Course content
This seminar is intended for graduate students who are or will be teaching assistants for the Common Humanities course, What Is The Good Life? (HUM 2305). The course is exceptionally broad in its reach, encompassing readings and activities from across the humanistic disciplines. It is also a required course for UF undergraduates, who take the class in their first year. Mastering the course materials, and bringing students along, is challenging, and it has the potential to be very rewarding.

Course Goals
We will follow the Good Life course syllabus week by week, brainstorming ideas for discussion section activities and offering a forum for grading strategies and other issues. We will also read scholarship about teaching techniques in higher education, with particular focus on the uses and limitations of classroom discussion. During the second half of the semester we will look ahead to teaching as an element of the search for academic positions. We will write teaching statements, based in part on experiences with the Good Life course. We will also discuss the relationship between teaching and research, two crucial elements of academic careers.

Communication
I will send all communications (announcements, updates on readings, etc) to your .ufl email account. It is important that you check that account regularly, at least twice per week, or you may miss important information. I check my email daily, so if you send me a message you can expect to hear back from me within 24 hours.

Requirements and Grades
Attendance: To receive full credit for attendance, you must attend all of our class meetings.

Class Participation: The success of our seminar will be very dependent on everyone’s participation. We will all come to class having already read the week’s Good Life assigned readings, and any reading assigned for our seminar. In addition, we will each monitor one blog or website, bringing one tip/fact/idea that may be relevant to the Good Life course as a whole or to that week’s Good Life topics. Each week, we will also discuss the previous week’s discussion sections.

Readings: All of our readings are available via the UF on-line reserves system, ARES. It is your responsibility to learn how to use the system—I will gladly help anyone who needs assistance. Note: I may make changes or adjustments to the reading assignments. If I do, I will notify you in class and by email.

Writing Assignments: You will write a teaching statement, a research statement, and a cover letter for job and grant applications. We will discuss these as a group.
Grade Scale:

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Make-Up Policy and Grading Policy: Requirements for class attendance and make-up exams, assignments, and other work are consistent with University policies that can be found at:
http://catalog.ufl.edu/ugrad/current/regulations/info/attendance.aspx

Academic Honesty
The University of Florida’s honor code requires all students to be honest in their academic work. University policies on cheating, plagiarism, and related issues are available at:
http://www.dso.ufl.edu/judicial/procedures/academicguide.html

Accommodations
Students requesting classroom accommodation must first register with the Dean of Students Office. The Dean of Students Office will provide documentation to the student who must then provide this documentation to me when requesting accommodation.

Also note:
- Please do not be late for class!
- Turn off cell phones during class.

BLOGS TO FOLLOW (you will each select one)
--Library of Congress, Teacher Resources  www.loc.gov/teachers/
--The Kennedy Center, ArtsEdge  http://artsende.kennedy-center.org/educators.aspx
--National Geographic Education  http://education.nationalgeographic.com/education/?ar_a=1
--National Education Association Best Practices  http://www.nea.org/home/33508.htm
--The Guardian Higher Education Network  http://www.theguardian.com/higher-education-network/blog+education/teaching
--The Economist--follow The Economist Explains or the Graphic Detail blogs (or another of your choice)  http://www.economist.com/blogs/economist-explains
--Metropolitan Museum of Art Timeline of Art History  http://www.metmuseum.org/toah/

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August 26  First Day of Class--What To Do?  [Thinking About the Good Life]
--learning names  http://www.unl.edu/gradstudies/current/teaching/names
--setting the tone  http://chronicle.com/article/Crafting-a-Teaching-Persona/46671
--Pegoda  “19 Lessons About Teaching”
http://www.insidehighered.com/advice/2013/08/14/essay-lessons-learned-start-college-teaching-career

September 2  Labor Day (no class)

September 9  Finding New Resources: Good Life Staff site and UF Library site  [Seeking]
*come to seminar with 1-2 resources that you plan to use this semester
--Go to the Good Life Staff Worksite→Resources
--Go to UF Libraries site, find unusual resources.  ie: How could you use the new database Statista?  Are there Special Collections you could use?