



The Meaning of Life

figs.wisc.edu/2019fall46

FIG 46 • Fall 2019

main class instructor: **Russ Shafer-Landau**

10 credits

for students in the College of Letters & Science Honors Program

MAIN CLASS

Philosophy 141

Meaning of Life

LINKED CLASS

Geoscience 110

Evolution and Extinction

LINKED CLASS

Comparative Literature 203

Calling Planet Earth: Our Planetary Environment

Does your life have any meaning? If so, why? In the main seminar in this FIG we will explore these and related questions, such as: is God required to give meaning to life? What is the relationship between living a happy life, a virtuous life,

and a meaningful life? Does death undermine life's meaning, or is our mortality essential for life to have any meaning at all? Is a meaningful life within everyone's reach, or are some people doomed to live a meaningless life? Does engaging in meaningful activities always enhance our well-being, or are we sometimes faced with a choice between being better off and living a more meaningful life? The linked classes in this FIG will enhance our analysis of these questions.

Geoscience 110: "Evolution and Extinction" — Contemporary views of the origin and diversification of life; crises in the history of life, with emphasis on controversies regarding mass extinctions, particularly at the close of the Paleozoic and Mesozoic eras.

Comparative Literature 203: "Calling Planet Earth: Our Planetary Environment" — This class will explore planet Earth as

both a global ecosystem in which nature and technologies are entangled and a cosmological entity belonging to our solar system. Planetary Humanities will enable you to think together these two aspects of Earth:

- the global feature that is at the core of crucial phenomena like climate change, financial crisis, and transnational migrations; and
- the cosmological aspect that has been at play since the Copernican revolution and its displacement of the Earth from the center of the cosmos.

Drawing on literature, philosophy, sociology, science, anthropology, post-colonial studies, and theorists who shaped environmental thought, this class investigates the crucial issues of our terrestrial condition. ●

more on the other side

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	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY
8:00 am					
9:00 am					
10:00 am		PHILOS 141 LEC 4 9:30–10:45 am		PHILOS 141 LEC 4 9:30–10:45 am	
11:00 am					
12:00 pm	COMP LIT 203 LEC 2 11:00–11:50 am	GEOSCI 110 DIS 304 11:00–11:50 am	COMP LIT 203 LEC 2 11:00–11:50 am	COMP LIT 203 DIS 320 11:00–11:50 am	
1:00 pm					
2:00 pm	GEOSCI 110 LEC 1 1:20–2:10 pm		GEOSCI 110 LEC 1 1:20–2:10 pm		GEOSCI 110 LEC 1 1:20–2:10 pm
3:00 pm					
4:00 pm					
5:00 pm					
6:00 pm					

Enrolled in a FIG and you change your mind?

FIG classes are designed to be taken together. When you enroll in a FIG, you are signed up for these classes as a whole group, not as separate classes.

Dropping one FIG class means ending your enrollment in all of the classes in the FIG.

So, here's what you should know if you want to drop the FIG:

- You can drop all the classes on your own at enroll.wisc.edu. Any non-FIG class will not be affected.
- After classes begin, if you need to drop a single class within the FIG, please contact Kari Fernholz (see below) to review your situation. If necessary, she will provide the required authorization to drop the class.
- Wednesday, September 11, 2019** is the last day to drop a class without it appearing on your college transcript.
- Friday, September 13, 2019** is the last day to add a class without first getting department permission.

MAIN CLASS

Philosophy 141 Meaning of Life

LEC 4: TR 9:30–10:45

- Humanities
- Elementary
- Honors Only

credits: 3

class number: **61659**

LINKED CLASS

Geoscience 110 Evolution and Extinction

LEC 1: MWF 1:20–2:10 +

DIS 304: T 11:00–11:50

- Biological Science
- Elementary

credits: 4

class number: **46211**

LINKED CLASS

Comparative Literature 203 Calling Planet Earth: Our Planetary Environment

LEC 2: MW 11:00–11:50 +

DIS 320, 11:00–11:50 R

- Literature
- Elementary
- Honors Optional

credits: 3

class number: **62503**



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get help from **Kari Fernholz**, assistant director
608-262-7375 • kari.fernholz@wisc.edu

June 4, 2019 11:07 AM