



Humanities Department, Germantown Campus

PHIL 140: Introduction to the Study of Ethics

Professor: M. Georgevich

Semester/Year: Spring 2019

Campus: Germantown

CRN: 32029

Office: HS185

Office Hours: MW 1 - 2 PM

Office Phone: 240-567-7766

Emails: madeline.georgevich@montgomerycollege.edu

mgeorgevich@towson.edu (please use Towson email for first few weeks of class)

Class Location: HS 218

Class Meets: MWF 12 - 12:50 AM

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.”

Required Texts:

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

In addition to the required text, handouts/articles will be provided for various topics. I will make these available electronically, and I encourage you to print them out for yourselves in order to bring them to class.

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.

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 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 nor 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. All exceptions/allowances must be submitted in writing by the student.

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.

Assessment of student work (What I mean by each letter grade)

A = The work fully engages with every aspect of the assignment or every part of a question in an examination, demonstrates excellent understanding of the subject matter, and shows that the student has considered all issues critically, responsibly, and accurately. In addition, the text is error free logically, grammatically, and in matters pertaining to historiography.

B = The work engages with every aspect of the assignment, demonstrates a basic understanding of the subject matter, and indicates that the student has considered the subject matter critically and responsibly. In addition, the text is error free logically, grammatically, and in matters pertaining to historiography.

C = The work engages with some aspects of the assignment, demonstrates at least a partial understanding of the subject matter, and indicates that, at least in part, the student has engaged in analytic thinking. For the most part, the text avoids errors.

D = The work engages minimally with the assignment but shows some evidence of consistent thought

F = No assignment is submitted or the work provided fails to do the task assigned, shows little or no grasp of the material, and indicates little or no thought behind the claims expressed

Grade Scale:

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

Grading Policy/Requirements:

Attendance	05%
Participation	05%
Essay	30%
Quizzes	20%
Midterm and Final Exams	40%

Explanation of Requirements:

- 1. Attendance and Participation (10%):** Participation is central. Attendance is, therefore, required. Two unexcused absences are allowed, however all other undocumented absences will result in a grade reduction. Three tardies are equivalent to one absence. Do not come to class if you are ill or have flu-like symptoms. Students are responsible for all material discussed and for all announcements made in classes they missed. The use of technology is permitted only for those with documented learning accommodations. Texting in class will

negatively affect attendance and participation grades even if I do not explicitly call you out on it.

2. **Essay (30%):** Identify, describe, and critically examine an ethically significant issue or problem through the lens of at least one moral philosophy covered in this course. Write a short argumentative essay. Your essay should be 3-4 pages long (before the “Reference” page), double-spaced, in a 12-point Times New Roman font, APA format, and should be researched. Your essay must include a “Reference” page at the end of it. Reflect on your analysis and research. Integrate what you learned into everyday life.
The grade will be broken up as follows: Final essay (20%) Preliminary outlining/drafts (10%). Further guidelines and rubrics will be posted to blackboard.
3. **Quizzes (20%):** There will be several quizzes throughout the term. Some will be announced while others will *not* be announced ahead of time. The purpose of a quiz is for me to understand how well the class is grappling with the course material.
4. **Midterm and Final Examinations (40%):** The midterm exam and the final exam will be worth 20% each, for a total of 40% of your grade. Students are responsible for making their own study guides, though you are not required to do so.

Make-up Work/Late Work: Students with documented, excused absences may make-up late work within two weeks of the due date. It is the student’s responsibility to contact the professor and arrange the make-up work. If you do not contact the professor and make up the work within two weeks of your absence, you will no longer be able to turn in the assignment and will earn a zero. Unexcused late work will receive a 5% grade deduction for each day late.

Tech Policy: No electronics will be used in the classroom without express permission.

Professor G’s Approach to the Classroom:

You are in college now (*hooray* and congratulations!!) As college students, you are budding intellectuals, and my goal as your professor is to be a resource to help you grow and learn how to educate yourselves. I aim to create an environment suitable for the cultivation of philosophical habits, such as critical thinking, reading and writing. The best way to learn these habits is through practice!

In class discussions, my goal is to find a happy medium between what I find to be most important from the texts, and what you, as engaged students, would like to discuss. Thus, you have a valuable, integral role to play in making our class a fun and lively experience that will sharpen your academic skills. Learn to ask questions and request clarifications when you are confused. Take advantage of office hours, where you are always welcome.

Schedule of Readings

Readings are to be completed before coming to class on the date assigned

Part I - Moral Theory: Normative Ethics and Metaethics

- Week of Jan 23 Introduction
What is philosophy? What is the study of ethics?
How to read a philosophy paper
- Week of Jan 28 Virtue Ethics
Aristotle, *Nicomachean Ethics*
- Week of Feb 04 Consequentialism
Mill, *Utilitarianism*
- Week of Feb 11 Deontology
Kant, *The Fundamental Principles of the Metaphysic of Morals*
- Week of Feb 18 Ethical Debate Quiz Monday
Ethical Pluralism and Feminist Ethics
Ross, *Intuitionism*
Ross, Prima Facie Duties Handout
Held, *The Ethics of Care as Moral Theory*
- Week of Feb 25 Ethical Subjectivism and Cultural Relativism
Shaw, *Relativism in Ethics*
- Week of Mar 04 Natural Law Theory
Hobbes, *Leviathan*
How to write a philosophy paper
- March 11-17 Spring recess for students and faculty

Part II - Applied Ethics:

- Week of Mar 18 Chapter 5: Terrorism, Torture, and Robotic Warfare
Scheffler, Is Terrorism Morally Distinctive?—pg. 125
Steinhoff, Torture – the Case for Dirty Harry—pg. 130
Wolfendale, Training Torturers—pg. 138
- Week of Mar 25 Chapter 8: Human Reproduction: Cloning and Abortion
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 Apr 01 Chapter 9: Medicine and Deciding Who Should Live

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 Apr 08

Chapter 11: Family and Friendship

Wasserstrom, Is Adultery Immoral?—pg. 339
Kupfer, Can Parents and Children be Friends?—pg. 354
Kristjansson, Parents and Children as Friends—pg. 362
English, What do Grown Children Owe Their Parents—pg. 368

Week of Apr 15

Chapter 12: Personal Dimensions of Technology

Carr, Is Google Making Us Stupid?—pg. 372
Closer to the Truth, How Does Technology Transform Our Thinking?—pg. 378
Thomas, Friendship in the Shadow of Technology—pg. 384
Pew Internet and American Life Project, Social Networking Sites and Our Lives—pg. 390
Turkle, Alone Together—pg. 393

Week of Apr 22

Student selections from the textbook

Week of Apr 29

Student selections from the textbook

May 06 M

Essay due, catch-up

Final Exam: May13th @ 12:30 - 2:30

Exam schedule: <https://cms.montgomerycollege.edu/edu/department2.aspx?id=48071>

Note: The syllabus is subject to change per the professor's determination.

If necessary, I will amend the schedule to best achieve the learning outcomes of the course in relation to the individual needs of our class. Check blackboard regularly to ensure you are up to date with current reading schedules and assignment due dates.