

Final Exam

Review Sessions for Final Exam:

Keith and William: Wednesday, May 7, 5-7pm in Surge 108.

Shannon and Derek: Friday, May 9, 2-4pm in Litton-Reaves 1860.

You can go to either or both—it doesn't matter who your TA is.

Final Exam: Saturday, May 10, 3:25-5:25pm, in McBryde 100.

Details

- ▣ Please be sure to do SPOT evaluation for this course. Will close on Thursday.
- ▣ Fall semester I will be teaching PHIL 2115 (Greek Philosophy) and PHIL 3024: Philosophical Movements: Philosophy & Literature.
- ▣ Spring semester I will be teaching this course again, and a senior level seminar on Ludwig Wittgenstein.
- ▣ Consider majoring in Philosophy!



THE MEANING OF LIFE

TELEOLOGISM

Greek: Telos
= “purpose”

Teleologism



Teleologism



Teleologism



NIHILISM

Latin: Nihil
= “nothing”

EXISTENTIALISM

Hamlet:

“...thinking makes it so.”

Quasi-Objectivism

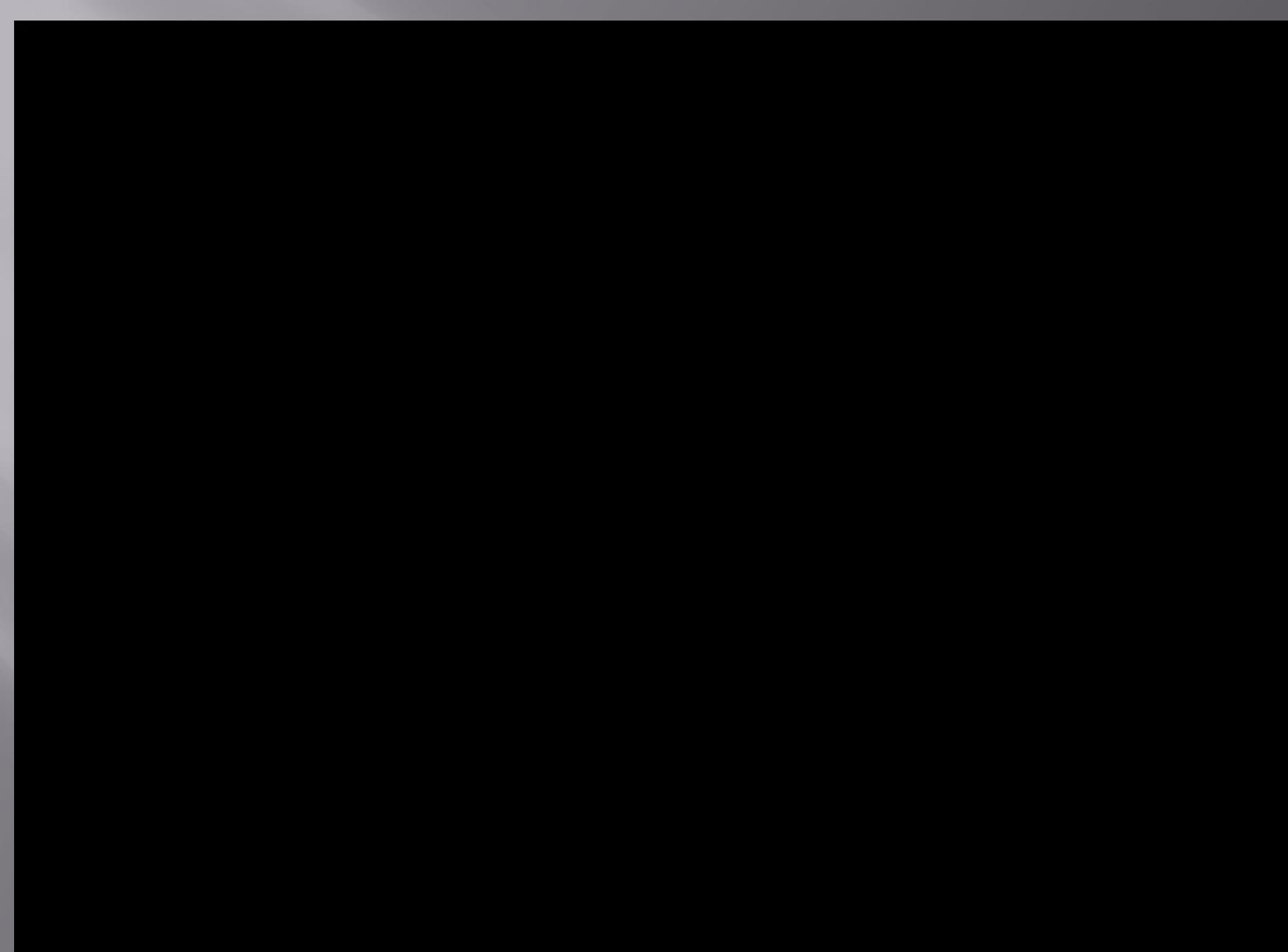
- 1) Pluralistic (meaningss)
- 2) Non-Voluntaristic
- 3) Non-Platonic

