Course Syllabus

✎ **Edit**

SPRING 2022

Instructor contact information:

Dr. Shelley Park

Department of Philosophy, PSY 239

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

Office Hours (virtual): M 10-noon; T noon-1. If you'd like to talk in real time, let me know. We can meet in the "Chat" for real time text conversations or, if you'd rather, we can 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

The last 2 years have been a difficult time for many of us. 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. An additional opportunity for connecting with others, will take the form of an optional discussion forum in which you can share resources, arrange study groups, or have discussions of relevant current events (without instructor evaluation).

Grading Policies:

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

Grade chart

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/)**. 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/)** . 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, death or life-threatening illness of a family member, or other 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.

See UCF policy on *make-up work* for deadlines missed due to **religious observances** ⧉ **(https://regulations.ucf.edu/chapter5/documents/5.020ReligiousObservancesFINALJan19.pdf)** and **university authorized events** ⧉ **(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/)** (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. Please also see the UCF Policies regarding Covid-19 below.

Racial trauma: In addition to learning amidst a global pandemic, we are learning 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:

University-Wide Face Covering Policy for Common Spaces and Face-to-Face Classes. While not applicable to this particular class, please note that if you are on campus for any reason, you should wear a facial covering inside all common spaces including classrooms. Wearing a mask is not a sign of weakness; it is a sign of care and compassion for others who may be vulnerable. It also shows your commitment to making our university a place where everyone feels welcome and safe. (please see the G**olden Rule** ⧉ **(https://goldenrule.sdes.ucf.edu/)** for student behavior expectations). For a list of places on campus where free masks are available, please go to UCF's **Coronavirus (COVID-19) information page** ⧉ **(https://www.ucf.edu/coronavirus/)** . That page also contains information on many of the items below.

COVID-19 vaccinations and testing

Vaccines (highly recommended as a primary tool for both personal and public health) are available free of charge at the **Student Health Center** ⧉ **(https://studenthealth.ucf.edu/portal/)**

Testing is another important tool for stopping the spread across our community. Whether you are vaccinated or not, testing is recommended if you have symptoms of COVID-19 or within three to five days of exposure. Free testing is available in Garage A, Mon-Sat 9-5. Please bring your UCF ID.

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)** .

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/)** 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/)** 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 *always* 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
	📅 **Classes start (https://webcourses.ucf.edu/calendar?event_id=2501398&include_contexts=course_1399117)**	12am
Mon Jan 10, 2022	📅 **MODULE 1 OPENS: Introductions and Choices (https://webcourses.ucf.edu/calendar?event_id=2501409&include_contexts=course_1399117)**	12am
Fri Jan 14, 2022	📅 **Add deadline (https://webcourses.ucf.edu/calendar?event_id=2501396&include_contexts=course_1399117)**	12am
	📅 **Drop/Swap deadline (https://webcourses.ucf.edu/calendar?event_id=2501394&include_contexts=course_1399117)**	12am

