

## Brief Course Outline

**Course Title:** **The Pursuit of Happiness**

**Course Number and Section:**

GGB

1002F 550

**Instructor Name(s):** Peter Sabo

**Instructor Email(s):** psabo2@uwo.ca

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:

Is happiness synonymous with the good life? Does happiness provide purpose or meaning in life? If so, how does one attain it? How does one pursue happiness? Are there better goals in life than happiness? Central to all these questions is the question of what happiness is. In this course we will explore these questions (and more) through reading important and thought-provoking literary works that come from very different times and places. Each work, as one might expect, has its own unique perspective on what happiness is, how one might attain it, and whether happiness is an important, even the most important, thing to pursue. Accordingly, we will compare and contrast these perspectives throughout this course. Along the way, we will take time to evaluate which conceptions of happiness and the good life (with their corresponding demands) appeal to you most or are most applicable to your life.

### Learning Outcomes:

1. Students will learn to read and think critically.
2. Students will gain the ability to analyze ideas and situations, make considered decisions and form coherent, reasoned and fact-based judgements.
3. Students will become familiar with a selection of the writings of the world's influential writers and acquire an understanding of key components of various cultural traditions.
4. Students will learn to be clear and concise writers.
5. This course will prepare students for further courses in Global Great Books.

### Textbooks and Course Materials:

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

Homer, *The Odyssey* (trans. Emily Wilson; Norton, 2018) [\$24.95]

Lao Tzu, *Tao Te Ching* (trans. Stephen Mitchell; Harper Collins, 1988) [\$21.00]

Voltaire, *Candide* (trans. Theo Cuffe; Penguin, 2005) [\$23.00]

Aldous Huxley, Brave New World (Vintage Canada, 2007) [\$18.00]

**Methods Of Evaluation:**

Assignment	Due Date mm/dd/yy	Weight - %
Participation		10
Quizzes		15
2 Writing Assignments		40
Homework Assignments		10
Final Exam		25

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

Friday, August 8, 2025