



## **Global Great Books 1002F: The Pursuit of Happiness**

### **Weekly Zoom Meetings Mondays 1:00-2:20**

**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**

Since we have been moved online, this course will involve both weekly synchronous meetings (during which we will gather on Zoom to discuss our readings) and asynchronous components (pre-recorded lectures and forum posts on OWL). See below for more information.



### **Recorded Lectures**

For each class you will be provided with a recorded lecture on OWL. Occasionally these will take the form of a Power Point presentation, but most often they will be mp3 files. The lecture will give background information, present certain aspects of the readings we'll be discussing, and raise questions for us to discuss during our online meetings and on our OWL Forum.

### **OWL Forum Posts**

Included in your class participation grade is the requirement to contribute *at least* twelve paragraph-length postings to our OWL discussion board – this works out to one per week, or every other class. To encourage consistent participation throughout the semester, you will have four posts due by October 7, four more by November 11, and the last four by December 9. Doing more than four in the first part does not get you out of having to write four for each of the next two parts, and so on, but showing greater engagement can't hurt your grade.

Your posts may take the form of a comment, a question, or an idea you want to try out. I encourage you to read and respond to each other's posts – this is meant to be a discussion.

To receive full credit, you should post by 11:30 a.m. for Monday's class – this will allow me to incorporate your thoughts into the day's discussion. On Wednesdays you can post until 3 p.m.

### **"In person" Classes on Zoom**

On Mondays we will meet on Zoom to discuss the readings. Our meetings will begin at 1 p.m. and will run for about 80 minutes. Attendance is mandatory and your engagement will count towards your participation grade. You should join the meeting ready to participate fully, having already done the reading and listened to the recorded lecture.

If you live in a distant time zone or have some other insurmountable barrier to attending these meetings, you must let me know no later than the first week of class and arrange an alternate way to fulfill your participation requirement.

### **Writing Assignments**

Over the course of the term you will write four short papers (1250 words) 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.

## **Required Resources**

The works below are required for the course. You may order hard copies through the UWO Bookstore's website (bookstore.uwo.ca) and they will be sent directly to your address. I will also provide PDF files of *The Odyssey*, the *Tao Te Ching*, *The Life of Milarepa*, and *Crime and Punishment*. However, I **strongly** recommend getting hold of the hard copies – your reading will be much more pleasant, and it will be easier to find specific passages to support your writing. The PDF files of *The Odyssey* and *Crime and Punishment* are different translations from the ones I'll be working with in class – it's not impossible to use them, but it's not ideal.

- 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)
- Toni Morrison, *The Bluest Eye*

All other readings will be provided on our OWL website.

## **Assessment**

Grades will be determined by the following assignments:

- Preparation and participation: 25%
- Writing assignment #1: 15%
- Writing assignment #2: 15%
- Writing assignment #3: 15%
- Writing assignment #4: 15%
- Final exam: 15%

## **Final Exam**

There will be a take-home exam during finals period. The date and time of the final exam will be announced by the university.

## **Missed or Late Work**

Late assignments will not be accepted, and as a rule I do not grant extensions the night before an assignment is due. However, some flexibility is possible. Look over the syllabus and check it against your schedule. If you have a conflict, I am willing to work with you to set a new deadline, provided that you contact me **well in advance**. For more information on academic accommodations for medical and non-medical reasons please consult the appendix below.

