



# Work & the Good Life Method

Is your career a game?



Many treat work as a game that involves (among other things) social manipulation.



*Must we think about work like this?*



*If so, is “work” a game we should play?*



PHIL 20225: The Working Life



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- Merit-based
- Productivity = reward
- Mentorship model

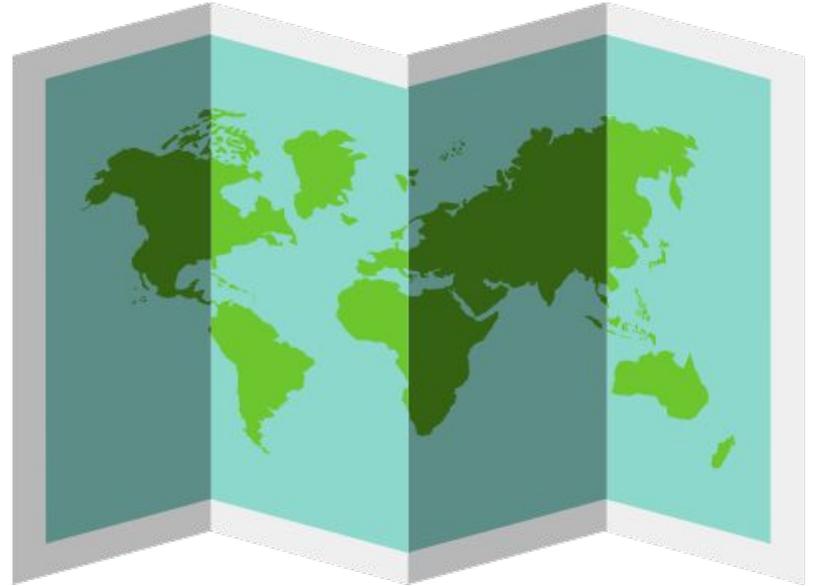


- Results-focused
- Team-based outputs
- Managerial model



# Epistemological Crisis =df

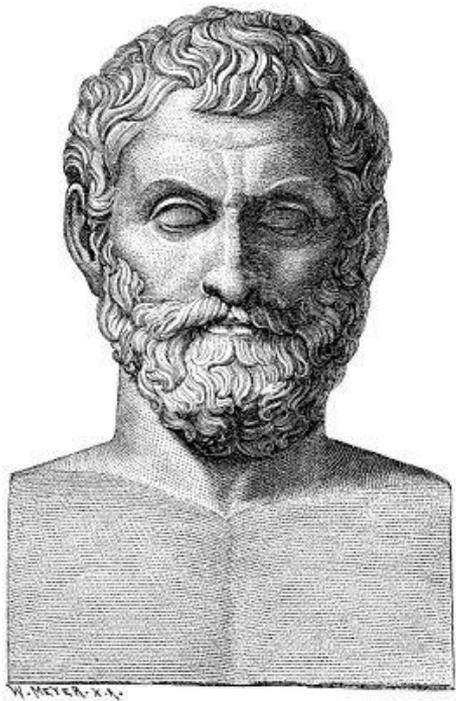
A (sudden) realization that some of your core beliefs about how to interpret the world are false that often leads to a sense of paralysis and unintelligibility.





