This course will explore how moral judgments are formed and how much control we have over revising these judgments and reforming moral character. Among the questions that we will consider are: What is an emotion? What roles do reason and the emotions play in the formation of moral judgments? How pervasive are forms of implicit race and gender bias, and how might they be overcome? Is humility a virtue, and if so why? What do procrastination and weakness of will reveal about human agency? What exactly is empathy and how might it contribute to, or undermine, the formation of good moral judgments? To answer these questions, we will read a range of contemporary and philosophical historical texts, taking into account the relevant empirical psychological literature along the way.

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