



Instructor

Clark R. Donley
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Class Time & Location

Main First Session (6/4/18-7/6/18)
MTWRF 10:45 AM–12:15 PM

Course Description. What is the meaning of life? This is one of the most profound philosophical questions we face as human beings. In this course, we will grapple with this question and the diverse array of answers philosophers have proposed to it. We will consider theistic views (that God confers the meaning of life) and non-theistic and naturalistic ones. We will consider the roles that creativity, morality, love, and family play in the meaning of life. We will also look at the subject from both Western and non-Western perspectives (such as Buddhist and Confucian perspectives). Finally, we will engage with skeptical and nihilistic views on the meaning of life and interrogate the meaning of the question itself.

Assignments & Evaluation. Students will be evaluated on the basis of the following items:

- Short writing assignments on the readings
- Regular quizzes on the readings
- A philosophical interview on the meaning of life
- A final paper/project responding to the question “What is the meaning of life?”
- Participation



A more extensive draft of the syllabus will be available by request shortly before the course begins.
To request a copy, please email Clark Donley at crd27@georgetown.edu.