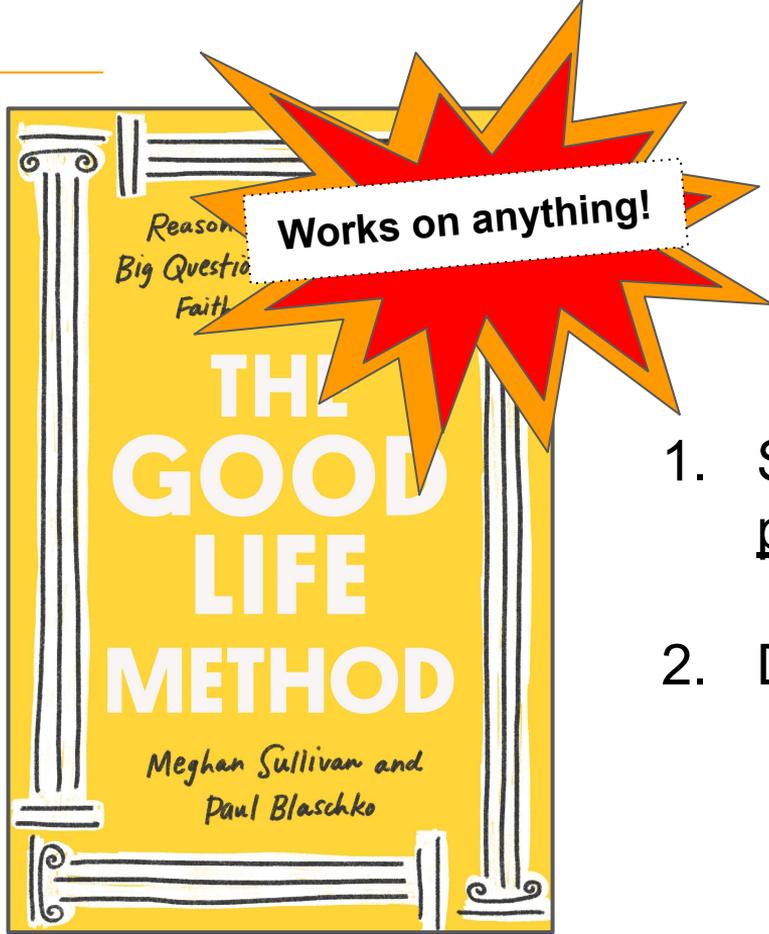
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philosophy

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## The Good Life Method

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1. Start by asking: “What’s the purpose of X in a life well-lived?”
2. Define: “What makes X good?”



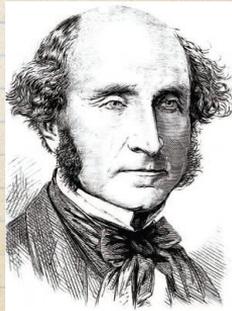
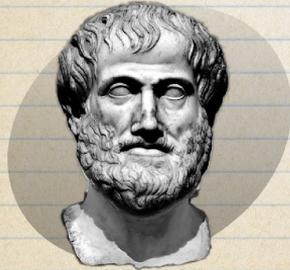
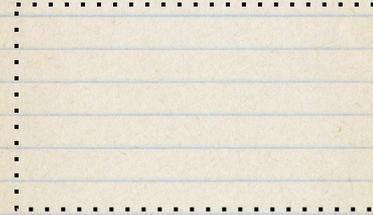
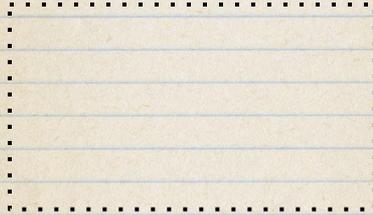
“What’s the purpose of work in a life well-lived?”

- *Self-expression*
- *Expand interests*
- *Shape your identity*



“What makes work good?”

- *Creative freedom*
- *Varied tasks, learning*
- *Personal growth*





“Final Goods”  
Valued *for their own sake*.



“Instrumental Goods”  
Valued for what they get you.



