



## **Global Great Books 1002F: The Pursuit of Happiness Mondays & Wednesdays, 10:30-12:00 (via Zoom)**

**Professor:** Dr. John P. Hope  
**Email:** jhope24@huron.uwo.ca  
**Office Hours:** By appointment  
**Prerequisites:** None

### **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 Objectives**

This course aims to help students to:

- Explore ideas about the human condition and articulate their own
- Understand the historical and cultural contexts of ideas
- Analyze and articulate their own belief systems
- Improve their ability to understand and engage with philosophical arguments
- Increase their skills in literary analysis
- Gain familiarity with works from a variety of global traditions
- Hone their ability to write clearly and argue convincingly

### **Course Method**

This course will involve both synchronous meetings (during which we gather at the same time on Zoom to discuss our readings) and asynchronous components (pre-recorded lectures and forum posts on OWL). See below for more information.



### **Recorded Lectures**

In advance of each class meeting you will receive a recorded lecture on aspects of the day's material. The lecture will give background information, present certain aspects of the readings we'll be discussing, and raise questions for us to consider during our online meetings. You are expected to listen to the lectures before we meet online.

### **OWL Forum Posts**

We will be having eleven class meetings during the course of the intersession. In advance of EIGHT of them (whichever eight you choose), I would like you to make a post on our discussion forum on OWL. I will start the thread with some information and questions, and I would like you to respond by sharing your thoughts, responding to me or to your classmates, or raising some questions of your own. You should aim to write at least a paragraph. I will use these posts to guide our Zoom discussions towards your interests, and to make sure everyone gets a chance to express themselves. Since our meetings will be scheduled for 10:30 a.m., I will ask you to make your posts by 9:30 a.m. for full credit. These posts will be factored into your participation grade.

### **Synchronous Classes on Zoom**

Since this class is taught in an online format, we will keep our synchronous meetings to 90 minutes, with class starting at 10:30 and running until 12:00. Attendance is mandatory and will be a part of your participation grade.

### **Required Resources**

PDF files of all of our readings will be accessible on the OWL resources page. However, for the longer works especially (Homer's *Odyssey* and Dostoevsky's *Crime and Punishment*), I recommend getting your hands on a hard copy – your reading will be much more pleasant, and it will be easier to find specific passages to support your writing. The book-length works we will be reading in this course are:

- Homer, *The Odyssey* (translated by Robert Fagles)<sup>1</sup>
- Lao Tzu, *The Tao Te Ching* (translated by Stephen Mitchell)
- Tsangnyön Heruka, *The Life of Milarepa* (translated by Andrew Quintman)
- Fyodor Dostoevsky, *Crime and Punishment* (translated by Constance Garnett)<sup>2</sup>

All of these books are available through Chapters and Amazon, should you choose to buy a hard copy. They can also be found in many libraries.

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<sup>1</sup> I will be providing the Robert Fagles translation as a PDF, but I highly recommend the translation by Emily Wilson.

<sup>2</sup> The PDF I can provide is the Garnett translation, but I strongly recommend the translation by Michael Katz.

## Writing Assignments

Over the course of the term you will write three short papers (1500 words minimum) analyzing the works we will read and discuss. These papers will be graded on the coherence of your argument, your use of textual evidence to support your points, and your attention to language, style, and structure. Topics and further guidelines will be presented as the deadlines approach.

## Final Exam

There will be a three-hour take-home final exam during finals period (June 27-28). More information will be given to you as we approach the end of the semester.

## Assessment

Grades will be determined by the following assignments:

- Preparation and participation: 20%
- Writing assignment #1: 20%
- Writing assignment #2: 20%
- Writing assignment #3: 20%
- Final exam: 20%

## Course Schedule

- Mon. 5/16 Course introduction. *The Odyssey* (Books 1-4)  
Wed. 5/18 *The Odyssey* (Books 5-10)
- Mon. 5/23 **Victoria Day**  
Wed. 5/25 *The Odyssey* (Books 11-24)
- Mon. 5/30 Aristotle, *The Nicomachean Ethics* (Books I, II, III)  
**Writing assignment #1 due by 11 p.m.**  
Wed. 6/1 Lao Tzu, *The Tao Te Ching*
- Mon. 6/6 *The Pali Canon* (selections). Tsangnyön Heruka, *The Life of Milarepa* (Part 1)  
Wed. 6/8 *The Life of Milarepa* (Part 2)  
Fri. 6/10 **Writing assignment #2 due by 11 p.m.**
- Mon. 6/13 Fyodor Dostoevsky, *Crime and Punishment* (Books 1 & II)  
Wed. 6/15 *Crime and Punishment* (Books III & IV)
- Mon. 6/20 *Crime and Punishment* (Books V, VI, and Epilogue)  
Wed. 6/22 Leo Tolstoy, *The Death of Ivan Ilyich*. Course conclusion.  
Fri. 6/24 **Writing assignment #3 due by 11 p.m.**

**Final exam TBA**

## **Appendix to Course Outlines: Academic Policies & Regulations Summer 2022**

### **Student Code of Conduct**

Membership in the community of Huron University College and Western University implies acceptance by every student of the principle of respect for the rights, responsibilities, dignity and well-being of others and a readiness to support an environment conducive to the intellectual and personal growth of all who study, work and live within it. Upon registration, students assume the responsibilities that such registration entails. While in the physical or online classroom, students are expected to behave in a manner that supports the learning environment of others. Please review the Student Code of Conduct at: <https://huronatwestern.ca/sites/default/files/Res%20Life/Student%20Code%20of%20Conduct%20-%20Revised%20September%202019.pdf>.