Quasi-Objectivism

Meaningfulness of Language

Quasi-Objectivism

Humpty-Dumpty's
Existentialist view of the
meaning of language:



Quasi-Objectivism about Language Meaning:

Many meanings

Meaning is not up to me.

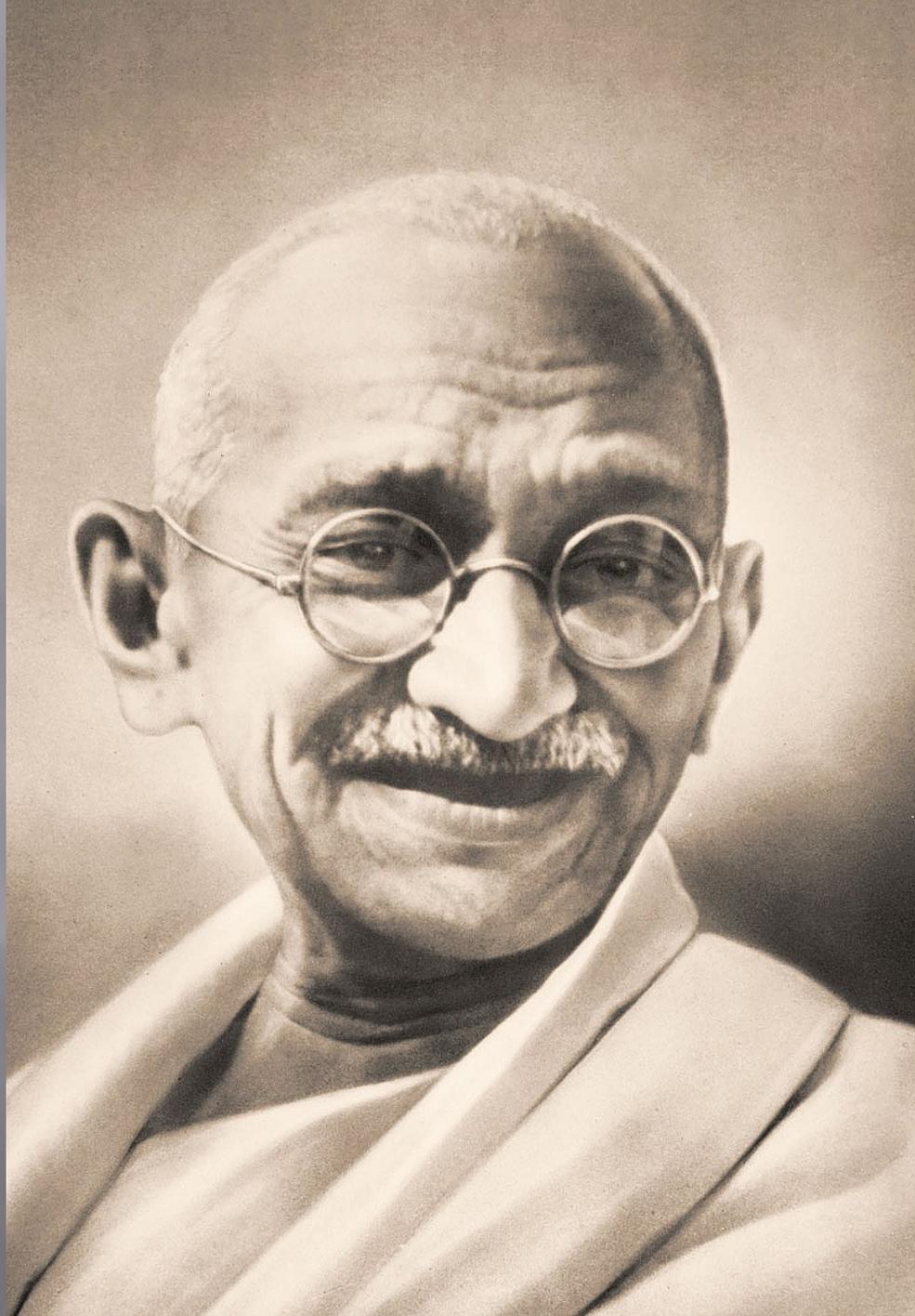
Meaning is not independent
of us.

