	3.24 - 3.30	<p>Read: pages 289-326 (37)</p> <p>Discuss: What is wealth and power? What is the story of humans?</p> <p>Project: Respond in tweet or TikTok format and propose your final project</p> <p>Online discussion post: Analysis blog & replies</p>
12	4.7 - 4.13	<p>Read: pages 327-378 (51)</p> <p>Discuss: What is reality? Can society's norms be broken?</p> <p>Project: Apply the practice of <i>florilegia</i> with a key word and analyze its uses</p>

Wk	Date	Weekly readings and topics for discussion
13	4.14 - 4.20	Read: pages 379 to 449 (70) Discuss: What did you think? How does this change your final project? Project: Finalize your plans knowing what you know now
14	4.21-4.23	Final project - post online and present in class
F	4.26-5.2	Final Exams (but not for this class!)

Note: This schedule is subject to change

Campus Resources

Health and Wellness

Disability Resource Center (DRC): Students with disabilities who experience learning barriers and would like to request academic accommodations should connect with the Disability Resource Center. Located at *Reid Hall*, (352) 392-8565, Email: DRC@ufsa.ufl.edu

U Matter, We Care: If you or someone you know is in distress, please contact umatter@ufl.edu or 352-392-1575 so that a team member can reach out to the student.

Counseling and Wellness Center: The CWC provides short-term counseling, group, and couples' therapy as well as consultation, crisis services, outreach, referrals, self-care, and more. *Peabody Hall 4th floor or 3190 Radio Road*, 352-392-1575

UF Student Health Care Center: The SHCC provides a variety of health care services. Located at *2140 Stadium Rd*, (352) 392 - 1161

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*

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.

University Police Department: 352-392-1111 (or 9-1-1 for emergencies)

Campus Connections

GatorConnect: UF has over 900 student organizations that you can join

Academic Resources

UF Honors Program: Quick questions for an Honors advisor? Email advisor@honors.ufl.edu; Need an Honors advising appointment? Schedule via Microsoft Bookings: <https://bit.ly/ufhonorsadvising>; Located at *201 Walker Hall*, 352-392-1519

UF Computing Help Desk: The UF Computing Help Desk provides phone, email, and walk-in direct consulting including for E-learning (Canvas) technical support 352-392-4357 or e-mail to helpdesk@ufl.edu.

Career Connections Center: The C3 team helps students gain career experience, write resumes, find clothing for interviews and more. *Reitz Union First floor*, 352- 392-1601

Library Support: The UF libraries provide various ways to receive assistance with respect to using the libraries or finding resources. They love questions!

Academic Resources: The Teaching Center provides free tutoring services for courses within the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences. They also offer supplementary instruction and general study strategy workshops. *Online*, 352-392-2010 or 352-392-6420

Writing Studio: The Writing Studio provides free one-on-one consultations with specific papers or writing generally. *302 Tigert Hall*, 352- 846-1138

Complaints

Academic Complaints through the Office of the Ombuds: The purpose of the Ombuds is to assist students within the university community in solving problems and conflicts. The Ombuds serves as an advocate for fairness for University of Florida students.

Enrollment Management Complaints: These are limited to Registrar, Financial Aid, Admissions grievances.