

Syllabus
Spring '10

Conceptions of Happiness thru Film
M 5:00-6:50 BC 2020

PERS-2199
Dr. Ari Santas

Course Description:

This course will be an examination of conceptions of happiness, using film and drawing from the work of contemporary Applied Philosophy and classic historical figures, from antiquity to the modern era.

Go to the online version of this syllabus at: <http://www.valdosta.edu/~asantas/Syllabus/Spring/2199s10.doc>

Course Learning Outcomes (Objectives):

- to explore, through film and discussion, major social and ethical themes of modern life. (D1, D3; U1, U7, U8)
- to develop skills in finding ethical themes in film (D1; U8)
- to understand the historical approaches to the fundamental problems in human happiness (D1, U6, U8)
- to develop critical thinking and writing skills with respect to one's personal conception of a good life (D2, D3; U4, U7)

Texts:

**all readings will be available online through the main [Course Index](#):
<http://www.valdosta.edu/~asantas/PERS-2199 Happiness Index.htm>

Office Hours:

My office is located in 148 Farber Hall (the old Student Health Center behind Palms). The times you may find me there are M-F 11:00-12:00. You can reach me there or leave a message at 333-5949. You can also reach me through e-mail at asantas@valdosta.edu

Grades:

Final grades will be determined on the basis of weekly journal entries, projects/presentations, class participation, and your term project. Here's the breakdown:

Short Papers	(50%)
Participation	(25%)
Final Project	(25%)

Special Needs:

Students requesting classroom accommodations or modifications because of a documented disability must contact the Access Office for Students with Disabilities located in Farber Hall. The phone numbers are 245-2498 (voice) and 219-1348 (tty).

Participation and Attendance:

Attendance is required. **I will be taking roll every day and assign part of your grade on the basis of how many days missed.** What I'll be looking for, besides regular attendance, are the following:

contribution to discussion	attentiveness* to the course materials and to each other
effort to improve and grow	respectful treatment of your peers
responsible attitude towards learning	

***A Word on Cell Phones:**

Cell phones are thieves of attention and attentiveness. I do not allow their use in my classes. They are to be

silenced and *no texting* should be conducted during class time. If you must make use of one, you must step out of the room. If I must remind you of this, you will be *asked to leave* the class.

Short Papers:

You will be required to submit one short paper for each theme of the course. Deadlines are on the course [Schedule](#). Each of the three papers should:

- be 3-4 double-spaced typed or word-processed pages (12 pt. font) in length
- discuss the theme for that week (using online notes and class materials (including discussion));
- discuss at least two or three films from the given theme;
- draw some sort of critical conclusion(s) (i.e., tell me what *you* think—and don't make this an afterthought!).

See [Class Schedule](#) for due dates:

<http://www.valdosta.edu/~asantas/Syllabus/Spring/2199%20Schedule%20S10.doc>

Final Projects:

You will be given two options for a final project.

Option I is a *5-6 page essay* on your philosophy of happiness, based on the film viewings, assigned readings, and class discussions. You are encouraged to use material developed in your earlier papers.

Option II is a *3-5 minute film* on the subject of happiness or unhappiness and modern life. More details will be supplied as the term progresses. See [Class Schedule](#) for all deadlines.

Optional Group Work

You may elect to work in groups in completing short papers and the final project. I will *not*, however, allow group writing projects for groups *larger than three* students, or film projects (Option II of Final) with *more than five*.

Academic Dishonesty and Plagiarism:

The VSU Student Code of Conduct in the [Student Handbook](#) states:

Plagiarism is prohibited. Themes, essays, term papers, tests, and other similar requirements must be the work of the student submitting them. When direct quotations are used, they must be indicated, and when the ideas of another are incorporated in the paper they must be appropriately acknowledged. (p. 59)

Anyone found guilty of academic dishonesty—offering someone else's work as their own—will receive an 'F' in the course.