Quasi-Objectivism

We can say what the meaning
of a word is:

“Lacuna”?

Can we say what the meaning
of a life is?



Quasi-Objectivism

A life can “have meaning,” or be “meaningful,” without there being something that it means.

So, we can't answer the question: “What is the meaning of life?”

Rather: “What kinds of lives are meaningful?”

Normative Conditions for a Meaningful life

- 1) Enough activities engaged in for their own sake.



Normative Conditions for a Meaningful life

- 1) Enough activities engaged in for their own sake.
- 2) Enough contribution to something outside itself.

“A LIFE IS NOT IMPORTANT
EXCEPT IN THE IMPACT IT
HAS ON OTHER LIVES.”



-Jackie Robinson's tombstone

Normative Conditions for a Meaningful Life

- 1) Enough activities engaged in for their own sake.
- 2) Enough contribution to something outside itself.
- 3) Enough intentional structure.

Normative Conditions for a Meaningful Life

Condition 1 makes a life satisfying to me.

Condition 2 makes a life valuable to others.

Condition 3 makes it be MY life.



Wow!

a family
to care for...

gee! I've got it all!









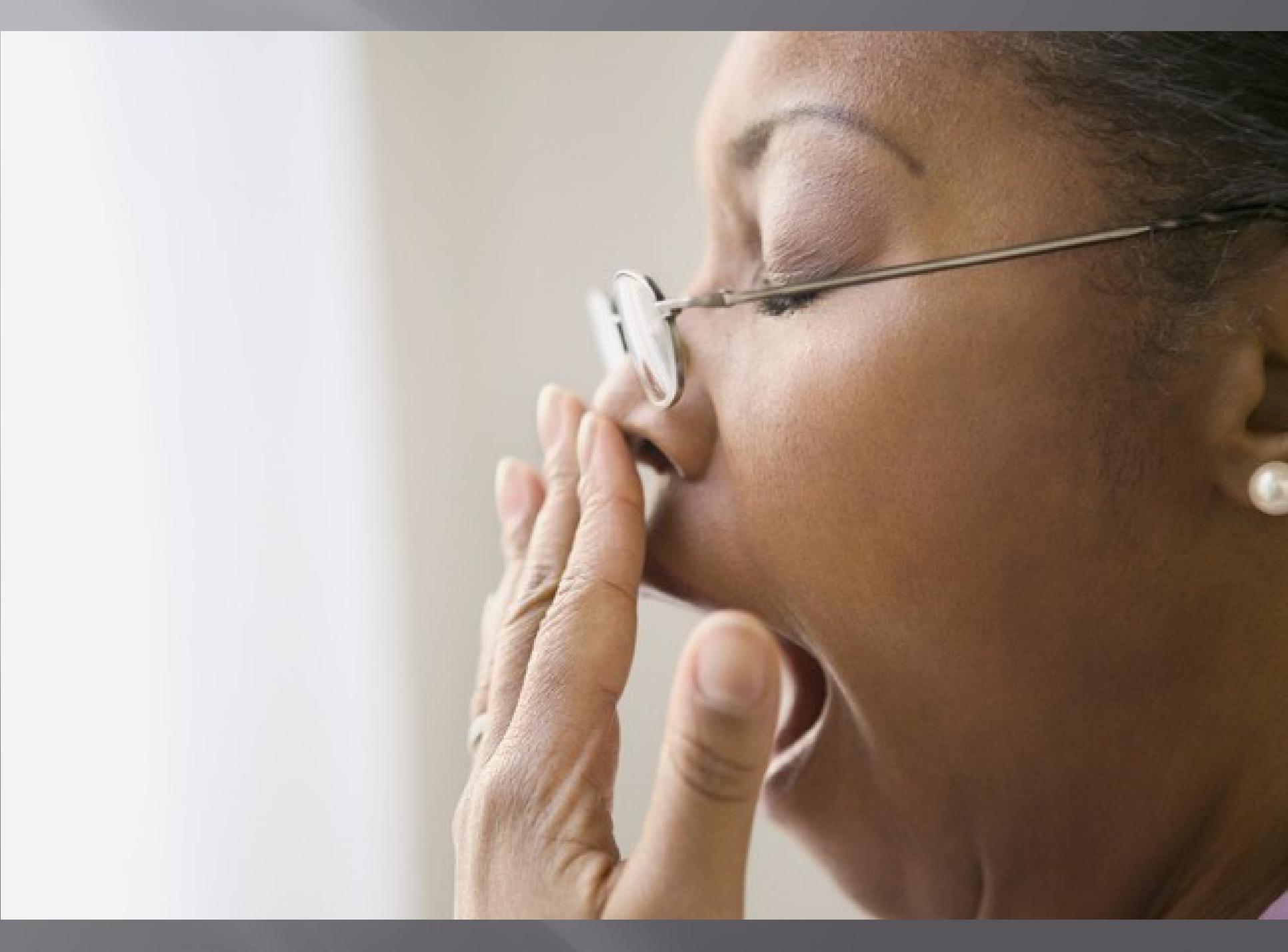


Methusaleh
969 years

What does it mean that you will likely live 30 years beyond your retirement from work?

Not just from an economic standpoint (how will you afford it?) but from a meaning standpoint (what will you do to maintain a meaningful life well beyond the end of your profession)?

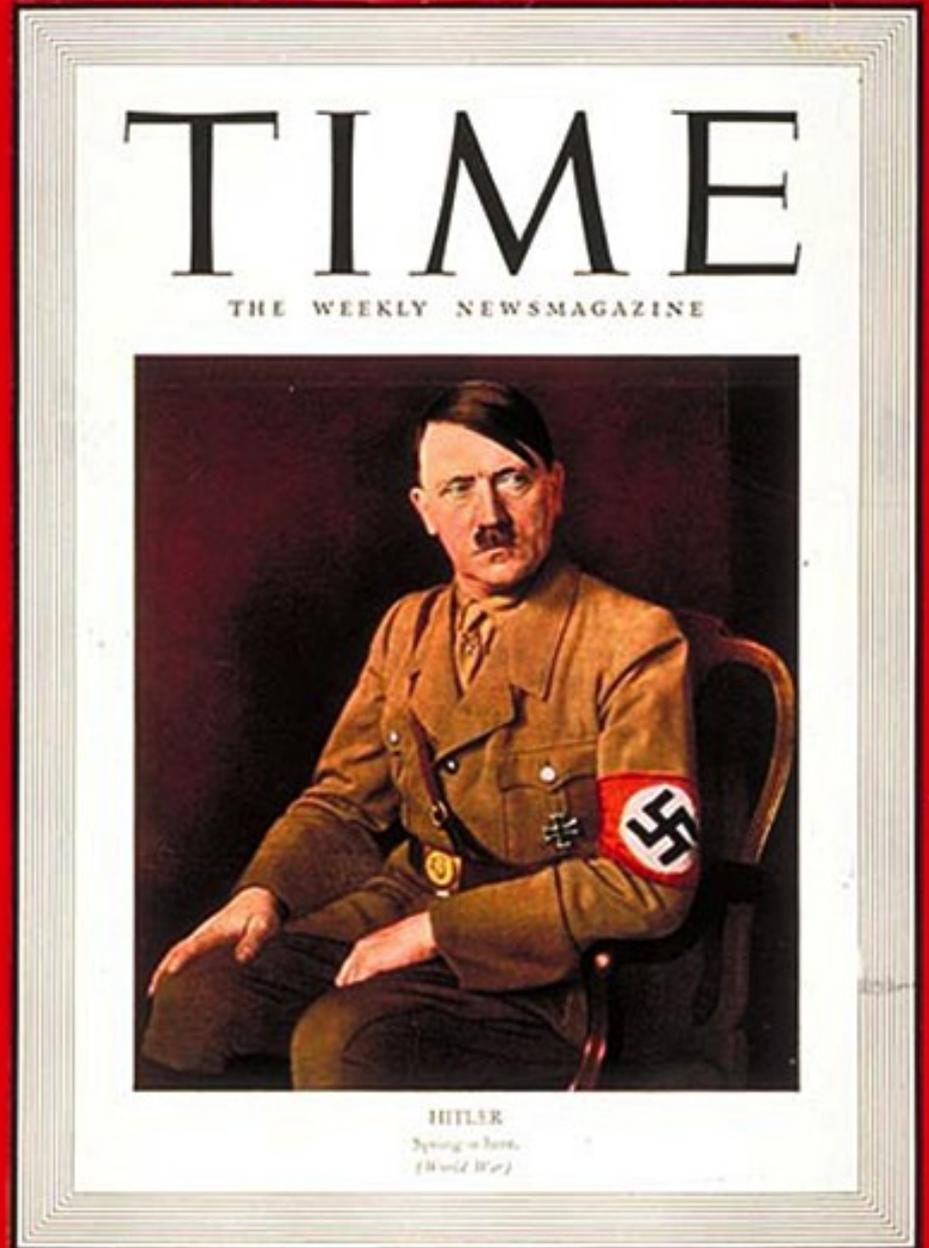
Retirement sounds good for awhile, but then....?



