

Montgomery College-Rockville Campus
 Department of RD, ESL, and PL
 PL 201-33076 *Morality and Contemporary Law*

<p><i>Instructor Information</i></p> <p>Prof. Chris Collins</p> <p>Phone-(240) 567-7427</p> <p>Email: Do not use Blackboard email! Use christopher.collins@montgomerycollege.edu</p> <p>Office-MT 405</p> <p>Office-MT 405 Office Hours- Tuesday/Thursday 11:00-12:15 Tuesday 4:00-5:30 Sunday (Virtual) 7:00-9:00PM</p> <p><i>office Hours are available by appointment as well</i></p>	<p><i>Classes</i></p> <p>Phil140 DL-Web</p> <p>Phil140 DL-Web</p> <p>Phil 101 T 6:30-9:25 HUM 207</p> <p>Phil 101 TR 2:00-3:30 HUM 103</p> <p>Phil 201 TR 12:30-1:55 SB 210</p>
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Catalog

A course in applied ethics, this an examination of some social issues which are of current interest from the legal/ethical viewpoint, e.g., privacy, crime and punishment, civil and human rights, victimless crimes, police and court practice, sexual and medical practice, freedom and authority. An attempt will be made to view these contemporary problems in a historical perspective. The student is encouraged and expected to know facts, think logically, and develop an independent sense of critical judgment. Three hours each week. 3 semester hours

General Objectives

1. to examine controversial issues in law and public policy from the moral perspective
2. in order to engage the material of #1, students will be introduced to the foundations of moral thinking:
 - normative and nonnormative approaches
 - liberal theories: deontology, utility, contract theory
 - virtue theory and communitarian theory

Specific Objectives

1. understand the foundations of moral philosophy :
 - terms and concepts
 - the tasks and interests of moral philosophy
2. examination of the definition of laws and The Law; discussion of the notion of a “good law”
3. discussion of these basic ideas:
 - law and morality
 - justice and law
 - rights, freedom and equality
 - power, authority and obedience

4. consideration of the following:
- a. law and policy issues concerning privacy, speech and religious practices
 - practice and establishment of religion
 - censorship of speech
 - censorship of electronic media
 - journalism and freedom of the press
 - sexual practices and other issues of life-style preferences
 - b. law and policy issues concerning issues of criminal justice: punishment; treatment of the accused: punishment and prison conditions; capital punishment
 - c. law and policy issues concerning life issues: suicide and care for the dying; abortion; punishment; quality of life for persons on the edges of society
 - d. laws and policy issues concerning war, the nuclear threat; possibility of justified armed conflict; law and policy issues concerning ecology and the environment; the animal rights movement; obligations for the future

Required Textbooks:

Camp, Julie Van. Ethical Issues in the Courts: 2nd edition Wadsworth/Thompson
 Arthur. Morality and Moral Controversies 7th or 8th editions

****our classroom****

Philosophy is, in part, a social process. Philosophy's development and continuation depends upon fostering a free and open exchange among individuals. In this spirit, respect for the ideas of others is the **Golden Rule**. Speaking and reading in public requires fortitude and courage, so when a fellow student displays those qualities by sharing his/her work with us, our respect and admiration must be given to them at all times. At times, the process of philosophy is an expression of our individual identities and personal beliefs, these qualities should never be taken lightly. The bottom line, always remember and employ the **Golden Rule**.

****expectations and grades****

All students are expected to complete all of the assignments required for this course. Failure to complete all assignments can be considered wasted opportunities. These assignments are merely opportunities for you to showcase your individual abilities as a scholar and lover of wisdom. **Make certain you take advantage of all of these opportunities!** 20% of your course grade will be dependent upon these assignments. A comprehensive mid-term and final examination will comprise 40% of your final grade.

Class attendance and participation are an integral part of the philosophy classroom. Attendance is required and needed of all students. . A maximum of three course hours can be missed during the course of a semester. Anyone who misses more then three course hours will be adversely affecting his/her grade. If you can not attend all class sessions be certain to make arrangements beforehand with the professor. Participation is necessary for successfully completing this course. If an individual chooses not to participate he/she will be wasting all of the resources that surround that person i.e. peers and instructor. Attendance and Participation comprise 20% of your class grade.

Grade Break Down

Attendance and Participation	20%
Weekly Response Essays	20%
Final Written Report	20%
Mid-Term and Final Examination	40%

****Grading of Written Work****

An **"A" paper** is substantial, well developed and effectively organized and presented. It demonstrates original or thoughtful engagement with content and sensitivity to diction, tone and style. Its sentences are clear, precise, and well-structured. The paper is appropriately and formatted and virtually error-free.

A **"B" paper** contains a number of the strengths of an A paper, but it typically lacks the thoughtfulness, originality, and sensitivity of the superior paper. It is also virtually error-free.

A **"C" paper** fulfills the assignment and is adequately organized. The writer communicates ideas and develops thesis, although supporting evidence may be minimal and organization rather mechanical. The writing is not marred by habitual or serious grammatical errors. Thought and expression are competent.

A **"D" paper** typically is marked by failure to focus on a thesis, poor organization, lack of development, or recurrent mechanical errors.