1. Things we only want because we want something else.



2. Things we want because they are themselves good, and because we want something else.



*Most final, ultimate.*

3. Things we only want because they are themselves good.

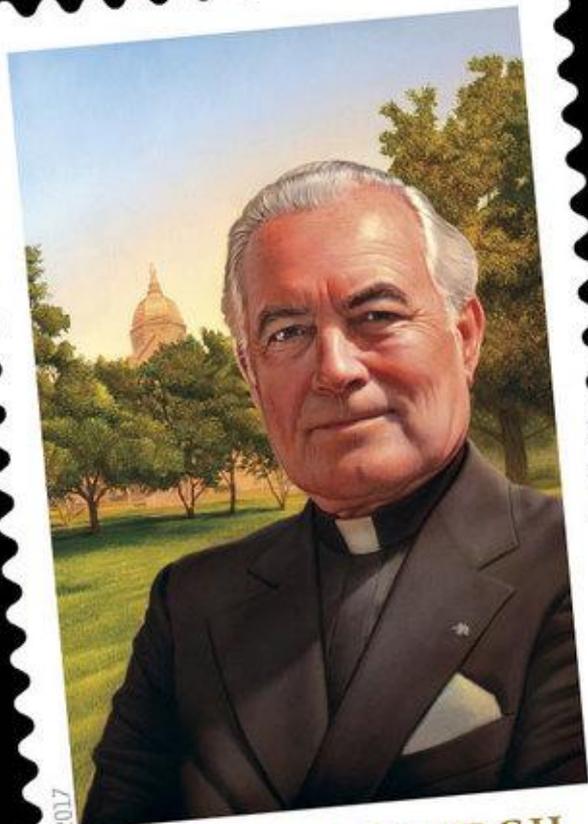


*Happiness is the only such good.*

# What is happiness?

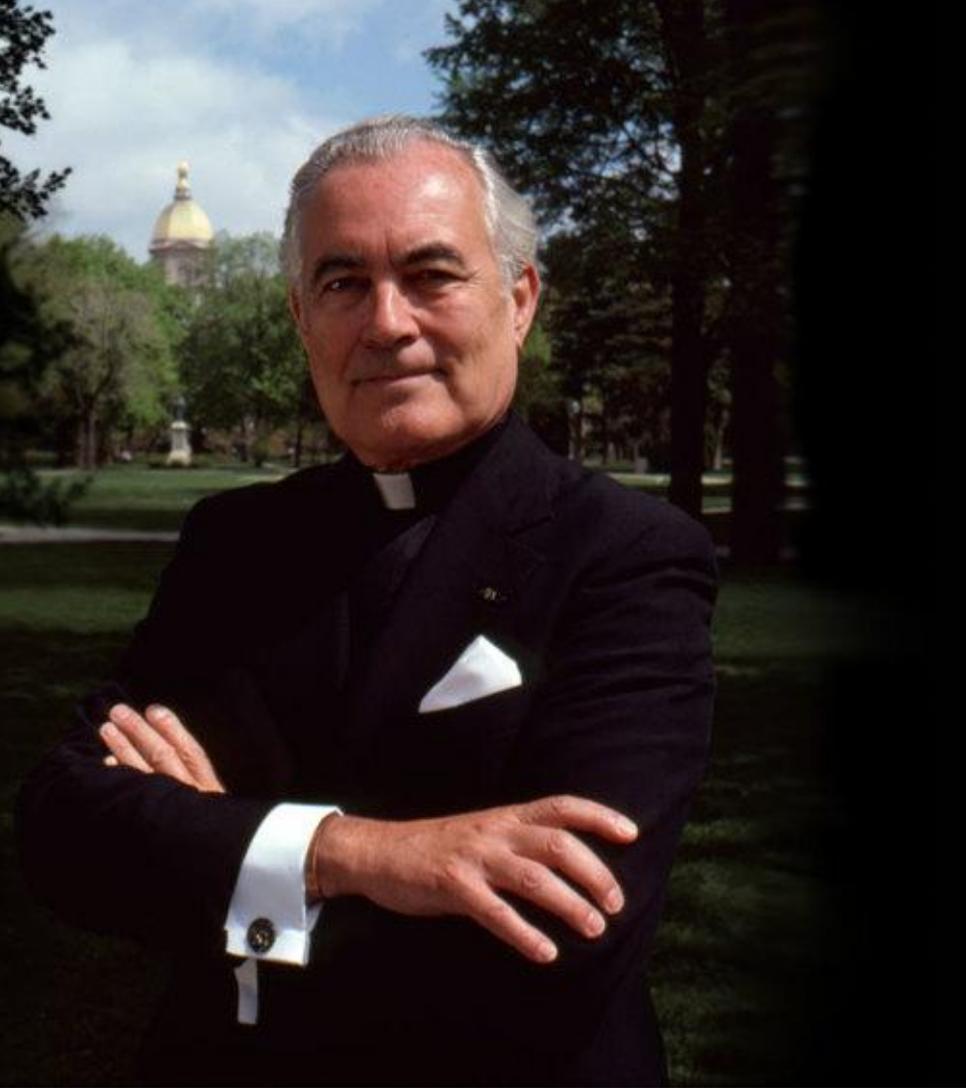
Happiness = Living contemplatively in accord with  
(eudaimonia) all of the virtues (wisdom, generosity,  
prudence, etc)



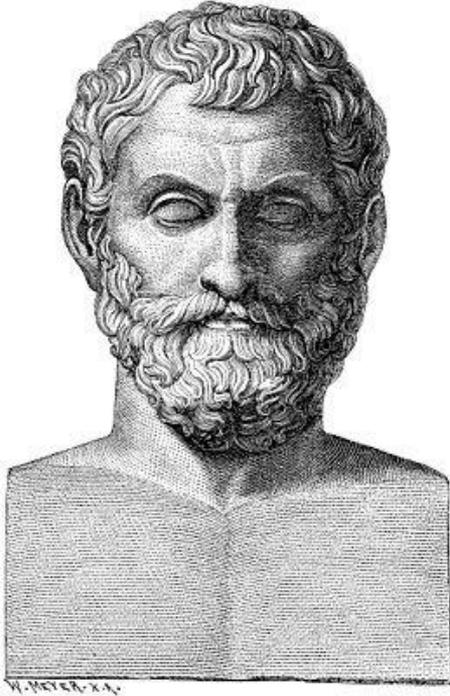


2017

**FR. TED HESBURGH**  
~~FOREVER~~ USA



# TGLM: Aristotle



1. “What’s the purpose of WORK?”

