**How Should We Live?**

Dr. Ryan J. Johnson

*Interviews*

In the hope of keeping out ideas and discussions fresh, we will inject, nearly everyday, a new idea perspective on how we should not live. Starting on the second week, one student will present his or her experience of interviewing a member of the greater Elon or Burlington community about our main questions. First, the student will ask: *How should we not* *live?* Typically, this question is very easily answered. People are very eager to tell other people how they should *not* conduct their lives. But then you should follow up with a more challenging question: ***Why*** *is this a way in which one should not live*? I t is easy to identify something as wrong, but it is much more difficult to try to give an account as to *why* this is the wrong way to live. This is where your task will be trickier. You might even experience a bit of discomfort. But I encourage you to boldly and respectfully pursue this challenging question.

As to whom you may interview, you can engage almost anyone, e.g., an administrative assistant, a nurse, groundskeeper, a custodian, a clerk at a gas station, the university chaplain, the owner of the Acorn Inn, the mayor of Burlington, President Leo Lambert, etc. The only requirement is that you must interview someone you do not personally know. If you need help connecting to someone, just let me know and I will direct you. But I do encourage you to be creative and to try to truly listen to a member of your community to whom you do not normally listen. One student will present her or his findings in the first five minutes of every class, and should also submit to me a one-page reflective summary of your interview and how it addressed the guiding questions of our course. (100 points or 10% of the grade)