

PHIL 321: Ethics and Human Happiness
Robert Stewart – RStewart@csuchico.ed
Fall 2009

Office: Trinity 105
Telephone: 898-4744
Office Hours:

Required Texts: Cahn & Vitrano, *Happiness*
Klemke & Cahn, *The Meaning of Life (3rd ed.)*
Wilson, *Against Happiness*
Nettle, *Happiness*

Written Work: Essay midterm in early October.
Essay final exam during Finals Week (at official time only)

COURSE OUTLINE

- I The Psychology of Happiness**
Nettle, *Happiness*
- II Happiness and the Good Life**
Bentham, from Principles of Morals and Legislation
Mill, "Utilitarianism," Chapter 2
Epicurus, "Letter to Menoecus" & "Landing Doctrines"
Nozick, "The Experience Machine"
Aristotle, from Nicomachean Ethics
Kraut, "Two Conceptions of Happiness"
Seneca, On the Happy Life
Kekes, "Attitudinal and Episodic Happiness"
Taylor, from Virtue Ethics
Annas, "Happiness as Achievement"
- III The Possibility of Happiness**

Aquinas, from Summa Contra Gentiles
Schopenhauer, from "On the Variety and Sufferings of Life"
Nietzsche, from "On the Uses and Disadvantages of History for Life"
Sartre, "Forlornness"
Wilson, *Against Happiness*
- IV The Meaning of Life and Death**
Klemke & Cahn, *Selections to be announced*
- V Morality and Individual Happiness**
Kant, from Groundwork and Critique.
Mill, "Utilitarianism," Chapters 3 & 4
Sidgwick, "Happiness and Duty"
Annas, "Virtue and Eudaimonism"
Cahn & Murphy, "Happiness and Immorality"
Vitrano, "Happiness and Morality"

Written work for the course will consist of two essay exams (midterm in early October and final during the appointed time). No early exams or makeup finals will be offered. Each exam will count for about 45% of the final course grade. The remaining 10% will be determined by improvement (if the final exam grade is better than the midterm) and class participation. There might be extra-credit opportunities such as unannounced in-class writing assignments on the reading and reports on guest lectures that are open to the public on topics covered by the course. You will need a small-size blue book (larger size is not acceptable) and a pen. No notes or books will be used in taking the exam, though a foreign-language dictionary is permitted. A midterm may be made up only at the instructor's discretion, depending on the reason for having missed the exam on the scheduled day. A medical excuse may be required. Your notes will be your study guide for exams, so regular class attendance and note taking is expected.