



Humanities Department, Germantown Campus

PHIL 140: Introduction to the Study of Ethics

Professor: Eli Moore

Semester/Year: Spring 2019

Campus: Germantown

CRN: 35706

Telephone: 240-567-7766

Office Hours: By appointment

Office: HS185

Email: eli.moore@montgomerycollege.edu

Class Location: HS169

Class Meets: Tuesdays/Thursdays 12:30-1:55 PM

Course Description: “Covers contemporary ethical issues in public policy and personal conduct. Topic areas may include bioethics and medicine; inequality and discrimination; justice and punishment; information ethics; environmental ethics; or other areas. Practical issues in these areas will be discussed in relation to ethical theories. Various ethical perspectives will be critically examined. (HUMD) Assessment levels: EN 101/101A, MA 097/099, RD 120. Three hours each week.”

Course Materials/Supplies Needed:

Athur & Scalet, *Morality and Moral Controversies*, 9th Edition. ISBN 0-205-52621-7

In addition to the required text, *handouts will be provided for various topics.*

Student Learning Outcomes:

Upon completion of the course, the student will be able to:

- Comprehend current moral issues in light of various ethical theories.
- Recognize classical thinkers from around the world as they explore normative judgments and foundations for those judgments.
- Distinguish normative and nonnormative ethical theories and the distinction between metaethics and normative ethics.
- Critically evaluate different moral points of view, including altruism, universalism, and self-interest.
- Discuss different schools of ethical thought.

Grade Scale:

A	90 – 100%	B	80 – 89%	C	70 – 79%
D	60 – 69%	F	< 60%		

Grading Policy:

- 25% *Class Participation:* Attendance, active listening and respectful engagement
- 25% *Cave Paper:* An essay in reflection of Plato’s “Allegory of the Cave”
- 25% *Signature Term Paper:* An essay in consideration of ethical theories
- 25% *Final Exam:* Three short essay questions to be responded to in class

Make-up Work/Late Work:

Extensions granted for extenuating circumstances upon request. Late work accepted with penalty of 5% of letter grade per day past the deadline.

Department Policies:***Important Student Information Link***

*In addition to course requirements and objectives that are in this syllabus, Montgomery College has information on its web site (see link below) to assist you in having a successful experience both inside and outside of the classroom. It is important that you read and understand this information. The link below provides information and other resources to areas that pertain to the following: **student behavior (student code of conduct), student e-mail, the tobacco free policy, withdraw and refund dates, disability support services, veteran services, how to access information on delayed openings and closings, how to register for the Montgomery College alert System, and finally, how closings and delays can impact your classes.** If you have any questions please bring them to your professor. As rules and regulations change they will be updated and you will be able to access them through the link. If any student would like a written copy of these policies and procedures, the professor would be happy to provide them. By registering for this class and staying in this class, you are indicating that you acknowledge and accept these policies.*

<http://cms.montgomerycollege.edu/mcsyllabus/>

Academic Honesty: Montgomery College's policies on academic dishonesty are found in the *Student Handbook* and under *Section VIII* of the *Student Code of Conduct* available at the following link: [http://cms.montgomerycollege.edu/pnp/#Chapter 4](http://cms.montgomerycollege.edu/pnp/#Chapter_4). Each student is expected to do his or her own work. The minimum grade sanction imposed by a faculty member is to award an "F" on the assignment or test in which the dishonesty occurred. The maximum grade sanction is to award an "F" for the course in which the dishonesty occurred. In addition, each faculty member has the prerogative of referring a case to the campus Dean of Student Affairs with a specific request that the Dean consider imposing additional sanctions.

Absence and Tardiness Policy: Attendance is fundamentally important in this class, and excessive absence/tardiness will affect the Class Participation grade. Any student arriving after class has begun is tardy. You are responsible for all work assigned whether you are present or absent.

Classroom Behavior: Please review the *Standards of College Behavior* in the *Student Handbook* or *Section VII* of the *Student Code of Conduct* available at the following link: [http://cms.montgomerycollege.edu/pnp/#Chapter 4](http://cms.montgomerycollege.edu/pnp/#Chapter_4). The college seeks to provide an environment where discussion and expression of all views relevant to the subject matter of the class are recognized and necessary to the educational process. However, students do not have the right to obstruct the faculty member's ability to teach or the ability of other students to learn. The instructor has the right to determine appropriate conduct in

the classroom, and it is expected that students will conduct themselves at all times in a manner that is respectful of their instructor and their peers.