## COURSE SCHEDULE

Wed.	9/9	Course introduction
Mon.	9/14	Homer, <i>The Odyssey</i> (Books 1-6)
Wed.	9/16	<i>The Odyssey</i> (Books 7-10)
Mon.	9/21	<i>The Odyssey</i> (Books 11-16)
Wed.	9/23	<i>The Odyssey</i> (Books 17-20)
Mon.	9/28	<i>The Odyssey</i> (Books 21-24)
Wed.	9/30	Aristotle, <i>The Nicomachean Ethics</i> (Books I & II)
Mon.	10/5	<i>Nicomachean Ethics</i> (Books III & IV)
Tue.	10/6	<b>First Assignment Due by 8 pm</b>
Wed.	10/7	Seneca, "On the Happy Life" <b>NB: Four OWL posts due by today</b>
Mon.	10/12	Thanksgiving
Wed.	10/14	<i>Ecclesiastes</i>
Mon.	10/19	Lao Tzu, <i>The Tao Te Ching</i>
Wed.	10/21	<i>The Pali Canon</i> (selections)
Thu.	10/22	<b>Second Assignment Due by 8 pm</b>
Mon.	10/26	Tsangyön Heruka, <i>The Life of Milarepa</i> (pp. 11-124)
Wed.	10/28	<i>The Life of Milarepa</i> (pp. 125-231)
Mon.	11/2	<i>Reading Week</i>
Wed.	11/4	<i>Reading Week</i>
Mon.	11/9	Fyodor Dostoevsky, <i>Crime and Punishment</i> (Part I)
Wed.	11/11	<i>Crime and Punishment</i> (Part II) <b>NB: Four more OWL posts due by today</b>
Thu.	11/12	<b>Third Assignment Due by 8 pm</b>
Mon.	11/16	<i>Crime and Punishment</i> (Part III)
Wed.	11/18	<i>Crime and Punishment</i> (Part IV)
Mon.	11/23	<i>Crime and Punishment</i> (Part V)
Wed.	11/25	<i>Crime and Punishment</i> (Part VI and Epilogue)
Mon.	11/30	Leo Tolstoy, <i>The Death of Ivan Ilyich</i>
Tue.	12/1	<b>Fourth Assignment Due by 8 pm</b>
Wed.	12/2	Toni Morrison, <i>The Bluest Eye</i> (pp. 1-80)
Mon.	12/7	<i>The Bluest Eye</i> (pp. 81-206)
Wed.	12/9	Course Conclusion <b>NB: Final four OWL posts due by today</b>

## **Appendix to Course Outlines: Academic Policies & Regulations 2020 - 2021**

### **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 enrol in it without them, you may be removed from this course and it will be deleted from your record. If you enrol in this course despite having already taken an antirequisite you may be removed from this course and it will be deleted from your record. Removals for these reasons 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 or for having already taken the antirequisites.

### **Conduct of Students in Classes, Lectures, and Seminars**

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. The academic and social privileges granted to each student are conditional upon the fulfillment of these responsibilities.

While in the physical classroom or online classroom, students are expected to behave in a manner that supports the learning environment of others. Students can avoid any unnecessary disruption of the class by arriving in sufficient time and ready for the start of the class, by remaining silent while the professor is speaking or another student has the floor, and by taking care of personal needs prior to the start of class. If a student is late, or knows that he/she will have to leave class early, be courteous: enter and leave quietly. Please see the Code of Student Conduct at:

[www.huronuc.on.ca/sites/default/files/pdfs/Code%20of%20Student%20Conduct.pdf](http://www.huronuc.on.ca/sites/default/files/pdfs/Code%20of%20Student%20Conduct.pdf).

### **Technology**

It is not appropriate to use technology (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.

### **Adding / Dropping Courses**

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 Huron website, <https://huronatwestern.ca/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.

### **Class Cancellations**

In the event of a cancellation of class, every effort will be made to post all relevant information on the OWL class site and on the Huron website at, <https://huronatwestern.ca/about/accessibility>.

### **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.

Please see 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).

### **Academic Student 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/academic-advising>.

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/contact-directory>.

### **Copyright Regarding Course Material**

Lectures and course materials, including PowerPoint presentations, tests, outlines, and similar materials are protected by copyright. Faculty members are the exclusive owner of copyright in those materials they create. Students may take notes and make copies for their own use. Students may not allow others to reproduce or distribute lecture notes and course materials publicly (whether or not a fee is charged) without the express written consent of a faculty member. Similarly, students own copyright in their own original papers and exam essays. If a faculty member is interested in posting a student's answers or papers on the course website he/she should ask for the student's written permission.

### **Statement on Academic Integrity**

The International Centre for Academic Integrity defines academic integrity as "a commitment, even in the face of adversity, to five fundamental values: honesty, trust, fairness, respect, and responsibility. From these values flow principles of behaviour that enable academic communities to translate ideals to action." (CAI Fundamental Values Project, 1999).

