

Outline of the *Nicomachean Ethics*

Book 1: Aims primarily to identify the highest good human beings can achieve in action

- Maintains that it in some way involves or requires virtue (*aretê*)
- Claims that virtue comes in two kinds: virtue of character (*ethikê*), virtue of thought (*dianoêtikê*)

Book 2: Discusses character virtue at a general level, trying to identify what kind of thing it is

Book 3.1–3.5

- Discusses some of the ‘pre-conditions’ for virtue
 - 3.1: Voluntariness
 - 3.2: Decision
 - 3.3: Deliberation
 - 3.4: Wish
 - 3.5: Whether it’s in our power to be virtuous or vicious

Book 3.6–5.11

- Discusses particular character virtues and corresponding vices
 - 3.6–3.9 Bravery
 - 3.10–3.12: Temperance
 - 4.1: Generosity
 - 4.2: Magnificence
 - 4.3: Magnanimity
 - 4.4: Virtue concerned with small honors
 - 4.5: Mildness
 - 4.6: Friendliness
 - 4.7: Truthfulness
 - 4.8: Wit
 - 4.9: Shame (not actually a virtue)
 - 5.10