



(Robert Delaunay, *Rythme, Joie de Vivre* detail, 1930)

**THE GOOD LIFE**  
**Philosophy 11: Introduction to Philosophy**  
Fall 2017  
Tuesday, Thursday 1:30-3:05, Thim Lecture 003

**Instructor:**

Prof. Samantha Matherne  
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Office Hours: Tuesdays 3:15-5:15 and by appointment

**Teaching Assistants:**

Steven Haug, shaug@ucsc.edu: Sections 01A, 01B, 01C  
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Ana Pedroso, apedroso@ucsc.edu: Sections 01J, 01K, 01L

**Course description:**

Most of us aspire to lead happy or meaningful lives, but what actually is *the good life*? Is it a life guided by reason? By morality? By politics? By art? By love? Do some people lead better lives than others? If so, does this mean there are objective standards by means of which we can measure how good a life is? If not, does this mean that the meaningfulness of life is an entirely subjective matter?

Although these questions are ones that we as human beings face in general, they have also preoccupied philosophers for centuries. Our aim in this course will accordingly be to explore some of the most prominent historical and contemporary answers to these questions, including those offered by Plato, Immanuel Kant, Friedrich Nietzsche, Simone de Beauvoir, Hannah Arendt, Martha Nussbaum, Amartya Sen, Harry Frankfurt, and Susan Wolff. However, since philosophers are not the only resources to draw on when thinking through the good life, we will look to the arts as well, investigating these issues through the lens of poetry, prose, painting, sculpture, and music.

## **Requirements:**

- (1) Regular attendance and participation in class and at sections  
*Note:* Missing more than 50% of sections will result in failing the course.  
*Note:* there will be no sections the initial week of class (September 28<sup>th</sup>-29<sup>th</sup>). Sections will begin October 2<sup>nd</sup>.
- (2) Careful reading of the assigned texts  
*Note:* You are expected to bring the readings to each lecture and section.
- (3) Weekly questions sets (10% total)  
Each question set will be posted on Canvas under the 'Quizzes' tab on **Mondays** and they are due by **11:59pm on Fridays**.
- (4) Three take-home midterms (20% each)
- (5) A final exam (30%)

## **Course Policies:**

**Academic Honesty Policy:** While students are encouraged to discuss the readings and assignments with one another, students are expected to submit work that is their own and which includes appropriate citations. Cheating and plagiarism is strictly prohibited and students are expected to comply with the University's Academic Integrity Policy.<sup>1</sup> In the event of plagiarism, students will (a) be reported to the Academic Tribunal, (b) receive a failing grade on that assignment, and (c) may receive a failing grade for the course.

**Late Policy:** Students will be deducted a partial letter grade for every day an assignment is late, e.g., if the paper would originally have received an A, after one day late, it will receive an A-, two days, a B+, three days, a B, etc.

## **Required Texts (Available at the Literary Guillotine [204 Locust Street]):**

*Note:* Given the amount of close reading we will do in class, it is crucial that you buy the editions listed below.

- Immanuel Kant, *Groundwork of the Metaphysics of Morals*, (Harper Perennial Modern Classics, transl. H.J. Patton)
- Friedrich Nietzsche, *Genealogy of Morals* (Oxford University Press, transl. Douglas Smith)
- Harry Frankfurt, *The Reasons of Love* (Princeton University Press)
- Thornton Wilder, *The Bridge of San Luis Rey* (Harper Perennial Modern Classics)
- The Course Reader (includes all other readings for the course) [R]

## **Schedule (subject to adjustment)**

### **Week Zero**

September 28<sup>th</sup>: Introduction

\*no sections this week, sections begin next week

### **Week One**

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<sup>1</sup> [http://www.ue.ucsc.edu/academic\\_integrity](http://www.ue.ucsc.edu/academic_integrity)

October 3<sup>rd</sup>: Plato, *The Republic*, Book 1, pp. 1-35 (327a-354c)

October 5<sup>th</sup>: Plato, *The Republic*, selections from Books 2, 4, and 7, pp. 36-40 (357a-362c), 45-8 (367a-370c), 112-135 (427d-445e), 208-212 (514e-519b)

### **Week Two**

October 10<sup>th</sup>: Immanuel Kant, *Groundwork of the Metaphysics of Morals*, Preface and Chapter 1, pp. 55-73

October 12<sup>th</sup>: Kant, *Groundwork of the Metaphysics of Morals*, Chapter 2, pp. 74-92

### **Week Three**

October 17<sup>th</sup>: **Midterm #1 Due**, Kant, *Groundwork of the Metaphysics of Morals*, Chapters 2 and 3, pp. 93-113, 114-121

October 19<sup>th</sup>: Friedrich Schiller, *On the Aesthetic Education of Man*, Letters 1-3, 8-9, 12-14, 20, 24-5, pp. 3-9, 26-32, 41-52, 73-5, 89-98 [R]

### **Week Four**

October 24<sup>th</sup>: Friedrich Nietzsche, *On the Genealogy of Morals*, Preface and First Essay, pp. 3-38

October 26<sup>th</sup>: Nietzsche, *On The Genealogy of Morals*, Second Essay, §§1-16, pp. 39-66

### **Week Five**

October 31<sup>st</sup>: Nietzsche, *On the Genealogy of Morals*, Second Essay, §§17-25 and Third Essay, §§1, 12-14, 23-25, 28, pp. 39-66, 77, 97-104, 121-131, 135-6

November 2<sup>nd</sup>: Simone de Beauvoir, *The Ethics of Ambiguity*, Ch. 1 and Ch. 2, pp. 7-18, 35-52 [R]

### **Week Six**

November 7<sup>th</sup>: **Midterm #2 due**, Beauvoir, *The Ethics of Ambiguity*, Ch. 2 and Conclusion, pp. 53-73, 155-9 [R]

November 9<sup>th</sup>: Hannah Arendt, *The Human Condition*, Chapter 1 and Chapter 2, §§24, 33-4, pp. 7-21, 175-181, 236-47 [R]

### **Week Seven**

November 14<sup>th</sup>: Amartya Sen, "Capability and Well-Being," pp. 1-38 [R]

November 16<sup>th</sup>: Martha Nussbaum, "The Central Capabilities," Ch. 2 of *Creating Capabilities: The Human Development Approach*, pp. 17-45 [R]

### **Week Eight**

November 21<sup>st</sup>: Harry Frankfurt, *The Reasons of Love*, Ch. 1, pp. 4-32

November 23<sup>rd</sup>: Thanksgiving Holiday – No Class – a perfect time to start reading *The Bridge of San Luis Rey!*

**Week Nine**

November 28<sup>th</sup>: **Midterm #3 due**, Frankfurt, *The Reasons of Love*, Ch. 2, pp. 35-68

November 30<sup>th</sup>: Frankfurt, *The Reasons of Love*, Ch. 3, pp. 71-84

**Week Ten**

December 5<sup>th</sup>: Susan Wolff, "The Meanings of Lives," pp. 1-25 [R]

December 7<sup>th</sup>: Wilder, *The Bridge of San Luis Rey*

**Final Exam: Wednesday December 13<sup>th</sup>, 12-3 p.m.**