To help us become virtuous, happy.

2. “What makes WORK good?”

Educational, transformative, contemplative.

(Probably don’t play gamified work.)

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# Consequentialism:



*Whether something is right or wrong, moral immoral, depends solely on its consequences.*



# *Hedonic* Consequentialism:

- We should aim to maximize pleasure in everything (minimize pain)
- Regardless of whose pleasure (or pain) it is.



# Should you make the trade-off?



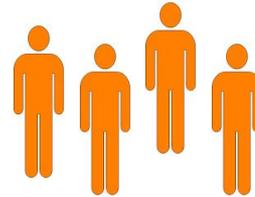
You get...



A stranger gets  
tortured for 24 hours.



You get  
tortured for  
24 hours.



4 strangers are  
freed from slavery.



You get...



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The Washington Post

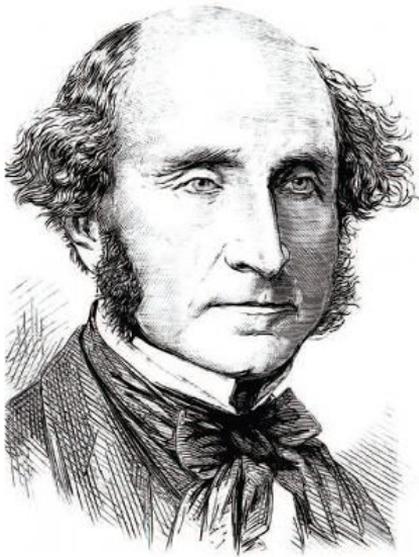
Wonkblog

Join Wall Street. Save  
the world.



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## TGLM: Mill



1. “What’s the purpose of WORK?”

Help us max. pleasure, min. pain.

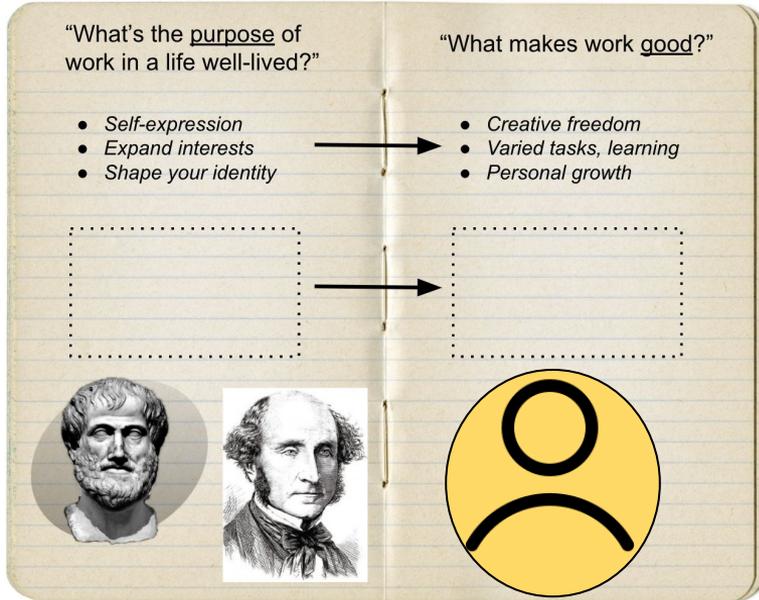
2. “What makes WORK good?”

Efficient, high-impact, lucrative

(Gamified work is probably okay.)

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# The Good Life Method



- What’s your “Philosophy of Work”?
- More like Aristotle? Mill?
- Is it okay to treat work like a game?





# OUR REAL WORK

It may be that when we no longer know what to  
do  
we have come to our real work,  
and that when we no longer know which way to  
go  
we have come to our real journey.  
The mind that is not baffled is not employed.  
The impeded stream is the one that sings

WENDELL BERRY

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