

Planning for Upcoming Voice Chats on DeWitt's Epicurus and His Philosophy

Post by “Cassius” of April 7, 2018 at 11:58 AM

Shall we start planning for another Discordapp discussion of the next chapter of DeWitt's book? I think the last time we talked we discussed skipping over several of the "life of" chapters and going straight to the meatier chapters, probably the next one of which is Chapter 6 - Sensations, Anticipations and Reason. How about either the 14th or the 21st? Leave comments and we'll pick one.

Post by “brett” of April 7, 2018 at 4:22 PM

I'm ok for either one at this point. I'll get reading chapter 6.

Brett

Post by “Cassius” of April 14, 2018 at 11:03 AM

Looks like at this point we better plan for April 21st. I'll put up a notice at the top of the EF page, and also post to Facebook in a couple of days. The "announcement" at the top of the page has now been added, and I will add a Facebook notice next week. In the meantime let me say this: We can make a pragmatic judgment call on how many people we need to indicate that they will attend before we schedule, and if we need to do so we'll postpone til we have more. But if we do, it will be just that - a postponement - because while we may be delayed, we will persevere until we have the numbers to go forward!

Post by “brett” of April 15, 2018 at 11:08 AM

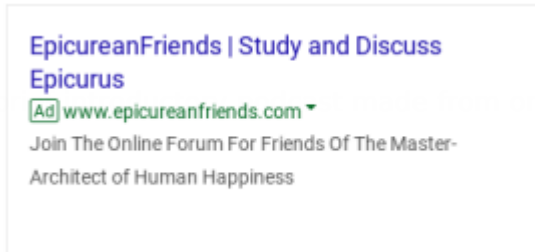
Agreed. I'd say 3-5 being the sweet spot but I'd like to hear what others think

Post by "Cassius" of April 15, 2018 at 11:41 AM

Yes. Elli is out for now, and I feel like Ilkka is really stressed to make it, and Martin is traveling, so we should probably now focus on a time that works for the Western Hemisphere. Of course that would then primarily mean you, me, Eric, Julie, and Jason (if he is available). However it might not be a bad thing for us to work together more closely, and perhaps record one of these sessions to make into a podcast.

Post by "Cassius" of April 15, 2018 at 11:50 AM

Given what appears to be the declining importance of Facebook, I have put back up the Google advertisement words



that I experimented with earlier. I think even a portion of our sessions would be helpful for getting the word out on a place for positive discussions of Epicurus. (I say "positive discussions" because I can frankly do without those who want to assert that "absence of pain" divorced from pleasure is the full meaning of life). More material in which we highlight the

other aspects of Epicurean philosophy (aspects which combine to make that interpretation absurd) are probably the best way forward.

I especially think that single page graphical memes which can be circulated on Twitter and similar places are probably a good place to start.

Isn't it probably safe to say that the main goal of this forum is to bring us into contact with more people who have the same general approach to life that we have? If so, lots of discussion should always center around how we go about expressing the core principles in easy-to-grasp form.

Post by “Cassius” of April 18, 2018 at 8:42 AM

Let's go ahead and pull the trigger and set this for 6 pm EST on Saturday. I'll sign on and be there no matter what. If we have enough people to proceed we'll do so, and if not we'll just chat about plans for moving forward. I am thinking 6 pm EST is consistent with Brett's 3-5 pm (given time zone issues) but if that doesn't work let's adjust the time to fit the most people. We probably won't have a large number this time, so we can work to accommodate those who can attend.

Post by “Cassius” of April 18, 2018 at 9:30 AM

Facebook invitation posted here: <https://www.facebook.com/events/1703931639652972/>

Post by “brett” of April 18, 2018 at 10:10 PM

Sounds good. I plan to join at 5 central/6 eastern

Post by “Cassius” of April 19, 2018 at 1:48 PM

Martin and Alexander have posted on the Facebook page that they would prefer a 5pm Eastern Start time. Is that OK with you, Brett, and/or anyone else?

Post by “Cassius” of April 19, 2018 at 11:10 PM

I have set up a separate forum for the Book Discussion project, and set up a separate thread for each of the first six chapters. I also prepared an outline for Chapter 6 - here: [Discussion Plan For](#)

<https://www.epicureanfriends.com/thread/374-planning-for-upcoming-voice-chats-on-dewitt-s-epicurus-and-his-philosophy/>

[Chapter 06](#)

I will go back and look for the outlines that other people prepared for the earlier chapters. If anyone has ready access to those and wants to post them in the respective thread, feel free! thanks!

Post by “Cassius” of April 20, 2018 at 9:45 PM

OK to accommodate requests let's move the start time to 5:00 PM eastern!

Post by “Harrington Andros” of April 21, 2018 at 5:01 PM

Is there a hyperlink for this.
How do I join?

Post by “Cassius” of April 21, 2018 at 6:25 PM

Today we had five in attendance and another good discussion. Let's start planning the next meeting. As Alex suggested we need not wait a month - how about Saturday May 5 at 5:00 PM EDT? Please post whether that will work for you and we'll announce an official plan once we have several indicate that that works for them.

(Sorry Alex I did not see your question about the link til now. I'll keep a link posted in the announcement box at the top of the forum.)

