

Spring 2-1-2004

PHIL 480.01: The Pursuit of Happiness

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The Pursuit of Happiness

(1) Goals

The goal of the seminar is to make students conversant with the views of social scientists and political theorists on happiness, to have the students examine the moral implications of these views, and to have them work out a normative conception of happiness.

(2) Readings

Mill, On Liberty.

Sher, Beyond Neutrality.

Seligman, Authentic Happiness.

Frey and Stutzer, Happiness and Economics.

(3) Schedule

Jan. 27: Introduction
Jan. 28-Feb. 5: Mill
Feb. 10-Mar. 4: Sher
Mar 9-25: Seligman
Apr. 6-22: Frey and Stutzer
April 27-May 10: Presentation of Seminar Papers

(4) Course Requirements

A. Seminar Presentations and Participation (50% of course grade)

The members of the seminar will take turns in presenting outlines of the readings or of special topics. The presentations need to be clear and succinct. The quality of the presentations and of the participation in class will determine half of the course grade.

B. Seminar Paper (50% of course grade)

During the first third of the semester, each member should, in consultation with the instructor, determine a project for the seminar paper. The sources for the paper are the readings and discussions in class and some additional research. (I will be glad to steer you toward material that bears on your topic.) The paper should be 20 pp. (5000 words) long, more or less.

V. Please Note

February 13 is the last day to add or drop classes by Cyberbear.

March 9 is the last day to add or drop classes or change the grading option.

Office Hours: MWF, 8:10-9:00 a.m. or by appointment

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If you have a disability, please let me know so that we can provide accommodation.