If the question of finding a good, happy, and meaningful life could be answered exhaustively in terms of social justice and moral life, then would there be a distinct role left for religions to play? Or, if religious life in its great variety has no bearing on striving for a community of human flourishing, then would we be better, happier, and freer without “religious” questions? Yet what if the very human condition is defined by religious questioning? Wouldn’t a life dedicated to idols of the ultimate – and great religions agree with critical thinkers that religious and secular idols are equally blinding – be a misspent life? The aim of this course is to dedicate some time to thinking about these questions from the perspectives ranging from the profane to the ethical to spiritual life.

**Required texts** (listed in the order of presentation):

**Part A**


**Part B**


**Part C**


Kierkegaard selections from *Works of Love* (blackboard).


Film: Richard Linklater’s *Waking Life*. Twentieth Century Fox, 2002.

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**BARRETT-HONORS students will study in addition:** Søren Kierkegaard. *Repetition.* Published in Kierkegaard. *Fear and Trembling/Repetition.* Princeton UP, 1983. 978-0691020266

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**Registered students should consult the blackboard site for the Fall 09 Syllabus in early August.**