

Reading Course: Happiness-Lessons from a New Science

Lecturers

Prof. Dr. Andreas Knabe
Melanie Borah

Carina Keldenich
Christine Lücke

This seminar is organised as a reading course. Individual chapters of the book 'Happiness – Lessons from a New Science' will be covered throughout the semester in regular meetings. Each student will be assigned one chapter which will form the basis of a seminar paper to be submitted at the end of the semester. We expect the students to summarise the literature on the topic and to critically evaluate the representation in the book. In addition to focussing on one chapter, all students are expected to follow the core reading throughout the semester and to be able to follow and participate in the discussion during the regular meetings. Each regular meeting will start with student presentations, followed by a general discussion.

Contents of the book

Part One: The Problem

1. What's the problem?
2. What is happiness?
3. Are we getting happier?
4. If you're so rich, why aren't you happy?
5. So what does make us happy?
6. What's going wrong?
7. Can we pursue a common good?

Part Two: What Can Be Done?

8. The Greatest Happiness: Is that the goal?
9. Does economics have a clue?
10. How can we tame the rat race?
11. Can we afford to be secure?
12. Can mind control mood?
13. Do drugs help?
14. Conclusions for today's world

Grading

Grades will be based on students' presentations, seminar paper and engagement in discussion.

How to apply

Please apply to participate in the seminar by submitting your transcript of grades as well a brief motivational letter to sabine.wolf@ovgu.de until 15 September 2018. If you want to take the course as your 'Volkswirtschaftliches Seminar', please apply via the Dean's Office of Study Affairs and follow the procedure outlined on their website.