### **Prerequisite and Antirequisite Information**

Students are responsible for ensuring that they have successfully completed all course prerequisites and that they have not completed any course antirequisites. Unless you have either the requisites for this course or written special permission from your Dean to enroll in it, you may be removed from this course and it will be deleted from your record. This decision may not be appealed. You will receive no adjustment to your fees in the event that you are dropped from a course for failing to have the necessary prerequisites.

### **Attendance Regulations for Examinations**

A student is entitled to be examined in courses in which registration is maintained, subject to the following limitations:

- 1) A student may be debarred from writing the final examination for failure to maintain satisfactory academic standing throughout the year.
- 2) Any student who, in the opinion of the instructor, is absent too frequently from class or laboratory periods in any course will be reported to the Dean of the Faculty offering the course (after due warning has been given). On the recommendation of the Department concerned, and with the permission of the Dean of that Faculty, the student will be debarred from taking the regular examination in the course. The Dean of the Faculty offering the course will communicate that decision to the Dean of the Faculty of registration.

Review the policy on Attendance Regulations for Examinations here:

[https://www.uwo.ca/univsec/pdf/academic\\_policies/exam/attendance.pdf](https://www.uwo.ca/univsec/pdf/academic_policies/exam/attendance.pdf).

### **Statement on Academic Offences**

Scholastic offences are taken seriously and students are directed to read the appropriate policy, specifically, the definition of what constitutes a Scholastic Offence, at the following website: [https://www.uwo.ca/univsec/pdf/academic\\_policies/appeals/scholastic\\_discipline\\_undergrad.pdf](https://www.uwo.ca/univsec/pdf/academic_policies/appeals/scholastic_discipline_undergrad.pdf). The appeals process is also outlined in this policy as well as more generally at the following website: [https://www.uwo.ca/univsec/pdf/academic\\_policies/appeals/appealsundergrad.pdf](https://www.uwo.ca/univsec/pdf/academic_policies/appeals/appealsundergrad.pdf).

### **Turnitin.com**

All required papers may be subject to submission for textual similarity review to the commercial plagiarism detection software under license to the University for the detection of plagiarism. All papers submitted for such checking will be included as source documents in the reference database for the purpose of detecting plagiarism of papers subsequently submitted to the system. Use of the service is subject to the licensing agreement, currently between The University of Western Ontario and Turnitin.com (<http://www.turnitin.com>).

### **Statement on Use of Electronic Devices**

It is not appropriate to use electronic devices (such as, but not limited to, laptops, cell phones) in the classroom for non-classroom activities. Such activity is disruptive and distracting to other students and to the instructor, and can inhibit learning. Students are expected to respect the classroom environment and to refrain from inappropriate use of technology and other electronic devices in class.

### **Statement on Use of Personal Response Systems (“Clickers”)**

Personal Response Systems (“clickers”) may be used in some classes. If clickers are to be used in a class, it is the responsibility of the student to ensure that the device is activated and functional. Students must see their instructor if they have any concerns about whether the clicker is malfunctioning. Students must use only their own clicker. If clicker records are used to compute a portion of the course grade:

- the use of somebody else’s clicker in class constitutes a scholastic offence
- the possession of a clicker belonging to another student will be interpreted as an attempt to commit a scholastic offence.

### **Academic Consideration for Missed Work**

Students who are seeking academic consideration for missed work during the semester may submit a self-reported absence form online provided that the absence is **48 hours or less** and the other conditions specified in the Senate policy at

[https://www.uwo.ca/univsec/pdf/academic\\_policies/appeals/accommodation\\_illness.pdf](https://www.uwo.ca/univsec/pdf/academic_policies/appeals/accommodation_illness.pdf) are met.

Students whose absences are expected to last **longer than 48 hours**, or where the other conditions detailed in the policy are not met (e.g., work is worth more than 30% of the final grade, the student has already used 2 self-reported absences, the absence is during the final exam period), may receive academic consideration by submitting a Student Medical Certificate (for illness) or other appropriate documentation (for compassionate grounds). The Student Medical Certificate is available online at

[https://www.uwo.ca/univsec/pdf/academic\\_policies/appeals/medicalform.pdf](https://www.uwo.ca/univsec/pdf/academic_policies/appeals/medicalform.pdf).

