

HNRS 1351.005 - Fall 2026

World, Text, and Image I

Mankind's Search for Meaning and Well-Being

Dr. Matt Stith and Dr. Robert Sterken

Tuesday/Thursday 9:30 a.m. - 10:50 a.m. | HPR 135 Honors Classroom

Instructor Information

Dr. Matt Stith	Dr. Robert Sterken
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"No man was ever wise by chance!" - Seneca

"Consideration for others is the basis of a good life, a good society." - Confucius

"Educating the mind without educating the heart is no education at all." - Aristotle

Course Description

Comparative study in the humanities and social sciences from antiquity to the Renaissance. This writing-intensive seminar takes an interdisciplinary approach to literature, history, philosophy, and art. Prerequisite: Invitation by the Honors Committee. Satisfies the Language, Philosophy, and Culture core requirement.

Student Learning Outcomes

Develop critical thinking and writing skills regarding ancient and modern conceptions of self and other.

Read, analyze, and interpret philosophical texts critically.

Explain concepts of meaning and well-being in ancient Eastern and Western traditions.

Differentiate Eastern and Western worldviews in the Classical and Early Modern eras.

Required Readings

The Analects of Confucius (479 BCE)

Aristotle, "Moral Goodness" and "Pleasure and the Life of Happiness" (340 BCE)

Cicero, On Duties (44 BCE)

Seneca, On the Shortness of Life (49 CE)

Assessment of Learning

Assignment	Weight
Weekly Journal Entries	10%
Reading Reflection Essays	15%
Analytical Essay #1	10%
Analytical Essay #2	15%
Analytical Essay #3	15%
Eudaimonia Video Presentation	20%
Class Participation	15%

Major Assignments and Policies

This syllabus includes analytical essays, reading reflection essays, a Eudaimonia video presentation, weekly handwritten journal submissions, attendance expectations, participation requirements, academic honesty provisions, Writing Center information, and university absence policies. Detailed assignment directions and due dates are provided in Canvas modules.

Course Schedule

Module 1: Introductions and the Well-Lived Life

Module 2: Confucianism

Module 3: Aristotle

Module 4: Cicero

Module 5: Seneca

Schedule subject to revision. See Canvas Modules for reading assignments, deadlines, and updates.

UT Tyler Policies

The current UT Tyler policies regarding accessibility services, AI use, academic integrity, withdrawals, FERPA, military-affiliated students, Title IX, religious observances, campus carry, recordings, and student support resources apply to this course. Refer to the current university policy statements and resources distributed through Canvas.