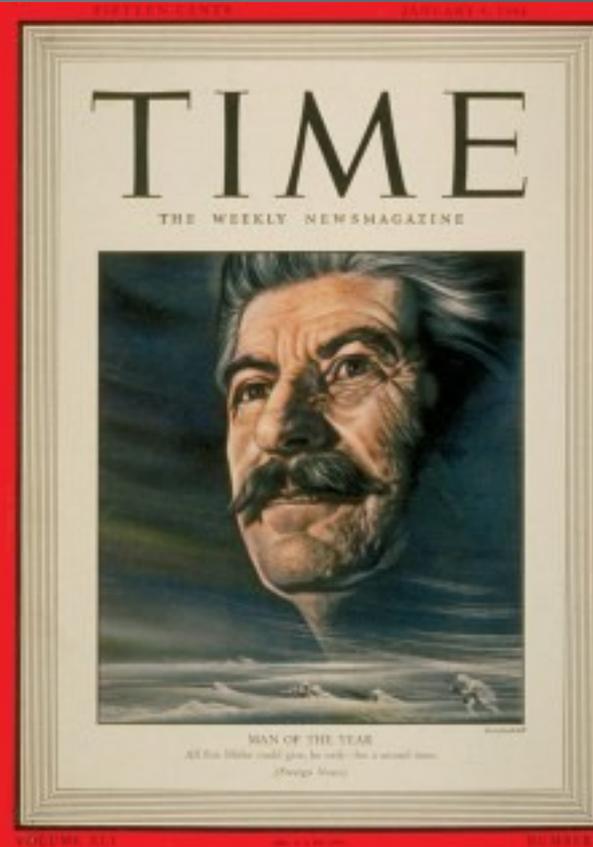
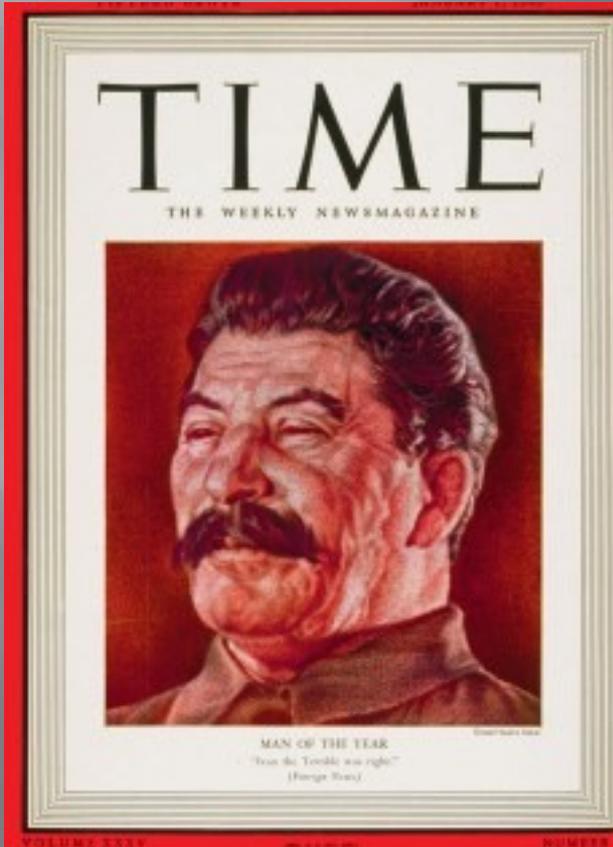
Can an evil person lead a meaningful life?



