

Huron Brief Course Outlines

Fall/Winter 2023-2024

Course Title: The Pursuit of Happiness

Course Number and Section

GLOBAL GREAT BOOKS

1002F - 551

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Disclaimer: Information in the brief course outline is subject to change. The syllabus posted on OWL is the official and authoritative source of information for the course.

Course Description:

What is happiness? How do we define it? How can we attain it? Is happiness a reliable indicator of a life well lived, or is it a mirage drawing us away from a higher purpose? In this course we will trace the paths of heroes and sages, philosophers and mystics as they chase after happiness and strive to determine what constitutes a good life. From Odysseus's homecoming to Milarepa's home-leaving, from Aristotle's embrace of reason to Raskolnikov's flashes of inspiration, we will watch our guides wrestle with some of the most compelling questions of human existence, and we will make their pursuit our own.

Learning Outcomes:

Students will explore ideas about the human condition.

Students will gain an understanding of the historical and cultural contexts of ideas.

Students will learn to analyze and articulate their own beliefs.

Students will improve their ability to understand and engage with philosophical arguments.

Students will increase their skills in literary analysis.

Students will gain familiarity with works from a variety of global traditions.

Students will hone their ability to write clearly and argue convincingly.

Textbooks and Course Materials:

Homer, *The Odyssey* (trans. Emily Wilson)

Lao Tzu, *The Tao Te Ching* (trans. Stephen Mitchell)

Tsangyön Heruka, *The Life of Milarepa* (trans. Andrew Quintman)

Fyodor Dostoevsky, *Crime and Punishment* (trans. Michael Katz)

Other materials will be provided on the course OWL site.

Methods of Evaluation:

Assignment	Due Date mm/dd/yy	Weight - %
Preparation and participation	Ongoing	20%
Short paper #1	10/04/2023	20%
Short paper #2	11/16/2023	20%
Midterm exam	10/25/2023	20%
Final exam	TBA	20%

In solidarity with the Anishinaabe, Haudenosaunee, Lu̓naapéewak, and Chonnonton peoples on whose traditional treaty and unceded territories this course is shared.