

Course Syllabus

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FALL 2021

Instructor contact information:

Dr. Shelley Park

Department of Philosophy

PSY 239

E-mail: Please contact me via course mail at web courses.

Office Hours: M 10-noon; T noon-1. You will find me at "Chat" for real time text conversations at these times. I am also happy to videoconference during these times, or by appt.

Course Description:

In this course, we will examine a variety of philosophical concepts and themes, focusing on the nature of the good life (a classical philosophical concern). We will explore several theories of the good life as well as other philosophical issues in light of their interplay with popular culture and everyday life.

Course Objectives:

- To provide students with an introductory survey of classical and contemporary philosophical conceptions of the good life
- To engage students in critical thinking, about diverse beliefs, values, and practices in relation to diverse philosophical and cultural values
- To foster students' ability to engage in philosophical discussions about self, community, and culture
- To encourage self-reflection about academic and other life choices

Required texts:

You do not need to purchase any texts for this class. There are, however, a number of required readings (both classical and contemporary philosophical texts and relevant videos) that I will make available online. Please use the links provided on the relevant course pages.

Course requirements:

Philosophy happens through dialogue and critical self-reflection informed by diverse thinkers. Thus your grade in the class will reflect the following components:

Quizzes: 30%

Quizzes are designed to ensure you understand the reading and viewing material assigned. There will be 7 quizzes during the semester worth 5% each. Your final grade for this portion of the class will reflect your 6 highest quiz scores. Each quiz will consist of 8-12 objective questions (MC, T/F, fill in the blank, etc.). Quizzes will be timed. They are open-book but you should read and view the material carefully prior to taking the quiz as there will not be time to read everything as you are taking a quiz. See deadlines on calendar.

Discussions: 35%

Philosophy requires dialogue about what you are learning. Thus 35% of your course grade will reflect the quantity and quality of your efforts to engage with your peers in philosophical discussions about the good life. Deadlines are on the course schedule. Each discussion forum will be worth 5% and you will be evaluated on the quantity and quality of your participation, as well as your professionalism (i.e., your ability to meet deadlines, proofread your work, etc.). There are 8 discussion forums during the semester; your grade here will be comprised of your 7 highest scores.

Surveys: 15%

You will take 8 surveys during the semester. Questions are designed to have you engage in self-reflection regarding your own conceptions of the good life and how these beliefs are (or are not) embodied in your choices and actions. You will not be evaluated on the content of your answers but simply on your efforts to take the time to reflect during each unit. Surveys are untimed to give you as much time as you like to think about the questions. However, you must complete the survey by the deadline. Deadlines are on the calendar. Each survey is worth 2% and you will receive full marks for each one you complete. [The attentive among you will note that this gives you a possible 16%. Consider this an extra-credit opportunity.]

Final exam: 20%

This exam will consist of both objective and open-ended (e.g. short answer and/or essay) questions. It will be a comprehensive exam designed to assess your ability to understand, compare and contrast, and synthesize course material. See course schedule for date. As with quizzes, your final exam will be timed and open book.

Opportunities for Community

In addition to grades, college provides opportunities for building community. This asynchronous course provides opportunities for community by dividing a large class into small group experiences. In your small groups (15-16 students), you can get to know one another over the course of the semester, as you engage in ongoing discussion of course themes and required material. I encourage you take advantage of this opportunity for intellectual community.

Grading Policies:

I use a plus/minus scale for grading as follows:

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LETTER GRADE	%	LETTER GRADE	%
A Wow! Outstanding!	93% or better	C Satisfactory, Meets expectations	
A-	90-92%	C-	70-72%
B+	87-89%	D+	67-69%
B Very good, Exceeds expectations	83-86%	D Unsatisfactory, Fails to meet expectations	63-66%
B-	80-82%	D-	60-62%
C+	77-79%	F Fail	Less than 60%

Academic Integrity:

Please familiarize yourself with UCF's [Student Rules of Conduct](https://scai.sdes.ucf.edu/student-rules-of-conduct/) [\(https://scai.sdes.ucf.edu/student-rules-of-conduct/\)](https://scai.sdes.ucf.edu/student-rules-of-conduct/). According to Section 1, "Academic Misconduct," students are prohibited from engaging in