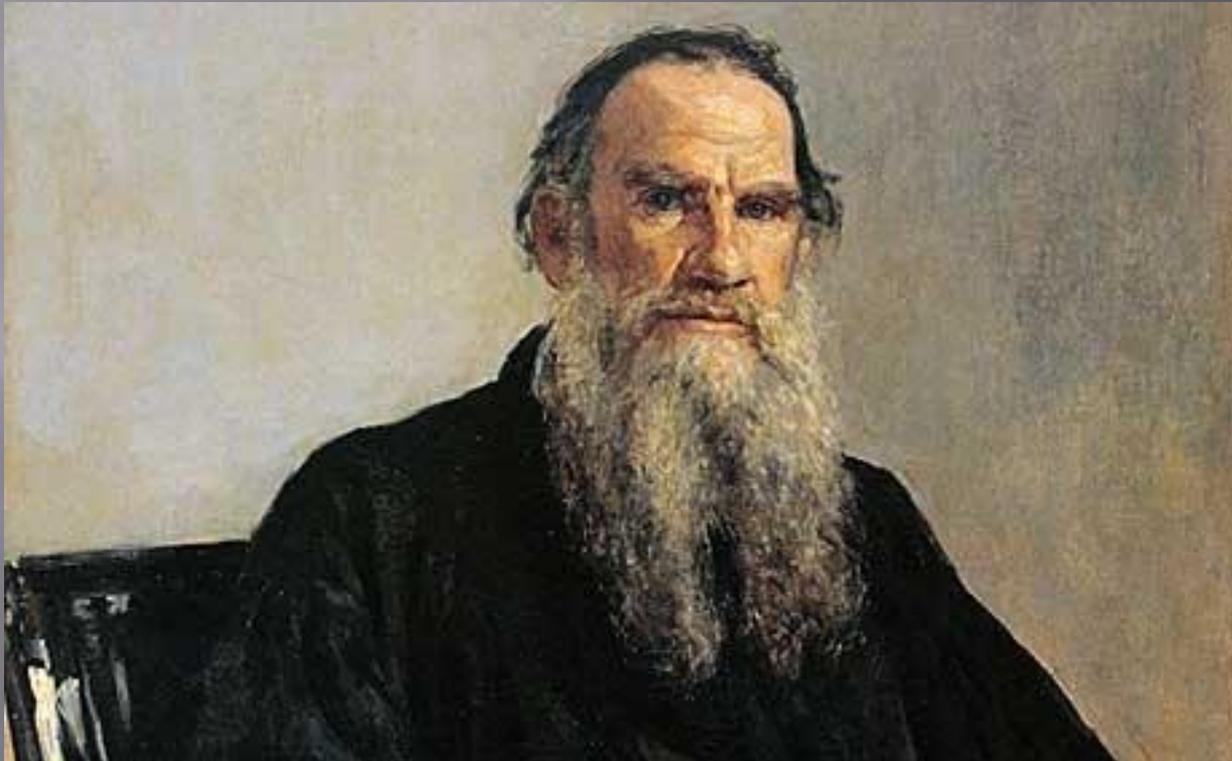
2) Life must make enough contribution to something outside of itself.



A meaningful life is not necessarily a good life.



Can you think your life is
meaningless, but it is
actually meaningful?



Does a meaningful life require:

Dualism?

God?

Immortality?

“What is the meaning of life?”

**“What kinds of lives are
meaningful?”**