

Montgomery College-Rockville Campus
Department of World Languages and Philosophy
PL 140-30304 Introduction to the Study of Ethics

<i>Instructor Information</i>	<i>Classes</i>
Prof. Chris Collins	Phil140 DL-Web
Phone- (240) 567-7427	Phil140 DL-Web
Email: Do not use Blackboard email! Use christopher.collins@montgomerycollege.edu	Phil 101 T 6:30-9:25 HUM 207
Office- MT 405	Phil 101 TR 2:00-3:30 HUM 103
Office Hours-	Phil 201 TR 12:30-1:55 SB 004
Office-MT 405 Office Hours- Tuesday/Thursday 11:00-12:15	
Tuesday 4:00-5:30	
Sunday (Virtual) 7:00-9:00PM	
<i>office Hours are available by appointment as well</i>	

Catalog

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. *Assessment Level(s): [ENGL 101/ENGL 101A](#), [MATH 093/MATH 096](#), [READ 120](#). Three hours each week. Formerly PL 202.*

3 semester hours

Course Outcomes:

Upon course completion, a student will be able to:

- Demonstrate a comprehension of current moral issues in light of various ethical theories.
- Recognize classical thinkers from around the world as he or she explores 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.

Required Textbooks:

We will be using an online free textbook for this course. The link is below, I would suggest that you add it to your “favorites” on whatever device you are using.

http://www.qcc.cuny.edu/SocialSciences/ppecorino/ETHICS_TEXT/CONTENTS.htm

****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. The weekly assignments will be one of three opportunities: a written response essay which will entail you critically analyzing a philosophical work and or idea. A comprehensive mid-term and final examination will comprise 40% of your final grade.

Class participation is an integral part of the philosophy classroom. 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. Participation comprises 20% of your class grade.

Your participation grade is calculated based on your responses to the discussion board. It is mandatory that you post at least two thoughtful representations of your work on the message board to each discussion question or topic during the week the discussion question is posted. The grading structure for those assignments is listed under “Grading of Informal Work”. The grading scale is simple in that you will receive an “A” or an “F” for your responses

Other Expectations:

In order to complete this course successfully you will be required to complete a great deal of reading. I recommend that you set aside time each day simply for this purpose. Please remember to read carefully and use a highlighter or whichever note taking tool you prefer while completing the assignment.

Grade Break Down

Participation	20%
Weekly Assignments	20%
Final Written Report	20%

Mid-Term and Final Examination 40%

****Submission of Work****

-All work that is going to be turned into me should be type written(double spaced, nothing larger than a 12point font) Remember any work that you turn in is a representation of you as a lover of wisdom so it should be representative of that love. Assignments should be submitted into the blackboard site under assignments.

-Failure to turn in work on time will result in one letter grade drop for every day late.

Grade Scale:

A=90-100

B=80-89

C=70-79

D=60-69

F-<60

****Grading of Formal 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.

****Grading of informal Work** (I Consider informal work to be the message board responses)**

A **"A"** response is one that is earnest, thoughtful and representative of college level work. While I understand that the message board responses do not require the formality of an analytic essay I do expect your work to be well thought out and relatively free from major grammatical and spelling errors.

A **"F"** response is one that does not represent you as a thinker nor a lover of wisdom. An example of such a response is:

That is stupid

You're an idiot

This chapter is dumb

Those types of comments only undermine our joint effort to love wisdom and share in a healthy class environment.

Academic Calendar!!!!!!!!!!!!

At this point in the normal syllabus you would receive a long calendar including the due dates for all assignments and tests. But to be completely honest I am not normal nor is my class. Let me explain this unusual statement of my lack of normalcy. I have been teaching this course for ten years and have found calendars to be cumbersome and not advantageous to accomplishing our objectives. This does not mean that the course is not directed toward a specific end, it simply means that we shall progress in a fluid manner of work completion. Not having a calendar can be a bit intimidating to some, but let me reassure you that if you keep up with the readings and learning modules you will be fine. Please remember that you need to be constantly keeping current with the readings and learning modules to complete the course. If you have any questions regarding this policy, please contact me for further explanation.

[**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/departments.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>

Compiled by Jay Marciano, Faculty Council & TP/SS Faculty Senate Chair, April 2, 2015

Tentative Homework schedule- Homework is due on the last day of each week. Be prepared to read at least 50 pages per week and 4-10 short answer questions are due every Sunday night. I do not need to set a minimum or maximum length requirement because I believe that you all have the ability to decide what type of work represents your best work. This semester we are using an Open Educational Resource (free book) as our text. The text has links upon links that bring you to outside reading, when a reading

assignment is posted you are not responsible for reading all the links, I am primary concerned with you just reading the text but please feel free to read any of the links in the book.

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Week 1-Complete question at end of week 1 learning module

Week 2- Complete questions 1-10 at the end of chapter 2 and 1-5 the end of chapter 6

Week 3-Complete questions 1-10 at the end of chapter 8

Week 4-Complete questions 1-10 at the end of chapter 3

Week 5-Complete questions at the end of chapter 4

Week 6-Complete questions 1-10 at the end of chapter 5

Week 7 Complete Review for Mid-term

Week 8 Mid-term week –please study

Week 9 prepare for final paper

Week 10 Complete question 1-10 at the end of chapter 9

Week 11 TBA

Week 12 TBA

Week 13 TBA

Week 14 Review for final

Week 15 Finals week May 7th

All homework is subject to change-Make certain you always check the end of the weekly learning module before beginning an assignment.

