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*In what follows, reflect on your learning and personal growth at this point in our course. Consider this week’s readings, multimedia sources, presentations, discussions, activities, etc. To your best ability attempt to integrate these experiences into our own developing understanding of the ‘Good Life’.*

This week has marked the beginning of my interdisciplinary dive into the concept of the Good Life. Specifically, I feel like this week served as a good example of the structure of the class/dive to come: independent work designed to probe and expand our understanding of the topics at hand, then a hybrid lecture/discussion to share our perspectives. Coming out of our first taste of “curriculum”, I’ve realized that while either of these components doesn’t fully engage me in isolation, they work well in tandem (discussing the back translation results in class, for example) and have caused me to think more critically about my own pursuit of happiness.

The concepts of tolerance and indifference discussed in the Netherlands reading fascinated me most; while I struggle with Weiner’s insistence on reducing an entire country + culture to a languid vibe captured by less than a month of tourism, it has caused me to reflect on where my personal levels of tolerance and indifference lie, as well as the levels of various other social contexts. I’m intrigued to see whether Weiner attempts to take on the flip side of the coin and examine happiness in situations of extreme restriction.

Finally, the presentation on linguistics in Friday’s class was both refreshing and insightful. I’ll admit that I have next to no knowledge of the subject area outside of my foreign language studies, but this lens of study greatly interested me even if it felt entirely compact at times. While I’m aware that our professors may not have expertise in all fields related to the “happiness” concept, I would love to see continued variation in the subject areas of discussion in class, especially as an undecided major looking to sample whatever’s out there. Or more linguistics. Either works for me.

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