

1100H Introduction to Philosophy Instructor: A. Silverman

BO 120; TR 3:55-5:15

Happiness, Goodness and Meaning in Life

Socrates thought the only question that really matters was: How ought one to live one's life? We shall consider Socrates question from the three vantage points contained in the title of the course: we should live a happy life, a good life, and a meaningful life. What are happiness, goodness and meaningfulness? And what is it to live a life? Could one, for instance live a good life and still find it meaningless? To help guide in-class discussion of these topics, we will read three short modern classics , Phillipa Foot's *Natural Goodness*, Jonathan Lear's *Radical Hope*, and Susan Wolf's, *Meaning in Life and Why it Matters*.

1100H Introduction to Philosophy Instructor: J. D'Arms HN 201; MW 9:35-10:55

This course is a seminar-style introduction to some of the classic issues in Philosophy, such as: How can we have Free Will, or be morally responsible for our actions, if a scientific understanding of our nature and the world is roughly correct? Is it rational to believe that there is a God? What reason do we have to be moral in cases where we have more to gain by acting immorally? What makes someone the same person over time? How can we know anything about the world outside our minds? Are moral properties objective or subjective? What about colors? What about shapes?

Readings will be drawn from historical and contemporary sources. Class sessions will emphasize discussion and clear expression of ideas. Written assignments will be designed to improve argumentative and critical thinking skills, along with clarity of expression.

This class is intended primarily for first year students in the Honors program.

2470H Honors Philosophy of Film Instructor: L. Shabel UH 043, WF 12:45-2:05

We will introduce ourselves to the study of philosophy, and approach a variety of philosophical questions, via the medium of film. We will primarily explore the nature of persons, raising questions about ethics, identity (including personal, racial and sexual identity), consciousness, knowledge, spirituality, art and freedom of the will, all in the context of a discussion of contemporary film across a variety of genres. We will discuss both philosophy in film (that is, the sense in which a film can serve to provide an argument for or illustration of a philosophical position), as well as the philosophy of film (that is, the sense in which films demand philosophical interpretation and critique.)

GE Visual and Performing Arts