UCDAVIS

ECS 88 – Winter 2026

[Week 5]

Naturalism and Virtue

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ExpoLab
Creativity Unfolded

Apache ResilientDB Incubating

APACHE INCUBATOR

UCDAVIS

ExpoLab
Creativity Unfolded

e.g., courage

Balance

e.g., cowardiness

e.g., recklessness

Necessity

Purpose / Function

Extrinsic

deficiency
(vice)

mean
(moderation)

excess
(vice)

Intrinsic
(*good for / for-itself / predicatively*)

Innate

Norm
(natural)

Nature

Reasons

Why Vote?

Subjective
(belief)

Objective
(belief)

Hedos

Evolutionary

freedom
(human condition)

Flourishing

Eudaimonia

Pleasure

What should I **do**?
(Ends)

Value
(what is a good life?)

What should I **be**?
(Means)

Virtue

Avoidance of Pain

Survival

Character

Excellence

behavior

fittest

fact
(what is a good?)

Practical Wisdom

telos

Happiness, then, is *an activity of soul in accordance with virtue*,
and if there be more than one virtue,
in accordance with the best and most complete.

Virtue, then, is a state of **character** concerned with choice, lying in a mean—
i.e., the mean relative to us—this being determined by a rational principle,
and by that principle by which the person of **practical wisdom** would determine it.

Virtue, then, is a **mean** between two vices,
the one of excess and the other of deficiency.

Pleasure completes the activity, not as the state does, but as an end that supervenes—
like the bloom of youth on those in the flower of their age.

We become **just** by doing **just acts**,
temperate by doing temperate acts, brave by doing brave acts.

Aristotle
[Nicomachean Ethics I.7; II.6; II.6; X.4; II.1]