

Course	PHI 450 The Philosophy of Well-Being	Semester	Monsoon Semester 2022										
Faculty Name(s)	Joseph Van Weelden	Contact	joseph.vanweelden@ahduni.edu.in										
School	SAS	Credits	3										
GER Category:	Humanities and Languages	Teaching Pedagogy Enable:NO	P/NP Course: Can not be taken as P/NP										
Schedule	<table border="1"> <tr> <td rowspan="2">Section 1</td> <td>02:30 pm to 04:00 pm</td> <td>Mon</td> <td colspan="2">01-08-22 to 20-11-22</td> </tr> <tr> <td>02:30 pm to 04:00 pm</td> <td>Fri</td> <td colspan="2">01-08-22 to 20-11-22</td> </tr> </table>				Section 1	02:30 pm to 04:00 pm	Mon	01-08-22 to 20-11-22		02:30 pm to 04:00 pm	Fri	01-08-22 to 20-11-22	
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Prerequisite	<p>PHL115 Philosophy as a Way of Life OR PHI 120 Introduction to Ethical Theory: Virtues, Vices and Values or PHI120 Introduction to Ethical Theory: Virtues, Vices and Values &amp; PHI 450 Topics in Ethics: Well-Being or PHI350 Contemporary Ethical Theory or PHI 350 Topics in Ethics: Well-Being &amp; PHL301 Foundation Seminar Students should have taken at least one course in ethics with the course code PHL or PHI.</p>												
Antirequisite	Not Applicable												
Corequisite	Not Applicable												
Course Description	<p>This course will examine the nature and significance of individual well-being, traditionally one of the core concerns of ethical theory. All of us have an abundance of beliefs about what is good and bad for ourselves and those we care about. In this course we will subject these beliefs to critical scrutiny. We will begin by considering the major contender theories of well-being that philosophers have advanced. We will then turn to consider some specific applications of these theories, as well as a number of puzzles that all these accounts of well-being must contend with. The overall goal is to help students to reflect with enhanced clarity, care, and rigour about a topic of perennial human interest.</p> <p>This course is primarily designed as an elective for students majoring in PHL or minoring in Philosophy. However, any student may register provided they have previously taken a PHI or PHL course in ethics.</p>												
Course Objectives	<p>The course aims to:</p> <p>a) Introduce students to the main philosophical theories of well- being, and</p>												

	<p>familiarise them with the current state of the philosophical literature on the subject.</p> <p>b) Cultivate in students the habit of reading a philosophical text carefully and charitably, so that they are able to identify, accurately reconstruct, and assess its central argument.</p> <p>c) Enhance students' ability to construct and clearly communicate their own philosophical arguments (whether orally or in written form).</p>
Learning Outcomes	<p>On completing this course the student will be able to:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Identify and describe each of the major theories of well-being, as well as the main arguments for and against them.</li> <li>2. Evaluate the strengths and weaknesses of a philosophical argument.</li> <li>3. Communicate their own views about well-being effectively (both orally and in writing) and provide argumentative support for their position.</li> </ol>
Pedagogy	Lectures, Class Discussion, Student Presentations
Expectation From Students	<p>Maintain an inclusive and respectful classroom environment, where no student is made to feel unwelcome or uncomfortable.</p> <p>Complete all pre-readings in advance of the session (s) in which we are to discuss them.</p> <p>Be an active participant in the course (through contribution to class discussion etc.).</p> <p>Note on Academic Integrity: Under no circumstances may students submit another's words or ideas as their own. This is plagiarism, and will result in a grade of 0 for the evaluation component and potentially further discipline.</p>
Assessment/Evaluation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Other Components: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ End-Sem Paper - 40%</li> <li>○ Class participation (Including attendance) - 10%</li> <li>○ Mid-Semester Paper - 30%</li> <li>○ Presentation - 20%</li> </ul> </li> </ul>
Attendance Policy	As per Ahmedabad University Policy.
Project / Assignment Details	<p>2 Pair Presentations (each worth 10 % of the final grade): Students will be expected to summarise one of the pre-readings (in some cases a section of the reading) for their classmates, presenting their own interpretation of what the author is saying and raising at least one objection to their argument. This will serve to set the stage for a broader class discussion of the reading.</p> <p>Mid-Sem Paper/Presentation (worth 30 % of the final grade): Students will be expected to submit a paper of 1500 words on one of the theories of well-being discussed in the first half of the course. The instructor will provide a list of topics, but students are also free to generate their own topic. In lieu of a mid-sem exam, a session will be set aside for students to present their papers in progress to their peers. Students will be primarily assessed on their</p>

	<p>understanding of the theory discussed and their ability to clearly and cogently present their own argument.</p> <p>End-Sem Paper/Presentation (worth 40% of the final grade): Students will be expected to submit a paper of 2500 words on one of the issues discussed in the second half of the course. The instructor will provide a list of topics, or students may generate their own. In lieu of an end-sem exam, a session will be set aside for students to present their papers in progress to their peers. Students will be primarily assessed on their understanding of the issue discussed and their ability to clearly and cogently present their own argument.</p>
Course Material	<p>Coursepacks</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• PHI 450: The Philosophy of Well-Being,</li></ul> <p>Other Course Material</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>•</li></ul>
Additional Information	