1. **Unauthorized assistance:** Using or attempting to use unauthorized materials, information or study aids in any academic exercise unless specifically authorized by the instructor. The unauthorized possession of examination or course-related material also constitutes cheating.
2. Communication to another through written, visual, electronic, or oral means: The presentation of material which has not been studied or learned, but rather was obtained through someone else's efforts and used as part of an examination, course assignment, or project.
3. **Commercial Use of Academic Material:** Selling of course material to another person, student, and/or uploading course material to a third-party vendor without authorization or without the express written permission of the university and the instructor. Course materials include but are not limited to class notes, Instructor's PowerPoints, course syllabi, tests, quizzes, labs, instruction sheets, homework, study guides, handouts, etc.
4. **Falsifying or misrepresenting the student's own academic work.**
5. **Plagiarism:** Using or appropriating another's work without any indication of the source, thereby attempting to convey the impression that such work is the student's own.
6. **Multiple Submissions:** Submitting the same academic work for credit more than once without the express written permission of the instructor.
7. **Helping another violate academic behavior standards.**
8. **Soliciting assistance with academic coursework and/or degree requirements.**

Responses to Academic Dishonesty, Plagiarism, or Cheating: Also familiarize yourself with the procedures for academic misconduct in UCF's student handbook, [The Golden Rule](https://goldenrule.sdes.ucf.edu/) [\(https://goldenrule.sdes.ucf.edu/\)](https://goldenrule.sdes.ucf.edu/). UCF faculty members have a responsibility for your education and the value of a UCF degree, and so seek to prevent unethical behavior and respond to academic misconduct when necessary. Penalties for violating rules, policies, and instructions within this course can range from a zero on the exercise to an "F" letter grade in the course. In addition, an Academic

Misconduct report may be filed with the Office of Student Conduct, which could lead to disciplinary warning, disciplinary probation, or deferred suspension or separation from the University through suspension, dismissal, or expulsion with the addition of a "Z" designation on one's transcript.

Being found in violation of academic conduct standards could result in a student having to disclose such behavior on a graduate school application, being removed from a leadership position within a student organization, the recipient of scholarships, participation in University activities such as study abroad, internships, etc.

Let's avoid all of this by demonstrating values of honesty, trust, and integrity. No grade is worth compromising your integrity and moving your moral compass. Stay true to doing the right thing: take the zero, not a shortcut.

Late Work, Make-Up Work, and Extra-Credit:

Late submissions will not be given full credit unless you have an excuse recognized by UCF policy (e.g. hospitalization of a family member, documented medical excuse) OR you are dealing with some other circumstance truly beyond your control (e.g. longstanding power outages due to Hurricane or other natural disaster). Many legitimate reasons for absence (e.g. religious holidays, UCF related travel) are not excuses for late submissions; work should be turned in early when you know you will be unable to submit it on the deadline. Please avoid procrastination in order to meet deadlines. Outside of natural disasters such as hurricanes, lack of internet access and/or lack of computer equipment is NOT a reason for late submissions. This is a fully online class and the assumption is that you have regular access to the internet and the hardware for reading, viewing and communicating digitally. In cases of internet or equipment failures during the semester, there are computers accessible to you in all UCF's computer labs and the UCF library. Most public libraries also provide free access to the internet.

See UCF policy on **make-up work** for deadlines missed due to [religious observances](https://regulations.ucf.edu/chapter5/documents/5.020ReligiousObservancesFINALJan19.pdf) (<https://regulations.ucf.edu/chapter5/documents/5.020ReligiousObservancesFINALJan19.pdf>) and [university authorized events](https://policies.ucf.edu/documents/4-401.pdf) (<https://policies.ucf.edu/documents/4-401.pdf>). As this is an online class with 2 week long modules and assignments open for windows of no less than 5 days, it is my expectation that you will have opportunities, before, during or after religious observances and university sponsored travel to complete your assigned work. Because considerable flexibility is already built into this class, please do not contact me for make-up work unless you can document that it was, in fact, impossible for you to do the required assignment during the entire time it was available to you. Please consult "accommodations" policies and remember that you should notify me as soon as possible, should you need accommodations. Requests for make-up work at the end of the semester are unlikely to be honored.

Extra-credit work is built into the class. I encourage you to take advantage of it during the semester. No additional extra-credit work will be made available. Don't ask.

Disability and other accommodations:

I want to ensure this class is accessible to all students and that everyone has an equal opportunity to succeed.

Disability accommodations: If you need accommodations or see an access problem related to course design, please contact me as soon as possible. Students requesting disability accommodations should also connect with [Student Accessibility Services](http://sas.sdes.ucf.edu/) (<http://sas.sdes.ucf.edu/>) (SAS) (Ferrell Commons 185, sas@ucf.edu (<mailto:sas@ucf.edu>), phone 407-823-2371). For students connected with SAS, a Course Accessibility Letter may be created and sent to professors, which informs faculty of potential course access and accommodations that might be necessary and reasonable. Determining reasonable access and accommodations requires consideration of the course design, course learning objectives and the individual academic and course barriers experienced by the student. Further conversation with SAS, faculty and the student may be warranted to ensure an accessible course experience.

