

Brief Course Outline

Course Title: **The Pursuit of Happiness**

Course Number and Section

GGB

1002F 550

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

Course Description:

This course explores a variety of accounts regarding human happiness through the reading of primary texts from around the world, from the ancient to the contemporary period. Students will explore what it means to be happy from a number of global perspectives.

Learning Outcomes: one outcome per entry

- Students will investigate ideas about the human condition.
- Students will understand the contextual significance (historical, cultural, etc.) of ideas.
- Students will improve their skills in literary analysis.
- Students will attain familiarity with works from various global traditions.
- Students will enhance their ability to write cogently and argue persuasively.

Textbooks and Course Materials:

Students must purchase exact editions of all of the following books. Second-hand books of the exact editions below are also fine to purchase.

Homer. The Odyssey. Translated by Emily Wilson, 1st ed., W. W. Norton & Company, Inc., 2018. [\$18.95]

Aristotle. Nicomachean Ethics. Translated by Adam Beresford, Penguin Classics, 2020. [\$23.00]

Lao Tzu. Tao Te Ching: A New English Version. Translated by Stephen Mitchell, 1st Harper Perennial Modern Classics ed., HarperCollins, 2006. [\$16.99]

Tsangnyön Heruka. The Life of Milarepa. Translated by Andrew Quintman, Penguin Classics, 2010. [\$25.00]

Dostoevsky, Fyodor. Crime and Punishment: A New Translation. Translated by Michael R. Katz, Liveright, 2019. [\$19.95]

Methods of Evaluation: one assignment per entry

Assignment	Due Date mm/dd/yy	Weight - %
Participation		15%
2 In-Class Assignments		5%
Quizzes		10%
Writing Assignment #1	10/27/26	20%
Writing Assignment #2	11/26/26	25%
Final Exam	TBD	25%

Wednesday, August 12, 2026

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For Textbooks and Course Materials (below), you are required to include the cost of each textbook or other learning material.

Note whether there are any restrictions that would prevent a student from using a second-hand copy. Here is some suggested text:

- Required textbook: [author, title, edition, publisher, date]. Cost: [insert amount].
 - Or include the weblink of the textbook’s publisher site that includes the cost information.
- Students need to purchase this edition. Second-hand or older editions will not be sufficient.
- OR Students are welcome to purchase second-hand or earlier editions of this textbook.
- This course has an optional field trip that costs [insert amount].
- This course has a required field component that costs [insert amount].

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