

Reading Questions for September 20

These questions cover a book chapter by Daniel Haybron titled “Happiness, Well-Being, and the Good Life: A Primer” from a book called *The Pursuit of Unhappiness*. The answers do not have to be turned in. You will probably have to read more than once to get the answers.

*Background:*

This week we’re looking at fulfillment, well-being, and quality of life. Today we’ll look at a more theoretical discussion of these issues – Haybron is going to make a lot of distinctions and discuss a number of different views. Then, on Thursday we’ll look at how these issues can be applied to a particular debate; in particular, debates about having children.

*Question:*

1. In section 2 (pages 29-32) Haybron distinguishes some different things one could mean by “happiness”? What are the different things?
2. In section 4 (pages 33-36) Haybron discusses some theories of well-being. What are the theories? Which do you think is the best? Why?
3. In section 5 (pages 36-7) Haybron distinguishes well-being from the good life. He then has a chart on page 38 that helps summarize his idea. What is the difference between well-being and the good life supposed to be, according to Haybron? Does Haybron’s chart match up with how you think of these things? Why or why not?