Covid-19 or other extended illness: If you need accommodations due to unforeseen Covid-19 circumstances or other reasons of extended serious illness, please contact me so we can discuss reasonable adjustments to assignments and/or deadlines that might need to be made. I encourage everyone who is able to do so, to get vaccinated to protect both your own health and the health of your family and communities, including the UCF community.

Racial trauma: Our learning takes place amidst ongoing anti-black and other forms of racist violence. Exposure to images, reports, and acts of violence directed at one's racial or ethnic group can trigger PTSD and other forms of debilitating stress. If you find this to be the case during the semester, please let me know so that we might arrange appropriate accommodations.

Deployed Active Duty Military Students: Students who are deployed active duty military and/or National Guard personnel and require accommodation should contact their instructors as soon as possible after the semester begins and/or after they receive notification of deployment to make related arrangements

COVID-19 Policies:

For the latest information and policies surrounding COVID-19, including where to get a vaccine, news and updates, and answers to frequently asked questions, please to to [UCF's Coronavirus page](https://www.ucf.edu/coronavirus/) [\(https://www.ucf.edu/coronavirus/\)](https://www.ucf.edu/coronavirus/). Please note that as public health facts and guidance continues to shift, it is important to stay up-to-date.

COVID-19 and Illness Notification

Students who believe they may have a COVID-19 diagnosis should contact UCF Student Health Services (407-823-2509) so proper contact tracing procedures can take place. Do NOT go to campus if you are ill, are experiencing any symptoms of COVID-19, have tested positive for COVID, or if anyone living in your residence has tested positive or is sick with COVID-19 symptoms. See [CDC guidance for COVID-19 symptoms](https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/symptoms-testing/symptoms.html) [\(https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/symptoms-testing/symptoms.html\)](https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/symptoms-testing/symptoms.html).

Please also see accommodations policies related to illness above.

In Case of Faculty Illness

If I fall ill during the semester, there may be changes to this course, including having a backup instructor take over the course. Please look for announcements or mail in Webcourses@UCF or Knights email for any alterations to this course.

Campus Safety

Though most emergency situations are primarily relevant to courses that meet in person, such incidents can also impact online students, either when they are on or near campus to participate in other courses or activities or when their course work is affected by off-campus emergencies. To stay informed about emergency situations, sign up to receive UCF text alerts by going to [ucf.edu](http://my.ucf.edu/) [\(http://my.ucf.edu/\)](http://my.ucf.edu/) and logging in. Click on "Student Self Service" located on the left side of the screen in the toolbar, scroll down to the blue "Personal Information" heading on the Student Center screen, click on "UCF Alert", fill out the information, including e-mail address, cell phone number, and cell phone provider, click "Apply" to save the changes, and then click "OK." Students with special needs *related to emergency situations* should e-mail me to discuss reasonable accommodations.

Federal Financial Aid Regulation:

All faculty members are required to document students' engagement in the course based on their academic activity at the beginning of each semester. In order to document that you have begun this course, the Module 1 quiz should be completed within the first 5 days of classes (or, if adding the course late, as soon as you have access to the course). Failure to complete this assignment prior to the deadline may result in a delay in the disbursement of your financial aid.

UCF Cares









During your UCF career, you may experience challenges including struggles with academics, finances, or your personal well-being. UCF has a multitude of resources available to all students. Please visit [UCFCares.com](http://ucfcares.com/) (<http://ucfcares.com/>) if you are seeking resources and support, or if you are worried about a friend or classmate. Free services and information are included for a variety of student concerns, including but not limited to alcohol use, bias incidents, mental health concerns, and financial challenges. You can also e-mail ucfcares@ucf.edu (<mailto:ucfcares@ucf.edu>) with questions or for additional assistance. You can reach a UCF Cares staff member between 8 a.m. and 5 p.m. by calling 407-823-5607. If you are in immediate distress, please call Counseling and Psychological Services to speak directly with a counselor 24/7 at 407-823-2811, or please call 911.

Course Schedule:

Specific topics and assignments are below: Note that the course proceeds on a biweekly schedule with regular deadlines to enable you to remember deadlines more easily. (You have something due every Friday and Sunday.) If you check into the course regularly, you will also see upcoming deadlines in your course feed and instructor announcements regarding both upcoming and past assignments.