Date	Details	Due
	📅 **Submit your introduction to the Module 1 discussion forum** (https://webcourses.ucf.edu/calendar?event_id=2501408&include_contexts=course_1399117)	12am
	📝 **Quiz 1: Syllabus, Student Protocols and Chang** (https://webcourses.ucf.edu/courses/1399117/assignments/7394697)	due by 11:59pm
Sun Jan 16, 2022	📝 **Discussion 1: Introductions** (https://webcourses.ucf.edu/courses/1399117/assignments/7394711)	due by 11:59pm
	📝 **What I Value 1** (https://webcourses.ucf.edu/courses/1399117/assignments/7394701)	due by 11:59pm
Mon Jan 17, 2022	📅 **MODULE 2 OPENS. What is the Good Life?: Classical Western Philosophies** (https://webcourses.ucf.edu/calendar?event_id=2501413&include_contexts=course_1399117)	12am
Fri Jan 21, 2022	📝 **Quiz 2: Classical Western Philosophies of the Good Life** (https://webcourses.ucf.edu/courses/1399117/assignments/7394690)	due by 11:59pm
Sun Jan 23, 2022	📅 **First Module 2 discussion posting due** (https://webcourses.ucf.edu/calendar?event_id=2501415&include_contexts=course_1399117)	12am
Fri Jan 28, 2022	📝 **Discussion 2: Ideas of the Good Life** (https://webcourses.ucf.edu/courses/1399117/assignments/7394708)	due by 11:59pm
Sun Jan 30, 2022	📝 **What I Value 2** (https://webcourses.ucf.edu/courses/1399117/assignments/7394699)	due by 11:59pm
Mon Jan 31, 2022	📅 **MODULE 3 OPENS. What is the Good Life?: Classical Eastern Philosophies** (https://webcourses.ucf.edu/calendar?event_id=2501412&include_contexts=course_1399117)	12am
Fri Feb 4, 2022	📝 **Quiz 3: Classical Eastern Philosophies of the Good Life** (https://webcourses.ucf.edu/courses/1399117/assignments/7394691)	due by 11:59pm
Sun Feb 6, 2022	📅 **First Module 3 discussion posting due** (https://webcourses.ucf.edu/calendar?event_id=2501404&include_contexts=course_1399117)	12am
Fri Feb 11, 2022	📝 **Discussion 3: Education and the Good Life** (https://webcourses.ucf.edu/courses/1399117/assignments/7394707)	due by 11:59pm
Sun Feb 13, 2022	📝 **What I Value 3** (https://webcourses.ucf.edu/courses/1399117/assignments/7394692)	due by 11:59pm
Mon Feb 14, 2022	📅 **MODULE 4 OPENS: Sustaining the Good Life: Environmental and Biomedical Philosophies** (https://webcourses.ucf.edu/calendar?event_id=2501405&include_contexts=course_1399117)	12am
Fri Feb 18, 2022	📝 **Quiz 4: Environmental Philosophies** (https://webcourses.ucf.edu/courses/1399117/assignments/7394694)	due by 11:59pm
Sun Feb 20, 2022	📅 **First Module 4 discussion posting due** (https://webcourses.ucf.edu/calendar?event_id=2501403&include_contexts=course_1399117)	12am
Fri Feb 25, 2022	📝 **Discussion 4: Sustaining a Good LIfe** (https://webcourses.ucf.edu/courses/1399117/assignments/7394709)	due by 11:59pm
Sun Feb 27, 2022	📝 **What I Value 4** (https://webcourses.ucf.edu/courses/1399117/assignments/7394696)	due by 11:59pm