A lack of academic integrity is indicated by such behaviours as the following:

- Cheating on tests;
- Fraudulent submissions online;
- Plagiarism in papers submitted (including failure to cite and piecing together unattributed sources);

- Unauthorized resubmission of course work to a different course;
- Helping someone else cheat;
- Unauthorized collaboration;
- Fabrication of results or sources;
- Purchasing work and representing it as one's own.

### **Academic Integrity: Importance and Impact**

Being at university means engaging with a variety of communities in the pursuit and sharing of knowledge and understanding in ways that are clear, respectful, efficient, and productive. University communities have established norms of academic integrity to ensure responsible, honest, and ethical behavior in the academic work of the university, which is best done when sources of ideas are properly and fully acknowledged and when responsibility for ideas is fully and accurately represented.

In the academic sphere, unacknowledged use of another's work or ideas is not only an offence against the community of scholars, it is also an obstacle to academic productivity. It may also be understood as fraud and may constitute an infringement of legal copyright.

A university is a place for fulfilling one's potential and challenging oneself, and this means rising to challenges rather than finding ways around them. The achievements in an individual's university studies can only be fairly evaluated quantitatively through true and honest representation of the actual learning done by the student. Equity in assessment for all students is ensured through fair representation of the efforts by each.

Acting with integrity at university constitutes a good set of practices for maintaining integrity in later life. Offences against academic integrity are therefore taken very seriously as part of the university's work in preparing students to serve, lead, and innovate in the world at large.

A university degree is a significant investment of an individual's, and the public's, time, energies, and resources in the future, and habits of academic integrity protect that investment by preserving the university's reputation and ensuring public confidence in higher education.

**Students found guilty of plagiarism will suffer consequences ranging from a grade reduction, to failure in the course, to expulsion from the university. In addition, a formal letter documenting the offence will be filed in the Dean's Office, and this record of the offence will be retained in the Dean's Office for the duration of the student's academic career at Huron University College.**

### **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, as per the Academic Calendar: [http://www.westerncalendar.uwo.ca/PolicyPages.cfm?PolicyCategoryID=1&Command=showCategory&SelectedCalendar=Live&ArchiveID=#SubHeading\\_189](http://www.westerncalendar.uwo.ca/PolicyPages.cfm?PolicyCategoryID=1&Command=showCategory&SelectedCalendar=Live&ArchiveID=#SubHeading_189) .

### **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 (<https://www.turnitin.com/>).

### **Computer-Marked Tests/Exams**

Computer-marked multiple-choice tests and/or exams may be subject to submission for similarity review by software that will check for unusual coincidences in answer patterns that may indicate cheating.

### **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 Accommodation for Students With Disabilities**

Students who require **special** accommodation for tests and/or other course components must make the appropriate arrangements with the Student Development Centre (SDC). Further details concerning policies and procedures may be found at: <http://academicsupport.uwo.ca/>.

Please review the full policy at,

[https://www.uwo.ca/univsec/pdf/academic\\_policies/appeals/Academic%20Accommodation\\_disabilities.pdf](https://www.uwo.ca/univsec/pdf/academic_policies/appeals/Academic%20Accommodation_disabilities.pdf).

### **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/Academic\\_Consideration\\_for\\_absences.pdf](https://www.uwo.ca/univsec/pdf/academic_policies/appeals/Academic_Consideration_for_absences.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.

### **Requests for Academic Consideration Using the Self-Reported Absence Form**

Students who experience an unexpected illness or injury or an extenuating circumstance (48 hours or less) that is sufficiently severe to temporarily render them unable to meet academic requirements (e.g., attending lectures or labs, writing tests or midterm exams, completing and submitting assignments,



participating in presentations) should self-declare using the online Self-Reported Absence portal. This option should be used in situations where the student expects to resume academic responsibilities within 48 hours or less.

