PHIL 4460 Contemporary Issues--Theories of Well-Being
Term 1 2019
Dr. J. Jenkins
460 University College, 474-9136, joyce.jenkins@umanitoba.ca
Office Hours Tues., Thurs. 2:30-3:30 and by appointment

There is no required text for the course. All readings will be made available on reserve at Dafoe Library, or they will be electronically available through the library.

Three, 3-5 page papers are required for the course. The papers will be evenly weighted. Class participation will help, but not hurt, the final mark.

Readings:

1. **Candidate Theories**: Derek Parfit, Reasons and Persons, Appendix I.
2. **Preference Hedonism/Mental Statism and Desire Satisfaction**: 
   L. W. Sumner, Welfare, Happiness and Ethics, Chp. 4, sec. 4.2, “Problems with the Classical View”; Chp. 5, sec. 5.2, “Informed Desire.”
   Jon Elster, "Sour Grapes--Utilitarianism and the Genesis of Wants" in Utilitarianism and Beyond
   Fred Feldman, What Is This Thing Called Happiness?, Chp. 9, “The Problem of Inauthentic Happiness.”
3. **Objective List Theory**: Richard Arneson, "Human Flourishing versus Desire Satisfaction" 
   Human Flourishing v. 16 (1999): 113-142.
4. **Life Satisfaction Theory**: 
   L. W. Sumner, Welfare, Happiness, and Ethics, Chp. 6, “Welfare and Happiness.”
   Fred Feldman, What Is This Thing Called Happiness?, Chp. 5, sec. 5.5, “Actualism and Hypotheticalism.”
6. **Arguments Against Having a Theory of Well-Being**: 
   Thomas Scanlon, What We Owe to Each Other, Chp. 3,” Well-Being.”

Assignment Schedule:
Essay #1 Oct. 9
Essay #2 Nov. 6
Essay #3 Dec. 11

Changes, additions, deletions may be announced in class.