Note: You can *a/ways* complete required tasks in advance of the deadline and I encourage this. When you wait until the last minute, crises arise and technology may fail you. You cannot and should not count on instructor sympathy for last minute crises that could have been averted by starting your work earlier in the week.

Course Summary:

Date	Details	Due
Mon Aug 23, 2021	 Classes start (https://webcourses.ucf.edu/calendar?event_id=2353533&include_contexts=course_1385180)	12am
	 MODULE 1 OPENS: Introductions and Choices (https://webcourses.ucf.edu/calendar?event_id=2353534&include_contexts=course_1385180)	12am
Fri Aug 27, 2021	 Add deadline (https://webcourses.ucf.edu/calendar?event_id=2353532&include_contexts=course_1385180)	12am
	 Drop/Swap deadline (https://webcourses.ucf.edu/calendar?event_id=2353516&include_contexts=course_1385180)	12am
	 Quiz 1: Syllabus, Student Protocols and Chang (https://webcourses.ucf.edu/courses/1385180/assignments/7152585)	due by 11:59pm
Sun Aug 29, 2021	 First Module 1 discussion posting due (https://webcourses.ucf.edu/calendar?event_id=2353519&include_contexts=course_1385180)	12am
Fri Sep 3, 2021	 Discussion 1: Introductions (https://webcourses.ucf.edu/courses/1385180/assignments/7152593)	due by 11:59pm
Sun Sep 5, 2021	 What I Value 1 (https://webcourses.ucf.edu/courses/1385180/assignments/7152590)	due by 11:59pm

Date	Details	Due
Mon Sep 6, 2021	 Labor Day https://webcourses.ucf.edu/calendar?event_id=2353525&include_contexts=course_1385180	12am
	 MODULE 2 OPENS. What is the Good Life?: Classical Western Philosophies https://webcourses.ucf.edu/calendar?event_id=2353541&include_contexts=course_1385180	12am
Fri Sep 10, 2021	 Quiz 2: Classical Western Philosophies of the Good Life https://webcourses.ucf.edu/courses/1385180/assignments/7152577	due by 11:59pm
Sun Sep 12, 2021	 First Module 2 discussion posting due https://webcourses.ucf.edu/calendar?event_id=2353542&include_contexts=course_1385180	12am
Fri Sep 17, 2021	 Discussion 2: Ideas of the Good Life https://webcourses.ucf.edu/courses/1385180/assignments/7152596	due by 11:59pm
Sun Sep 19, 2021	 What I Value 2 https://webcourses.ucf.edu/courses/1385180/assignments/7152586	due by 11:59pm
Mon Sep 20, 2021	 MODULE 3 OPENS. What is the Good Life?: Classical Eastern Philosophies https://webcourses.ucf.edu/calendar?event_id=2353540&include_contexts=course_1385180	12am
Fri Sep 24, 2021	 Quiz 3: Classical Eastern Philosophies of the Good Life https://webcourses.ucf.edu/courses/1385180/assignments/7152581	due by 11:59pm
Sun Sep 26, 2021	 First Module 3 discussion posting due https://webcourses.ucf.edu/calendar?event_id=2353515&include_contexts=course_1385180	12am
Fri Oct 1, 2021	 Discussion 3: Education and the Good Life https://webcourses.ucf.edu/courses/1385180/assignments/7152597	due by 11:59pm
Sun Oct 3, 2021	 What I Value 3 https://webcourses.ucf.edu/courses/1385180/assignments/7152583	due by 11:59pm
Mon Oct 4, 2021	 MODULE 4 OPENS: Sustaining the Good Life: Environmental and Biomedical Philosophies https://webcourses.ucf.edu/calendar?event_id=2353520&include_contexts=course_1385180	12am
Fri Oct 8, 2021	 Quiz 4: Environmental Philosophies https://webcourses.ucf.edu/courses/1385180/assignments/7152582	due by 11:59pm
Sun Oct 10, 2021	 First Module 4 discussion posting due https://webcourses.ucf.edu/calendar?event_id=2353528&include_contexts=course_1385180	12am

