

# Introduction



# License

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# Purpose of this course

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- Nelson Mandela changed the world:
  - He played a significant part in ending Apartheid in South Africa
- In his autobiography, Nelson Mandela writes:
  - “No one had ever suggested to me how to go about removing the evils of racial prejudice, and I had to learn by trial and error.”  
— Chapter 10 of *Long Walk to Freedom*
- Most people who want to change the world face the same issue:
  - Many skills they need to do so are not taught in schools or universities
- This training course addresses this skills shortage:
  - Teaches some skills that can be learned quickly
  - Identifies other skills that require more effort to learn  
(you can study those skills outside of this course)

# Intended audience

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- This course is for people who want to change the world:
  - Or at least their part of the world  
(such as their country or neighbourhood, or an industry)
  - Such people self-identify with many different labels
  - Examples: activist, community leader, concerned citizen, entrepreneur, researcher, politician, ...
- You may find this course useful even if you do not want to change the world:
  - Many skills for changing the world are interesting
  - Some of the skills can increase chances of success in your career and personal relationships

# What is missing from this course

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- This course does *not* cover topics such as:
  - How to organize a protest march
  - How to write a funding proposal
- One reason for such omissions is that the details vary widely from one country to another
- Another reason is philosophical:
  - Before you learn to do something right, you should make sure you are doing the right thing. So...
  - This course focuses on *principles* (“the right thing to do”) rather than on *details* (“how to do something right”)

# This training course is “free”

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- This course is released under a “free” copyright license:
  - What some people call an “open source” copyright license
  - The terms “free” and “open source” come from the programming community
- What this means for you:
  - The training materials (in electronic form) are available free of charge
  - You have the freedom to:
    - Use, copy and modify the training materials
    - Teach the training course (free-of-charge or for profit)
  - Restrictions: don't remove the copyright notice; don't sue the author

# Reasons for making this a free course

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- Most people who try to change the world fail:
  - A major reason for this is that they lack many of the required skills
- The author of this course has an ambitious goal:
  - To help *millions* of people learn skills needed for changing the world
  - Doing this will help to accelerate (mostly beneficial) change in the world
- However, he cannot achieve this goal by himself:
  - He has incomplete knowledge of skills required to change the world (so there is lots of room for improvement in this course)
  - He has a limited amount of time to teach this course to others

# Reasons for making this a free course (cont')

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- Making this course free helps to overcome those obstacles
- You are free to modify the course:
  - For example:
    - Modify some chapters
    - Write new chapters
  - In this way, the course can grow and improve over time
- You are free to teach this course to others:
  - Free-of-charge or for profit
  - In this way, you (and many others like you) can help millions of people to learn the skills in this course



# This course is “self-teachable”

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- There is one more important aspect of this training course:
  - It is self-teachable
- You can read the slides yourself and understand them:
  - You do not need an instructor to teach the course to you
- However, a knowledgeable instructor *can* add value:
  - Facilitate classroom discussion of issues raised in the course
  - Tell anecdotes to illustrate points in the slides
- This “self-teachable” aspect of this course is important:
  - The author does not have to train instructors around the world
  - Instead, anyone can become an instructor for this course:
    - Read the slides to understand them
    - Then, ideally, read some books mentioned in the slides to flesh out your knowledge

# How to get a copy of this course

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- You can obtain this training course from the author's website:
  - [www.CiaranMcHale.com](http://www.CiaranMcHale.com)
- You can download the following:
  - The slides  
(in PowerPoint and PDF formats)
  - The “Slides Manual”  
(PDF file with 2, 4, 6 or 8 slides per page)
  - The “Notes Manual” to complement the slides  
(in LaTeX and PDF format)
- You can find a more detailed discussion of the topics in this chapter in Chapter 1 (“Introduction”) of the *Notes Manual*