Please note the following conditions that are in place for self-reporting of medical or extenuating circumstances:

- Students will be allowed a **maximum of two self-reported absences** between September and April and one self-reported absence between May and August;
- Any absences in excess of the number designated in clause a above, regardless of duration, will require students to present a [Student Medical Certificate \(SMC\)](#), signed by a licensed medical or mental health practitioner, detailing the duration and severity of illness, or appropriate documentation supporting extenuating circumstances to the Academic Counselling unit in their Faculty of registration no later than two business days after the date specified for resuming responsibilities.
- Self-reported absences will not be allowed for scheduled final examinations; for midterm examinations scheduled during the December examination period; or for final lab examinations scheduled during the final week of term.
- Self-reporting may not be used for assessments (e.g. midterm exams, tests, reports, presentations, or essays) worth more than 30% of any given course.
- Students must be in touch with their instructors **no later than 24 hours after the end of the period covered by the Self-Reported Absence form**, to clarify how they will be expected to fulfil the academic expectations they may have missed during the absence.

Please review the full 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) .

### **Policy on “Academic” Accommodation - Medical / Non-Medical Grounds**

- (a) **Medical Grounds for assignments worth 10% or more of final grade: Go directly to Huron Support Services/ Academic Advising, or email [huronsss@uwo.ca](mailto:huronsss@uwo.ca) .**

University Senate policy, which can be found at,

[https://www.uwo.ca/univsec/pdf/academic\\_policies/appeals/accommodation\\_medical.pdf](https://www.uwo.ca/univsec/pdf/academic_policies/appeals/accommodation_medical.pdf) , requires that all student requests for accommodation on medical grounds for assignments worth 10% or more of the final grade be made directly to the academic advising office of the home faculty (for Huron students, the “home faculty” is Huron), with supporting documentation in the form (minimally) of the Senate-approved Student Medical Certificate found at:

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

The documentation is submitted in confidence and will not be shown to instructors. 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.

The instructor will not normally deny accommodation where appropriate medical documentation is in place and where the duration it describes aligns with the due date(s) of assignment(s). Before denying a request for accommodation on medical grounds, the instructor will consult with the Dean. The instructor’s decision is appealable to the Dean.

**(b) Accommodation on Medical Grounds for assignments worth *less than 10%* of final grade: Consult Instructor Directly**

When seeking accommodation on medical grounds for assignments worth less than 10% of the final course grade, 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. 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.

The instructor will not normally deny accommodation where appropriate medical documentation is in place and where the duration it describes aligns with the due date(s) of assignment(s). Before denying a request for accommodation on medical grounds, the instructor will consult with the Dean. The instructor's decision is appealable to the Dean.

**(c) Non-Medical Grounds: Consult Huron Support Services/ Academic Advising**

Where the grounds for seeking accommodation are not medical (e.g. varsity sports, religious, compassionate, bereavement) the student should contact an academic advisor directly. All accommodation requests must include a completed [Accommodation Request Form](#). Late penalties may apply at the discretion of the instructor.

Where a student seeks accommodation on non-medical grounds where confidentiality is a concern, the student should approach an academic advisor with any documentation available. The advisors will contact the instructor after the student's request is received, and will outline the severity and duration of the challenge without breaching confidence. The student will be informed that the instructor has been notified that significant circumstances are affecting or have affected the student's ability to complete work, and the student will be instructed to work as quickly as possible with the instructor on an agreement for accommodation. Before denying a request for accommodation where documentation has been submitted to an academic advisor, the instructor will consult with the Dean. The instructor's decision is appealable to the Dean.

**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)

Chaplaincy: [gthorne@huron.uwo.ca](mailto:gthorne@huron.uwo.ca)

Additional supports for Health and Wellness may be found and accessed at Western through, [www.uwo.ca/uwocom/mentalhealth/](http://www.uwo.ca/uwocom/mentalhealth/).

**Important Dates & Directory**

For a current and up-to-date list of important dates and campus directories, please visit:

- **Huron – Important Dates:** <https://huronuc.ca/important-dates-and-deadlines>
- **Academic Calendar & Sessional Dates:** <http://www.westerncalendar.uwo.ca/SessionalDates.cfm>
- **Huron Directory – Faculty, Staff and Administration:**  
<https://huronuc.ca/index.php/contact/contact-directory>
- **Western Directory – Faculty, Staff and Administration:** <https://www.uwo.ca/directory.html>