Date	Details	Due
Fri Oct 15, 2021	 Discussion 4: Sustaining a Good Life (https://webcourses.ucf.edu/courses/1385180/assignments/7152595)	due by 11:59pm
Sun Oct 17, 2021	 What I Value 4 (https://webcourses.ucf.edu/courses/1385180/assignments/7152587)	due by 11:59pm
Mon Oct 18, 2021	 MODULE 5 OPENS: Sharing the Good Life: Philosophies of Love (https://webcourses.ucf.edu/calendar?event_id=2353539&include_contexts=course_1385180)	12am
Fri Oct 22, 2021	 Quiz 5: Philosophies of Love (https://webcourses.ucf.edu/courses/1385180/assignments/7152576)	due by 11:59pm
Sun Oct 24, 2021	 First Module 5 discussion posting due (https://webcourses.ucf.edu/calendar?event_id=2353527&include_contexts=course_1385180)	12am
Fri Oct 29, 2021	 Withdrawal deadline (https://webcourses.ucf.edu/calendar?event_id=2353531&include_contexts=course_1385180)	12am
	 Discussion 5: Love and the Good Life (https://webcourses.ucf.edu/courses/1385180/assignments/7152598)	due by 11:59pm
Sun Oct 31, 2021	 What I Value 5 (https://webcourses.ucf.edu/courses/1385180/assignments/7152588)	due by 11:59pm
Mon Nov 1, 2021	 MODULE 6 OPENS: Fighting for the Good Life: Social and Political Philosophies (https://webcourses.ucf.edu/calendar?event_id=2353538&include_contexts=course_1385180)	12am
Fri Nov 5, 2021	 Quiz 6: Social and Political Philosophies (https://webcourses.ucf.edu/courses/1385180/assignments/7152580)	due by 11:59pm
Sun Nov 7, 2021	 First Module 6 discussion posting due (https://webcourses.ucf.edu/calendar?event_id=2353526&include_contexts=course_1385180)	12am
Wed Nov 10, 2021	 Veteran's Day (https://webcourses.ucf.edu/calendar?event_id=2353537&include_contexts=course_1385180)	12am
Fri Nov 12, 2021	 Discussion 6: Fighting for the Good Life (https://webcourses.ucf.edu/courses/1385180/assignments/7152599)	due by 11:59pm
Sun Nov 14, 2021	 What I Value 6 (https://webcourses.ucf.edu/courses/1385180/assignments/7152578)	due by 11:59pm

Date	Details	Due
Mon Nov 15, 2021	 MODULE 7 OPENS: Gratitude for the Good Life https://webcourses.ucf.edu/calendar?event_id=2353523&include_contexts=course_1385180	12am
Fri Nov 19, 2021	 Quiz 7: Gratitude https://webcourses.ucf.edu/courses/1385180/assignments/7152584	due by 11:59pm
Sun Nov 21, 2021	 First Module 7 discussion posting due https://webcourses.ucf.edu/calendar?event_id=2353521&include_contexts=course_1385180	12am
Wed Nov 24, 2021	 Thanksgiving Break begins https://webcourses.ucf.edu/calendar?event_id=2353530&include_contexts=course_1385180	12am
Fri Nov 26, 2021	 Discussion 7: Gratitude for a Good Life https://webcourses.ucf.edu/courses/1385180/assignments/7152594	due by 11:59pm
Sun Nov 28, 2021	 Thanksgiving break ends https://webcourses.ucf.edu/calendar?event_id=2353529&include_contexts=course_1385180	12am
	 What I Value 7 https://webcourses.ucf.edu/courses/1385180/assignments/7152579	due by 11:59pm
Mon Nov 29, 2021	 MODULE 8 OPENS: Wrapping up https://webcourses.ucf.edu/calendar?event_id=2353522&include_contexts=course_1385180	12am
Fri Dec 3, 2021	 Classes end https://webcourses.ucf.edu/calendar?event_id=2353535&include_contexts=course_1385180	12am
	 Discussion 8: Farewells https://webcourses.ucf.edu/courses/1385180/assignments/7152592	due by 11:59pm
Sun Dec 5, 2021	 What I Value 8 https://webcourses.ucf.edu/courses/1385180/assignments/7152589	due by 11:59pm
Mon Dec 6, 2021	 Final exams begin https://webcourses.ucf.edu/calendar?event_id=2353536&include_contexts=course_1385180	12am
	 PHI 2010 Final exam opens https://webcourses.ucf.edu/calendar?event_id=2353517&include_contexts=course_1385180	12am
Tue Dec 7, 2021	 Final Exam https://webcourses.ucf.edu/courses/1385180/assignments/7152591	due by 11:59pm
Wed Dec 15, 2021	 Deadline for Instructors to post grades https://webcourses.ucf.edu/calendar?event_id=2353524&include_contexts=course_1385180	12am