A **"F" paper** may ignore the terms of the assignment, or it may be devoid of thesis, support, or organizing principle. Typically it contains numerous mechanical errors that seriously interfere with comprehension; it may also be marred by serious errors in documentation.

****Submission of Work****

All assignment listed on the syllabus are due on the dates prescribed. Failure to turn in work on time will result in one letter grade drop for every day late. Special accommodations can be made with me if you are unable to complete the work on time.

[PL 140] satisfies a General Education Humanities Distribution requirement.

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. This course provides multiple opportunities to develop competency in *Written and oral communication* and *Critical analysis and reasoning*. For more information on the General Education Program, go to www.montgomerycollege.edu/gened.

****Disabilities****

If you have a disability which will require accommodations, please see me after class or during my office hour. I am reasonably sure we can work out whatever arrangements are necessary, be it special seating, testing or other accommodations. If you have not already contacted the Disability Support Services office, please do so to obtain a letter authorizing you accommodations.

****Academic Integrity****

As students participating in higher level learning, plagiarism, cheating and any other form of academic dishonesty will not be tolerated in this learning environment. When an individual participates in any type of academic dishonesty she/he is simply expressing his/her lack of belief in her/his own abilities to excel in the pursuit of knowledge. In this course, plagiarism is the most severe offense. If you are not certain what qualifies as plagiarism, please discuss your questions

with me, so that any problems can be avoided. If you have any further questions regarding academic dishonesty please refer to the Student Handbook.

****Inclement Weather****

Occasionally it becomes necessary to delay the opening of school, send students home early, or close the College entirely because of bad weather. Please check the college Website for any closings or delays.

Important Links for Students

(Updated April 2, 2015)

Academic calendar. When is Spring break? When are midterm exams? When does the Spring semester begin? <http://cms.montgomerycollege.edu/edu/department2.aspx?id=16456>

ADA Information and Compliance:

<http://cms.montgomerycollege.edu/edu/Department.aspx?id=53990>

Alert Montgomery System. Sign up for Alert Montgomery the official emergency communications service for Montgomery County, MD. During a major crisis, emergency or severe weather event, Montgomery County officials can send event updates, warnings and instructions directly to you on any of your devices.

<https://member.everbridge.net/index/1332612387832009#/login>

Code of Conduct. If you have questions regarding behavioral expectations:

<http://cms.montgomerycollege.edu/WorkArea/DAsset.aspx?id=35945>

Counseling & Advising. Academic advising and short term counseling.

<http://cms.montgomerycollege.edu/edu/secondary1.aspx?urlid=4>

Disability Support Services. If you are requesting a reasonable accommodation related to a disability:

<http://cms.montgomerycollege.edu/edu/secondary5.aspx?urlid=52>

Forms: graduation, involuntary withdraw, change of major, appeals.

<http://cms.montgomerycollege.edu/edu/department2.aspx?id=10072>

Learning Centers and Academic Support Centers. If you are a student who would benefit from tutoring and/or support in reading, writing languages, mathematics, Science, and Technology: <http://cms.montgomerycollege.edu/learningcenters/>

Safety, Security, & Emergency Operations Plan. Contacts for security offices, Emergency guidelines & procedures, evacuations, Montgomery College Alert, Emergency Guidelines for Individuals with Disabilities, <http://cms.montgomerycollege.edu/edu/plain2.aspx?id=4087>

Sexual Harassment or Discrimination. Office of Equity and Diversity.

<http://cms.montgomerycollege.edu/edu/Department2.aspx?id=65693>

****Calendar**-subject to adjustment-more specifics to be presented day-by-day in class.
****Essays**-below are the tentative dates for turning in the essays that are required for PL 201.
 Specifics regarding each essay will be discussed in detail regarding, so do not feel overwhelmed when examining this calendar.

Week	IN CLASS	PREPARATION-to be done prior to class	DUE DATES
day one	Class Introduction- discuss basic requirements.		
week two 2/1	Virtue and the Law: The Nature of Law	Chapter one. Van Camp	
week three 2/8	The formation of the Law. Does religion and God play a part in the law and Punishment	Chapter 1 Arthur. Review questions	
week four 2/15	The rule of law What is the relationship between law and morality?	Chapter 2. Arthur Review questions	
week five 2/22	Egoism and the Law Spectacles	CHapter 2 Van Camp	
week six 2/29	The right to vote and Utilitarianism	Response Essay	
week seven 3/7	Kantianism and Liberty.	Read pgs. 39-56 , Van Camp	

week eight 3/21	Pragmatism and Religion	Read Arthur 5	
week nine 3/28	Aristotle and Plato discuss abortion	Read Van Camp. Roe v. Wade . Response essay	
week ten 4/4	Social Contract Theory and Affirmative Action	Read pgs. 305-320 Arthur Response Essay	
week eleven 4/11	Private Law Guest Speaker	Read Van Camp . Privacy cases	

WEEK	IN CLASS	Preparation-to be done prior to class	DUE DATES
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week twelve 4/18	Pornography, Love and Sex	Read pgs. 361- 375 in Arthiur	
week thirteen 4/25	Equality and the Law	Equality . van Camp	
week fourteen 5/2	Bring Everything Together Class Presentations	Read Handout on philosophy and writing the law	Final Paper Due
week fifteen 5/9	Final Examination	Study for the final examination!!!!	