



PHI 250:
The Meaning of Life
with Dr. Sarah Vincent



Course Description

The advertised course description is as follows: “What is the meaning of life? Is there any real point in anything? Are we just thrown into the world and forced to make our way through until, eventually, we die? This course will confront such questions. In doing so, we will consider various topics like purpose, happiness, community, struggle, and mortality. Readings will be heavily interdisciplinary - including philosophical, psychological, and literary texts.”

To elaborate on the general description above, we will begin this course by identifying the problem: why is finding the meaning of life so hard? From there, we'll evaluate three views, each of which posits a different answer to our central question: what is the meaning of life? With this foundation sketched, we'll move into more specific questions: What is happiness? What should we want for our children? What should we want for the world? Is death bad? Is immortality desirable? The course will conclude with a celebration of this bit of life we've shared while we were all contributors to this course.