Post by “Cassius” of April 21, 2018 at 11:08 PM

<https://www.epicureanfriends.com/thread/374-planning-for-upcoming-voice-chats-on-dewitt-s-epicurus-and-his-philosophy/>

Based on Alex's and JAWS's comments it looks like it makes the most sense to plan for either May 5 or May 12, with the probability that May 5 is probably the better of the two. Please comment on your preference, and in the meantime I will update the main announcement.

Post by "Cassius" of April 29, 2018 at 12:02 PM

[Posted At Facebook](#) and on the calendar here:



Post by "Cassius" of May 5, 2018 at 8:38 PM

We had an excellent discussion tonight so let's start planning for the next one. How does 5PM on Saturday May 19 look. I seem to recall that JAWS may be out of town, but otherwise let's consider that date - let me know what you think.

Post by "Cassius" of June 11, 2018 at 6:24 AM

I'm now looking at this Saturday the 168th to schedule out next session. Let me know if any feedback - I will probably post announcement later today. Thanks!

Post by "Cassius" of June 12, 2018 at 9:19 AM

Just posted this on Facebook for Saturday, June 16 -
<https://www.facebook.com/events/432505917216776/>

Post by "Cassius" of July 6, 2018 at 8:50 PM

Rescheduling the next chat: It looks like I did not ever post a notice at Facebook, or in this thread, and since it looks like one of the regulars (Martin) is out of town, I will change the notice on the front page to postpone the next chat until later in July. I suspect that here in the USA there is a lot of dislocation due to the July 4 holiday week as well.

Post by "Cassius" of July 31, 2018 at 8:17 AM

Time to schedule the next event - tentatively Saturday August 4 at 6 pm. If this is a particularly bad time for someone let me know!

Post by "Cassius" of July 31, 2018 at 8:41 AM



Cassius Amicus Here is a paragraph from Chapter 10 about how Epicurus' view of desires differed from both Plato and Aristotle, including: "Freedom, however, is not a right but an achievement; it consists of maintaining and retaining control of experience under all circumstances." We've recently had comment in the group about "involvement in politics" and we regularly see comments asking about the possibility of "Epicurean communities" in the modern world. There aren't many opportunities today for people interested in Epicurus to work together to discuss implementation of Epicurean lifestyles, so I hope you'll consider taking advantage of a few minutes to communicate with other fans of Epicurus and join us for this and future online get-togethers.

He avoids the terminology of both Plato and Aristotle. He has nothing to say about harmony between the parts of the soul nor anything about the mean in virtues. The new criterion which he sets up for the compound idea has already been mentioned in other connections. Happiness is the natural consummation of life; to be happy man must possess freedom. Freedom, however, is not a right but an achievement; it consists in maintaining and retaining control of experience under all circumstances.

<https://www.epicureanfriends.com/thread/374-planning-for-upcoming-voice-chats-on-dewitt-s-epicurus-and-his-philosophy/>

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Post by "Cassius" of August 5, 2018 at 11:15 AM

I have posted a notice for the next DeWitt Chapter chat to be Saturday August 18th at 6PM Eastern. This will be Chapter 11 - "Soul, Sensation, and Mind." If anyone has conflicts and would prefer that we reschedule for another date or time, please post here.

Post by "Cassius" of August 5, 2018 at 11:17 AM

I have posted a notice for the next DeWitt Chapter chat to be Saturday August 18th at 6PM Eastern. This will be Chapter 11 - "Soul, Sensation, and Mind." If anyone has conflicts and would prefer that we reschedule for another date or time, please post here.

Post by "Cassius" of August 5, 2018 at 11:20 AM

I have posted a notice for the next DeWitt Chapter chat to be Saturday August 18th at 6PM Eastern. This will be Chapter 11 - "Soul, Sensation, and Mind." If anyone has conflicts and would prefer that we reschedule for another date or time, please post here.

Post by "Cassius" of August 18, 2018 at 7:31 AM

Due to several conflicts we have rescheduled the August 18th discussion to Saturday September 1. Notices posted here and at Facebook.

Post by “Jnamiotka” of August 21, 2018 at 8:51 PM

Which chapter(s) of the book will be discussed?

Post by “Cassius” of August 21, 2018 at 9:44 PM

Hi Jnamiotka! We will proceed with the one we skipped - Chapter 11 - "Soul, Sensation, and Mind." Hope you can join us.

Post by “Cassius” of August 29, 2018 at 8:14 AM

I just noticed that I had the title of Chapter 11 wrong in the "Announcement" box at the top of this page. I have now corrected it -- Chapter 11 is "Soul, Sensation, and Mind"

Post by “Cassius” of August 29, 2018 at 8:15 AM

I just noticed that I had the title of Chapter 11 wrong in the "Announcement" box at the top of this page. I have now corrected it -- Chapter 11 is "Soul, Sensation, and Mind"

Post by “Cassius” of January 19, 2019 at 11:58 AM

As of today we have opened the discussion, but not really gotten started, into Chapter 12. We discussed at some length the reasons why the issue of a "neutral state" is controversial, but there is much more to discuss on this chapter. We'll come up with a date and time for the next session and schedule it soon. Thanks!

Post by “Cassius” of June 11, 2019 at 3:00 PM

I see we haven't updated this thread or moved on to complete Chapter 12 for a couple of months now. When someone is ready for another one of these sessions please post and we will get started again!