



Becoming Virtuous: A One Week Masterclass in the Philosophy of Character

Instructed by Professor Christian B. Miller

Becoming a virtuous person is one of the central goals of the ethical life. But how good of a job are most people doing in becoming virtuous? And are there any strategies for cultivating the virtues and becoming morally exceptional which can help us to do better? This class will examine these two questions in detail. In the first half, we will consider whether character traits even exist in light of various results in psychology. If they do exist, how good do they tend to be? Here we will look at the situationist literature in philosophy, drawing on the work of Gilbert Harman and John Doris. We will also consider the cognitive-affective personality system approach in thinking about character traits, as well as Christian Miller's own mixed trait approach.

The second half of the class will turn to various strategies for trying to bridge what Christian Miller calls the 'character gap' between the character we actually have, and the virtuous character we should strive to obtain. Developing and justifying such strategies is one of the most underexplored areas of ethics, although in recent years it has gained increased attention. Here we will look at recent work by Nancy Snow, Mark Alfano, Jonathan Webber, and others.

By the conclusion of the masterclass, participants will have a thorough grounding in recent philosophical and psychological research on what virtue is, how virtuous most people actually are, and the best strategies to adopt for cultivating virtue.

Christian B. Miller is the A. C. Reid Professor of Philosophy at **Wake Forest University** and the author of *The Character Gap: How Good Are We?* (Oxford University Press, 2018)

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Dates:

3-7 June 2019

Time:

9:30am-12:30pm

Venue:

Moorgate Room,
(10 Grafton St,
Chippendale) The
University of Notre
Dame Australia

Apply:

Applications now open!
To apply, simply email
ies@nd.edu.au
before **5:00pm** on
13 May 2019.
Spots are limited.

Registration fee:

\$250