Date	Details	Due
Mon Feb 28, 2022	📅 **MODULE 5 OPENS: Sharing the Good Life: Philosophies of Love** (https://webcourses.ucf.edu/calendar?event_id=2501411&include_contexts=course_1399117)	12am
Fri Mar 4, 2022	📝 **Quiz 5: Philosophies of Love** (https://webcourses.ucf.edu/courses/1399117/assignments/7394695)	due by 11:59pm
Sun Mar 6, 2022	📅 **First Module 5 discussion posting due** (https://webcourses.ucf.edu/calendar?event_id=2501402&include_contexts=course_1399117)	12am
Mon Mar 7, 2022	📅 **SPRING BREAK Starts** (https://webcourses.ucf.edu/calendar?event_id=2504144&include_contexts=course_1399117)	12am
Sun Mar 13, 2022	📅 **SPRING BREAK ends** (https://webcourses.ucf.edu/calendar?event_id=2504145&include_contexts=course_1399117)	11pm
Fri Mar 18, 2022	📝 **Discussion 5: Love and the Good Life** (https://webcourses.ucf.edu/courses/1399117/assignments/7394706)	due by 11:59pm
Sun Mar 20, 2022	📝 **What I Value 5** (https://webcourses.ucf.edu/courses/1399117/assignments/7394689)	due by 11:59pm
Mon Mar 21, 2022	📅 **MODULE 6 OPENS: Fighting for the Good Life: Social and Political Philosophies** (https://webcourses.ucf.edu/calendar?event_id=2501410&include_contexts=course_1399117)	12am
Fri Mar 25, 2022	📅 **Withdrawal deadline** (https://webcourses.ucf.edu/calendar?event_id=2501397&include_contexts=course_1399117)	12am
	📝 **Quiz 6: Social and Political Philosophies** (https://webcourses.ucf.edu/courses/1399117/assignments/7394702)	due by 11:59pm
Sun Mar 27, 2022	📅 **First Module 6 discussion posting due** (https://webcourses.ucf.edu/calendar?event_id=2501401&include_contexts=course_1399117)	12am
Fri Apr 1, 2022	📝 **Discussion 6: Fighting for the Good Life** (https://webcourses.ucf.edu/courses/1399117/assignments/7394705)	due by 11:59pm
Sun Apr 3, 2022	📝 **What I Value 6** (https://webcourses.ucf.edu/courses/1399117/assignments/7394698)	due by 11:59pm
Mon Apr 4, 2022	📅 **MODULE 7 OPENS: Gratitude for the Good Life** (https://webcourses.ucf.edu/calendar?event_id=2501414&include_contexts=course_1399117)	12am
Fri Apr 8, 2022	📝 **Quiz 7: Gratitude** (https://webcourses.ucf.edu/courses/1399117/assignments/7394704)	due by 11:59pm
Sun Apr 10, 2022	📅 **First Module 7 discussion posting due** (https://webcourses.ucf.edu/calendar?event_id=2501406&include_contexts=course_1399117)	12am
Fri Apr 15, 2022	📝 **Discussion 7: Gratitude for a Good Life** (https://webcourses.ucf.edu/courses/1399117/assignments/7394710)	due by 11:59pm
Sun Apr 17, 2022	📝 **What I Value 7** (https://webcourses.ucf.edu/courses/1399117/assignments/7394700)	due by 11:59pm
Mon Apr 18, 2022	📅 **MODULE 8 OPENS: Wrapping up** (https://webcourses.ucf.edu/calendar?event_id=2501407&include_contexts=course_1399117)	12am
Fri Apr 22, 2022	📝 **Discussion 8: Farewells** (https://webcourses.ucf.edu/courses/1399117/assignments/7394712)	due by 11:59pm

Date	Details	Due
Sun Apr 24, 2022	📝 **What I Value 8** **(https://webcourses.ucf.edu/courses/1399117/assignments/7394703)**	due by 11:59pm
Mon Apr 25, 2022	📅 **Classes end** **(https://webcourses.ucf.edu/calendar?** **event_id=2501399&include_contexts=course_1399117)**	12am
Tue Apr 26, 2022	📅 **Study Day** **(https://webcourses.ucf.edu/calendar?** **event_id=2504146&include_contexts=course_1399117)**	12am
Wed Apr 27, 2022	📅 **Exam period begins** **(https://webcourses.ucf.edu/calendar?** **event_id=2501400&include_contexts=course_1399117)**	12am
	📅 **PHI 2010 Final exam opens** **(https://webcourses.ucf.edu/calendar?** **event_id=2501416&include_contexts=course_1399117)**	12am
Thu Apr 28, 2022	📝 **Final Exam** **(https://webcourses.ucf.edu/courses/1399117/assignments/7394693)**	due by 11:59pm
Fri May 6, 2022	📅 **Deadline for Instructors to post grades** **(https://webcourses.ucf.edu/calendar?** **event_id=2501395&include_contexts=course_1399117)**	12am
Sun May 8, 2022	📅 **Grades available on myUCF** **(https://webcourses.ucf.edu/calendar?** **event_id=2504147&include_contexts=course_1399117)**	12am

📝 **What I Value 8** **(https://webcourses.ucf.edu/courses/1399117/assignments/7394703)**   due by 11:59pm

📅 **Classes end** **(https://webcourses.ucf.edu/calendar?** **event_id=2501399&include_contexts=course_1399117)**