

Developing a Course on Living Wisely

https://en.wikiversity.org/wiki/Living_Wisely

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Building upon the [Wisdom reading list](#), I have begun developing a new course on [Living Wisely](#). The course establishes context for each book in the reading list, supplements each with related on-line course materials, and includes assignments to help students integrate the learning into their daily lives.

Two key concepts form the overall structure of the course. First is the understanding that wisdom is a journey that begins with *personal responsibility*. This is the first stage of growth and forms the base of the pyramid. An intriguing definition of wisdom “seeing beyond illusion” inspires the second key concept. If we can think clearly enough to recognize nonsense and dismiss it, if we can explore our world and know what is real, if we can imagine the possibilities of what can be, and if we attain the guidance to choose *what ought to be* we have begun to lift the veil that has occluded our view of the world. This newly found clarity prepares us to *do* good and *be* good.

The overall structure, represented in the pyramid, encompasses various concepts of wisdom. Consider the idea that wisdom is *good judgement* applied to making choices that lead toward a *preferred future*. The *possibilities* stage explores possible future states. The *ought* stage develops good judgement. Consider other views. [Practical wisdom](#) emphasizes wise deliberation about human affairs. This prepares us for *doing* good. Contemplative approaches to wisdom seek ultimate wisdom, through meditation, reflection, and other forms of introspection. This is *being* good. These are sometimes characterized as Western and Eastern philosophies, respectively.

The recent video [Defining Wisdom](#) explores several definitions of wisdom we can use to assess the course structure. The course addresses many of the identified wisdom components and can be strengthened to cover these more completely.

Completing development of this course will require substantial additional work. I welcome participation of the Wisdom community in several ways. Students who begin studying the course can provide valuable feedback. Comments on the overall structure of the course—identifying what is missing, what is superfluous, what can be made clearer, and what can be better structured—are valuable. Help in identifying better books for each topic, suggesting source materials for courses to be developed, and perhaps assisting in developing or improving the many individual courses that comprise this overall course is greatly appreciated.

I hope as this course develops it helps many people [live wisely](#).