Inappropriate behaviors include (but are not limited to) the following:

1. Socializing with other students once class has begun.
2. Refusing to complete assigned tasks in the class or labs.
3. Sleeping in class, arguing with the professor or other students, showing disrespect towards the professor or other students, or disrupting the class in any way.
4. Using cell phones or texting during class.

Students who do not adhere to these policies will be asked to leave by the professor; if they do not comply, Security will be called. If a student repeatedly refuses to comply with classroom regulations, s/he will be referred to the Dean of Student Development.

Academic Support: In addition to seeking the help of the professor, students are encouraged to use the Writing, Reading, and Language Center on the Germantown Campus (HS150) for assistance with paper planning, writing, and review. See:

<http://cms.montgomerycollege.edu/edu/departments.aspx?id=16341>

Disability Support Services: Any student who needs an accommodation due to a disability should make an appointment to see me during my office hours. In order to receive accommodations, a letter from Disability Support Services (SA 189) will be needed. Any student who may need assistance in the event of an emergency evacuation must identify to the Disability Support Services Office; guidelines for emergency evacuations for individuals with disabilities are found at:

www.montgomerycollege.edu/dss

Delayed Opening or Closing of the College: Montgomery College will always operate on its regular schedule unless otherwise announced. Depending on the nature of the incident, notifications of emergencies and changes to the College's operational status will be communicated through one or more communication methods including the College's website www.montgomerycollege.edu. For the most up-to-date information regarding College openings, closings, or emergencies, all students, faculty, and staff are encouraged to sign up for email and text alerts via Montgomery College ALERT. Registration information is available at www.montgomerycollege.edu/emergency. **In the event of a delayed opening, if a class can meet for 50% or more of its regularly scheduled meeting time OR if the class can meet for 50 minutes or more, it will meet.**

Communication: Montgomery College e-mail account is the official means of communication between the faculty member and the student. It is a student's responsibility to check his or her MC e-mail for College and class information.

FERPA: The *Family Education Rights and Privacy Act* prohibits the instructor from discussing a student's grade and performance in the course with anyone but that student. The student must submit all exceptions or allowances in writing.

PHIL140 satisfies a General Education Humanities Distribution requirement (HUMD), a General Education Institutional requirement (GEIR), or a General Education Electives requirement (GEEL). Montgomery College's General Education Program is designed to ensure that students have the skills, knowledge and attitudes to carry them successfully through their work and their personal lives. For more information on the General Education Program, go to www.montgomerycollege.edu/gened.

Schedule of Readings:

Part I: Moral Theory

Week of January 29:

Syllabus, Introduction: What is Philosophy?
Plato's *The Republic*—handout

Week of February 5:

Plato's "Allegory of the Cave"
Cave Paper Assigned

Week of February 12:

Aristotle's *Nicomachean Ethics*—pg. 74

Week of February 19:

Aquinas on the Natural Law—handout

Week of February 26:

Hobbes's *Leviathan*—pg. 3
Rousseau's criticism of Hobbes—handout

Week of March 5:

Hume, Morality as based in sentiment—pg. 50

Week of March 12:

Spring Break

Week of March 19:

Cave Paper Due; Term Paper Assigned
Kant, *Metaphysics of Morals*—pg. 81

Week of March 26:

Mill, *Utilitarianism*—pg. 90

Part II: Applied Ethics

Week of April 2:

Scheffler, Is Terrorism Morally Distinctive?—pg. 125
Steinhoff, Torture – The Case for Dirty Harry—pg. 130
Wolfendale, Training Torturers—pg. 138

Week of April 9:

Torture, continued (if necessary)
Wasserstrom, On the Morality of War—pg. 146
Ryan, The Morality of Pacifism—pg. 155
Lin, Drone Ethics Briefing—pg. 170

Week of April 16:

President's Council on Bioethics, The Ethics of Cloning to Produce Children—pg. 248
Roe v. Wade—pg. 263

Thomson, A Defense of Abortion—pg. 268

Week of April 23:

Marquis, An Argument that Abortion is Wrong—pg. 289

JFK Memorial Hospital v. Heston—pg. 306

Godwin, The Archbishop & the Chambermaid—pg. 309

Harris, The Survival Lottery—pg. 331

Week of April 30:

Term Paper Due; Final Exam Questions Provided

Nietzsche, *The Genealogy of Morals* (excerpts)

Week of May 7:

Final Exam 12:30-2:30 PM

Note: the instructor reserves the right to change this syllabus as he deems necessary.