## Session Plan

N O.	TOPIC TITLE	TOPIC & SUBTOPIC DETAILS	READINGS,CASES, ETC.	ACTIVITIES	IMPOR TANT DATES
1	Introduction	Introduction to well-being as a subject of philosophical study. What makes our lives go best?	Guy Fletcher. The Philosophy of Well-Being: An Introduction pp.1-7	Lecture, Class Discussion	01-08-2022
2	Hedonism	What is hedonism? Why be a hedonist?	Roger Crisp. "Hedonism Reconsidered"	Lecture, Student Presentation, Class Discussion	05-08-2022
3	Why Not Hedonism?	What are the best arguments against hedonism?	Robert Nozick. "The Experience Machine". Richard Kraut. The Quality of Life: Aristotle Revised pp.1-4 and 22-42	Lecture, Student Presentation, Class Discussion	08-08-2022
4	The Desire-Satisfaction Theory	What is the desire-satisfaction theory? Why be a desire-satisfactionist?	Chris Heathwood "Desire-fulfillment Theory", Peter Railton "Facts and Values" pp.9-17	Lecture, Student Presentation, Class Discussion	12-08-2022
5	Why Not The Desire-Satisfaction Theory?	What are the best arguments against the desire-satisfaction theory?	William Lauinger "Dead Sea Apples and Desire-Fulfillment Welfare Theories", Jon Elster "Sour Grapes" pp.219-230.	Lecture, Student Presentation, Class Discussion	22-08-2022
6	Objective List Theories	What are objective list theories? Why be an objective list theorist?	Guy Fletcher. "A Fresh Start for the Objective-List Theory of Well-Being"	Lecture, Student Presentation, Class Discussion	26-08-2022
7	Why Not An Objective List Theory?	What are the best arguments against objective list theories?	Ben Bradley. Well-Being and Death pp.15-17, Jennifer Hawkins. "The Subjective Intuition"	Lecture, Student Presentation, Class Discussion	29-08-2022

8	Perfectionism	What is perfectionism? Why be a perfectionist?	Gwen Bradford. "Perfectionism"	Lecture, Student Presentation, Class Discussion	02-09-2022
9	Why Not Perfectionism?	What are the best arguments against perfectionism?	Dan Haybron "Well-Being and Virtue"	Lecture, Student Presentation, Class Discussion	05-09-2022
10	Hybrid Theories	What are hybrid theories? Why be a hybrid theorist?	Christopher Woodard. "Hybrid Theories", Joseph Van Weelden. The Disjunctive Hybrid Theory of Prudential Value pp.1-5 and 13-34	Lecture, Student Presentation, Class Discussion	09-09-2022
11	Why Not Hybrid Theories?	What are the best arguments against hybrid theories?	Thomas Hurka. "On 'Hybrid' Theories of Personal Good", Guy Fletcher. The Philosophy of Well-Being pp.114-129.	Lecture, Student Presentation, Class Discussion	12-09-2022
12	Internalism	What is internalism? Why be an internalist?	Connie Rosati. "Internalism and the Good For a Person"	Lecture, Student Presentation, Class Discussion	16-09-2022
13	Mid-Sem Paper Presentations	Student Presentations	No reading	Student Presentations	26-09-2022
14	Why Not Internalism?	What are the best arguments against well-being internalism?	Alexander Sarch.	Lecture, Student Presentation, Class Discussion	30-09-2022
15	Well-Being and Happiness	What is the relationship between happiness and well-being?	L.W. Sumner. Welfare, Happiness, and Ethics pp.140-156, Julia Annas. "Happiness as Achievement"	Lecture, Student Presentation, Class Discussion	03-10-2022
17	(A Philosophy for) The	What can philosophers learn from the burgeoning field of positive psychology, and vice	Anna Alexandrova. "Well-Being as an	Lecture, Student Presentation, Class Discussion	07-10-2022

	Science of Well-Being	versa?	Object of Science", Valerie Tiberius "Well-Being: Psychological Research for Philosophers"		
18	The Network Theory of Well-Being	What should an empirically informed philosophical theory of well-being look like?	Michael Bishop. "The Network Theory of Well-Being: An Introduction"	Lecture, Student Presentation, Class Discussion	10-10-2022
19	Well-Being and Meaningfulness	What is the relationship (if any) between living a life that is good for you and living a meaningful life?	Susan Wolf. "Meaningfulness: A Third Dimension of the Good Life"	Lecture, Student Presentation, Class Discussion	14-10-2022
20	Well-Being and Time	How does well-being over a complete lifetime relate to well-being-at-a-time?	David Velleman. "Well-Being and Time", Joseph Van Weelden. "The Single Life Repugnant Conclusion"	Lecture, Student Presentation, Class Discussion	17-10-2022
21	Well-Being and Death	Is death bad for us? If it is, why (and when)?	Fred Feldman. "Some Puzzles about the Evil of Death"	Lecture, Student Presentation, Class Discussion	21-10-2022
22	Well-Being and Posthumous Harm/Benefit	Can events that occur after our death be good or bad for us?	Aristotle Nicomachean Ethics Book I Chapter 11, Dorothy Grover.	Lecture, Student Presentation, Class Discussion	28-10-2022
23	Ill-Being	What makes our lives go worst?	Shelly Kagan. "An Introduction to Ill-Being"	Lecture, Student Presentation, Class Discussion	04-11-2022
24	Well-Being and Health	How does health contribute to/constitute well-being?	Jason Raibley. "Health and Well-Being"	Lecture, Student Presentation, Class Discussion	07-11-2022
25	Well-Being and Disability	Is disability always bad for a person? When it is bad, why?	Elizabeth Barnes. The Minority Body pp. 78-118.	Lecture, Student Presentation, Class Discussion	11-11-2022
2	How	Is ethics, at bottom, all about	T.M. Scanlon.	Lecture, Student	14-11-

6	Important is Well-Being Anyway?	promoting well-being? Or in focusing so much on well-being are (some) ethicists making a mistake?	What We Owe to Each Other pp.126-143, G.E. Moore. Principia Ethica pp.98-99.	Presentation, Class Discussion	2022
2 7	End-Sem Paper Presentations	Student Presentations	No reading	Student Presentations	18-11-2022

