



The Hebrew University of Jerusalem

Syllabus

The Good Life Wellbeing and Happiness - 15833

Last update 05-09-2023

HU Credits: 2

Degree/Cycle: 2nd degree (Master)

Responsible Department: Philosophy

Academic year: 0

Semester: 1st Semester

Teaching Languages: Hebrew

Campus: Mt. Scopus

Course/Module Coordinator: Dani Attas

Coordinator Email: daniel.attas@huji.ac.il

Coordinator Office Hours: Mondays 12:00-13:00

Teaching Staff:

Prof Daniel Attas

Course/Module description:

The course is intended for MA students and assumes prior basic acquaintance with ethical theory in general and theories of personal good. We shall deal theories proposed of wellbeing and happiness: subjective theories (hedonism, desire fulfilment) and objective theories (perfectionism); momentary and complete lives welfare. We shall also discuss the and examine the importance of wellbeing for public policy.

Course/Module aims:

To study the contemporary philosophical discussion regarding the concepts of wellbeing, welfare and happiness; to discuss the relation between these concepts and question of policy and science.

Learning outcomes - On successful completion of this module, students should be able to:

Students will be acquainted with central issues regarding wellbeing and happiness in contemporary philosophical discussion, and will be able to form a justified position regarding the relation between these concepts and questions of public policy and science.

Attendance requirements(%):

100

Teaching arrangement and method of instruction: The course is primarily based on individual meetings with the lecturer. We shall begin the semester with two introductory classes, and we will end it with a final joint session. During the course the students will be hand in three written assignments followed by a tutorial to discuss the paper and feedback.

Course/Module Content:

1. three theories of wellbeing.
2. hedonism
3. desire fulfilment.
4. rational life plans
5. time
6. variability and measurement
7. perfectionism
8. value fulfilment

9. science of wellbeing.

Required Reading:

Parfit, D. (1984) *Reasons and Persons*, Appendix I, Oxford University Press, Oxford, pp. 493-502

Scanlon, T.M. (1998) *What We Owe to Each Other*, Ch. 3, "Well-being" Harvard University Press, Cambridge, pp. 108-143.

Feldman, F. (2008). Whole life satisfaction concepts of happiness. *Theoria*, 74(3), 219-238.

Alexandrova, Anna. *A philosophy for the science of well-being*. Oxford University Press, 2017.

Tiberius, Valerie. *Well-being as value fulfillment: How we can help each other to live well*. Oxford University Press, 2018.

Kraut, Richard. *What is good and why: The ethics of well-being*. Harvard University Press, 2009.

Additional Reading Material:

Feldman, F. (2004) *Pleasure and the Good Life*, Chs. 2-4, Oxford University Press, Oxford, pp. 21-34, 38-54

Raz, J. "The Role of Well-Being", *Philosophical Perspectives* 18 (2004) 269-294, 55-78.

Griffin, J. (1986) *Well-being chs. I-II*, Oxford University Press, Oxford, pp. 7-39.

Velleman, D. (2000) "Well Being and Time" in *The Possibility of Practical Reason*, Oxford University Press, Oxford, pp. 56-84.

Grading Scheme:

Submission assignments during the semester: Exercises / Essays / Audits / Reports / Forum / Simulation / others 90 %

Personal Guide / Tutor / Team Evaluation 10 %

Additional information: