

ROSLYN HIGH SCHOOL

DEPARTMENT: ENGLISH

NAME OF COURSE: MEANING OF LIFE

GENERAL DESCRIPTION OF COURSE

The Meaning of Life is a humanities-based, interdisciplinary, thematic approach to literature, philosophy, art and science. It examines the following questions: Why are we on earth? What does it mean to be human? How do we define reality? A variety of texts and other media are used to explore historical and contemporary perspectives. This elective course challenges students to think about their roles and responsibilities in society. Sophomores, juniors and seniors may take this course as a one-half credit elective.

MAJOR TOPICS

Eastern Philosophy: The Taoist Perspective
Western Philosophy: The Judeo-Christian Perspective
The Idea of Ideas
Identity, Memory and Consciousness
Existentialism and the Absurd

LITERATURE

The Tao of Pooh
Selections from Locke Hume, Bennett
The Book of Job
Picasso at the Lapin Agile
J.B.
No Exit
The Myth of Sisyphus
Teach Yourself Philosophy
(Remove the Lowest Animal)

FILM

Groundhog Day/Office Space
A Man Escaped
Western Art: Prehistoric to 20th Century
Krapp's Last Tape (REMOVE)
Defending Your Life
Eternal Sunshine of the Spotless Mind
A Serious Man (ADD)
Memento
The Matrix

REQUIREMENTS

Composition, critical commentaries, reports, projects and individual or group presentations are employed as they coordinate with units of study.

GRADING PROCEDURE

Grades depend on major papers, projects, class participation and homework.