Contents

1	Introduction	1
	Reference	6
2	Approaching Pragmatic Humanism	7
	2.1 A Philosophy for Real Human Beings	7
	2.2 The Radical Humanizing of Reality and Truth	10
	2.3 Human Responsibility: The Meliorist Outlook	14
	References	16
3	Human Inquiry and the Authority of Science	19
-	3.1 A Universal Path to Certainty?	19
	3.2 From Naturalism to Scientism	20
	3.3 Science as Human Activity	23
	3.4 Pluralizing Science	31
	References	35
4	Emancipatory Outlooks on Religion and Faith	37
	4.1 Keeping the Door Open	37
	4.2 First-Hand Versus Second-Hand Religion	39
	4.3 Naturalizing Religion (But the Pragmatic Way)	40
	4.4 Religious Truth Claims	44
	4.5 Religious Institutions and Theologies	46
	4.6 Humanizing the Traditions	49
	4.7 Is Pragmatic Humanism a Religion?	52
	References	57

vii

Experimental Action and Inclusion: The Ethics of	
Pragmatic Humanism	59
5.1 Failing Better: A Negative Account of Ethics	59
5.2 Moral Pluralism Without Relativism	61
5.3 Challenging the Moral Order: Consensus Versus Conflict	66
5.4 Getting Rid of Evil?	69
5.5 The Therapeutical Turn of Moral Philosophy	74
References	77
Thinking About Last Things: Death, Finitude, and	
Meaning	79
6.1 Is Death a Problem at All?	79
6.2 The Quest for Immortality	81
6.3 Making Sense in the Face of Finitude	88
6.4 Bitter, but Sweet Enough	93
References	95
Conclusion: Living on Uncertainties—Pragmatic	
	97
References	101
dex	103
	 Pragmatic Humanism 5.1 Failing Better: A Negative Account of Ethics 5.2 Moral Pluralism Without Relativism 5.3 Challenging the Moral Order: Consensus Versus Conflict 5.4 Getting Rid of Evil? 5.5 The Therapeutical Turn of Moral Philosophy References Thinking About Last Things: Death, Finitude, and Meaning 6.1 Is Death a Problem at All? 6.2 The Quest for Immortality 6.3 Making Sense in the Face of Finitude 6.4 Bitter, but Sweet Enough References Conclusion: Living on Uncertainties—Pragmatic Humanism as a Way of Life References