All students pursuing academic consideration, regardless of type, must contact their instructors no less than 24 hours following the end of the period of absence to clarify how they will be expected to fulfill the academic responsibilities missed during their absence. **Students are reminded that they should consider carefully the implications of postponing tests or midterm exams or delaying submission of work, and are encouraged to make appropriate decisions based on their specific circumstances.**

Students who have conditions for which academic accommodation is appropriate, such as disabilities or ongoing or chronic health conditions, should work with Accessible Education Services to determine appropriate forms of accommodation. Further details concerning policies and procedures may be found at: <http://academicupport.uwo.ca/>.

### **Policy on Academic Consideration for a Medical/ Non-Medical Absence**

**(a) Consideration on Medical Grounds for assignments worth *less than 10%* of final grade:  
Consult Instructor Directly and Contact Academic Advising**

When seeking consideration on **medical grounds** for assignments worth *less than 10%* of the final course grade, and if the student has exceeded the maximum number of permissible Self-Reported absences, the student should contact the instructor directly. The student need only share broad outlines of the medical situation. The instructor **may** require the student to submit documentation to the academic advisors, in which case she or he will advise the student and inform the academic advisors to expect documentation. If documentation is requested, the student will need to complete and submit the [Student Medical Certificate](#). The instructor may **not** collect medical documentation. The advisors will contact the instructor when the medical documentation is received, and will outline the severity and duration of the medical challenge as expressed on the Student Medical Certificate and in any other supporting documentation. The student will be informed that the instructor has been notified of the presence of medical documentation, and will be instructed to work as quickly as possible with the instructor on an agreement for accommodation.

**(b) Consideration on Non-Medical Grounds: Consult Huron Support Services/Academic Advising, or email [huronsss@uwo.ca](mailto:huronsss@uwo.ca).**

Students seeking academic consideration for a **non-medical** absence (e.g. varsity sports, religious, compassionate, or bereavement) will be required to provide appropriate documentation where the conditions for a Self-Reported Absence have not been met, including where the student has exceeded the maximum number of permissible Self-Reported. All consideration requests must include a completed [Consideration Request Form](#). Late penalties may apply at the discretion of the instructor.

Please review the full policy on Academic Consideration for medical and non-medical absence at: [https://www.uwo.ca/univsec/pdf/academic\\_policies/appeals/accommodation\\_illness.pdf](https://www.uwo.ca/univsec/pdf/academic_policies/appeals/accommodation_illness.pdf). Consult [Huron Academic Advising](#) at [huronsss@uwo.ca](mailto:huronsss@uwo.ca) for any further questions or information.

**Support Services**

For advice on course selections, degree requirements, and for assistance with requests for medical accommodation, students should email an Academic Advisor in Huron's Student Support Services at [huronsss@uwo.ca](mailto:huronsss@uwo.ca). An outline of the range of services offered is found on the Huron website at: <https://huronatwestern.ca/student-life/student-services/>.

Department Chairs, Program Directors and Coordinators are also able to answer questions about individual programs. Contact information can be found on the Huron website at: <https://huronatwestern.ca/contact/faculty-staff-directory/>.

If you think that you are too far behind to catch up or that your workload is not manageable, you should consult your Academic Advisor. If you are considering reducing your workload by dropping one or more courses, this must be done by the appropriate deadlines. Please refer to the Advising website, <https://huronatwestern.ca/student-life/student-services/academic-advising/> or review the list of official Sessional Dates on the Academic Calendar, available here: <http://www.westerncalendar.uwo.ca/SessionalDates.cfm>.

You should consult with the course instructor and the Academic Advisor who can help you consider alternatives to dropping one or more courses. Note that dropping a course may affect OSAP and/or Scholarship/Bursary eligibility.

Huron Student Support Services: <https://huronatwestern.ca/student-life/student-services/>  
Office of the Registrar: <https://registrar.uwo.ca/>

Student Quick Reference Guide: <https://huronatwestern.ca/student-life/student-services/#1>

Academic Support & Engagement: <http://academicssupport.uwo.ca/>

Huron University College Student Council: <https://huronatwestern.ca/student-life/beyond-classroom/hucsc/>

Western USC: <http://westernusc.ca/your-services/#studentservices>

### **Mental Health & Wellness Support at Huron and Western**

University students may encounter setbacks from time to time that can impact academic performance. Huron offers a variety of services that are here to support your success and wellbeing. Please visit <https://huronatwestern.ca/student-life-campus/student-services/wellness-safety> for more information or contact staff directly:

Wellness Services: [huronwellness@huron.uwo.ca](mailto:huronwellness@huron.uwo.ca)

Community Safety Office: [safety@huron.uwo.ca](mailto:safety@huron.uwo.ca)

Additional supports for Health and Wellness may be found and accessed at Western through, <https://www.uwo.ca/health/>.