

Reading Guide Flourishing and Attachment

Readings for 1 February 2011
[Lecture to be given on an alternate date]

READINGS (REQUIRED)

- [A] Jonathan Haidt, *The Happiness Hypothesis*, Chapter 6, pp. 107-134.
- [B] Robert Nozick, "Love's Bond," from *The Examined Life: Philosophical Meditations* (Simon & Schuster, 1989), pp. 68-86. (V*2)
- [C] Aristotle, *Nicomachean Ethics*, Selections from Books VIII & IX [notice the selections are changed slightly from those listed on the syllabus]
- VIII: 1 1155a1-1155a32
 - VIII: 3-6 1156a3-1158b12
 - VIII:8 1159a12-1159b24
 - IX: 3 1165b1-1165b37
 - IX: 9 1169b2-1170b19

READINGS (OPTIONAL)

- [D] Jonathan Haidt, *The Happiness Hypothesis*, Ch. 10-11, pp. 213-244

[A/D] Jonathan Haidt, *The Happiness Hypothesis*, Chapter 6, pp. 107-134 (required); Ch. 10-11, pp. 213-244 (optional).

Background

[See handout for January 22-24]

Passages to focus on/passages to skim

Our main focus will be on Chapter 6 (pp. 107-134) -- "Love and Attachments." You should read this chapter carefully and in full.

Chapters 10 and 11 (pp. 213-244) -- "Happiness Comes from Between" and "Conclusion: On Balance" -- are optional.

Reading Questions:

As you read through the selection, keep in mind the following questions:

© Yale University 2012. Most of the lectures and course material within Open Yale Courses are licensed under a Creative Commons Attribution-Noncommercial-Share Alike 3.0 license. Unless explicitly set forth in the applicable Credits section of a lecture, third-party content is not covered under the Creative Commons license. Please consult the Open Yale Courses Terms of Use for limitations and further explanations on the application of the Creative Commons license.

- (1) (Chapter 6) What is Haidt's main claim in this chapter? How does he use the work of Harlow, Bowlby, Ainsworth, Hazan & Shaver and others to support this claim?
- (2) (Chapter 6) What are the "Two Loves" and "Two Errors" that Haidt adverts to on page 123?
- (3) (Optional: Chapters 10-11) What does Haidt mean when he says "happiness comes from between?"

[B] Robert Nozick, "Love's Bond," from *The Examined Life: Philosophical Meditations* (Simon & Schuster, 1989), pp. 68-86. (V*2)

Background

Robert Nozick (1938-2002) was an American philosopher who spent most of his career teaching at Harvard University. He is best known for his early (1974) work *Anarchy, State and Utopia*, in which he defends political libertarianism. (We will be reading selections from this book later in the semester.) His other academic philosophical writings include *Philosophical Explanations* (1981), a wide-ranging work in which he addresses many of the central questions in philosophy; *The Nature of Rationality* (1993) in which he develops a theory of practical reason (from which we will be reading excerpts next week); and *Invariances* (2001) in which he offers a theory of the nature of objective reality.

In addition, he published one work – *The Examined Life* (1989) – directed towards the general public. In it, he offers a series of essay-length discussions of a wide range of topics, including Dying, Happiness, Faith, Emotions, Wisdom, Enlightenment, and many others.

Our selection, "Love's Bond," appears midway through the book. In it, Nozick explores a number of philosophical questions that arise from considering the topic of love.

[Nozick obviously has some fans among Wikipedia devotees. As the live links to each of his books at http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Robert_Nozick will reveal, the Wikipedia includes detailed (though not entirely accurate...) summaries of each of his works.] A somewhat more accurate overview of his philosophical writings can be found at <http://www.iep.utm.edu/n/nozick.htm>

Passages to focus on/passages to skim

Please read the selection in full.

Reading Questions

As you read through the selection, keep in mind the following questions:

- (1) What does Nozick mean by suggesting that the "extension of [one's] own well-being (or ill-being)" is the mark of love (69)? What does he mean by the formation of a "we" (70)?
- (2) What are some of the reasons Nozick discusses that might explain why we don't "trade up" for a better model when we are in love (76ff)?
- (3) How does Nozick think love and friendship differ?

Aristotle

Background

[For background information about Aristotle and the *Nicomachean Ethics*, and general suggestions about reading the text, see the Reading Guide for 1.25.11]

The excerpts we are reading for today are drawn from books VIII and IX, which are devoted to a detailed discussion of the nature and value of friendship (in Greek: *philia*). This discussion is surrounded by a discussion of pleasure that concludes Book VII and begins book X.

Passages to focus on/passages to skim

- Begin by reading the first part of the opening chapter of Book VIII (1155a1-1155a32)
- [You may then skim or skip the rest of VIII:1 and VIII:3]
- Start reading again at Book VIII chapter 3 and continue to the end of chapter 6 (1156a3-1158b12)
- [You may skip or skim VIII:7]
- Read Book VIII chapter 8 (1159a12-1159b24)
- [You may skip or skim VIII:9-14 and IX: 1-2]
- Read Book IX chapter 3 (1165b1-1165b37)
- [You may skip IX: 4-8]
- Read Book IX chapter 9 (1169b2-1170b19)
- [You may skip the rest of Book IX]
- **For each of these passages, the Irwin second edition has extensive notes, beginning on p. 273, that should be *extremely* helpful in enabling you to understand the material**

DO NOT WORRY if this material seems confusing or difficult; just do the best you can.

Reading Questions:

As you read through the selection, keep in mind the following questions:

- (1) How is Aristotle's notion of friendship similar to and different from the contemporary Western conception of friendship?
- (2) What are the three kinds of friendship that Aristotle distinguishes, and what are their characteristics?
- (3) On Aristotle's account, what is the relation of virtue to friendship?
- (4) On Aristotle's account, what is the relation of friendship to happiness?

[Posted 1/28/11]