

**Montgomery College
Rockville Campus**
Introduction to the Study of Ethics
PHIL 140, CRN# 32115
Spring 2019
1/23/19 – 5/13/19

Professor: Auksuole A. Rubavichute
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Office Phone Number: 240-567-7432
Office Number: MT 416
Office Hours: MW, 1:00–2:30 PM (MT 416); F, 1:00–2:00 PM (MT 416) and TR, 10:00 – 11:00 AM (online only)
Meeting Days & Time: MWF, 11:00–11:50 AM
Room Number: HU 111
Credit Hours: 3 Semester Hours
Department: World Languages and Philosophy

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:

1. Ruggiero, Vincent Ryan. *Thinking Critically about Ethical Issues*, 8th Edition (ISBN: 9780073535906, 2012) or 9th Edition (ISBN: 9780078119057, 2014), Mountain View, CA: Mayfield Publishing Company, McGraw-Hill.
2. PowerPoint presentations, additional readings, and other materials for this course are located on Blackboard.

Course Objectives:

1. Students will learn to think critically about ethicists and ethical theories.
2. Students will learn to think critically about personal and social issues and to apply classical and contemporary ethical theories to the evaluation of current ethical and political controversies.
3. Students will learn to recognize and critique ethical messages as they appear in political and philosophical texts.
4. Students will examine controversial political and legal issues from an ethical perspective.
5. Students will examine the relationship between ethics and law.

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 non-normative ethical theories and the distinction between meta-ethics and normative ethics.

- Critically evaluate different moral points of view, including altruism, universalism, and self-interest.
- Discuss different schools of ethical thought.

Course Outline and Requirements:

This course will follow a format based upon lecture, class discussion, PowerPoint presentations, and individual and group presentations. You are expected to be present and prepared for class each day we meet. This means that each day we meet you will have read the assigned texts and will be prepared to discuss them. The reading may not always be easy, thus, it may be necessary to take notes on important points and items you find difficult, puzzling or unclear.

Class discussion is vital for a philosophy course, and we will all get more out of the class if we are engaged in discussions. Participation in discussions will only help all of us. It is to your advantage to read every assignment thoroughly, attend every class, and participate in discussions as much as possible.

- **Quizzes.** I will give you several reading quizzes throughout the semester. There will be no announcements for the quizzes; you should expect a quiz every time you come to class. There will be no make-up quizzes for any reason. The grading scale for the quizzes is the following: 10-9=A, 8=B, 7=C, 6=D, 5-0=F.
- **Exams.** You will have three exams. The final exam will be a “take-home” exam. I will provide you more details on this assignment as the semester progresses. There will be two “in-class, mid-term” exams, in addition to the final “take-home” exam. Exams will cover material from lectures, texts, discussion, PowerPoint presentations, and handouts. The final “take-home” exam is due on the day of the scheduled final exam. The paper topics for the final exam will be given one week before the due date. (See the “Class Schedule of Readings and Assignments” below.)
- **Individual Presentation.** Each student will have to do an individual presentation. I will give you more information about this assignment as the semester progresses.

Evaluation Procedures:

1. Attendance, participation, cooperative exercises, and quizzes will count for 20% of the final grade.
2. Individual presentation will count for 20% of the final grade.
3. Mid-term (in-class) examination #1 will count for 20% of the final grade.
4. Mid-term (in-class) examination #2 will count for 20% of the final grade.
5. Final (take-home) examination will count for 20% of the final grade.

Grading Scale:

90-100=A 80-89=B 70-79=C 60-69=D 0-59=F

90-100=A. A grade of ‘A’ will be given to work that is superior, shows thought, effort, insight, and some degree of originality. Mere competence is unlikely to earn an A. In the case of writing assignments, an ‘A’ paper will have virtually no typographical, grammatical, or stylistic errors. It demonstrates original and thoughtful engagement with content. It is substantial, well developed, and effectively organized. Its sentences are clear, precise, and well-structured.

80-89=B. A grade of ‘B’ will be given for above-average work that shows thought, effort, and insight. In the case of writing assignments, a ‘B’ paper will go beyond mere competence, and will contain minimal typographical, grammatical, or stylistic errors. It contains many strengths of an ‘A’ paper, but it lacks the thoughtfulness and originality of the superior paper.

70-79=C. A grade of ‘C’ indicates average work. In the case of writing assignments, a ‘C’ paper fulfills the assignment and is adequately organized, but the supporting evidence and the thoughtful engagement with content are minimal and organization is rather mechanical. The writing is not marred by serious typographical, grammatical, or stylistic errors.

60-69=D. A grade of ‘D’ indicates work that is below average. In the case of writing assignment, a ‘D’ paper is marked by failure to focus on a thesis, poor organization, lack of development, or recurrent typographical, grammatical, or stylistic errors.

0-59=F. A grade of ‘F’ indicates work that is unacceptable. In the case of writing assignments, an ‘F’ paper typically ignores 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.

Honors Course Options:

The academic requirements and student eligibility for the Honors Program are as follows:

- 3.2 or higher GPA
- minimum of 12 academic credits at MC
- B or A in EN 101 or EN 101A

Honors course options require students to produce Honors level scholarship, which reflects either research, analyses, critical thinking, or creativity. The Honors Project must demonstrate an Honors level assignment. If you are taking this course as an Honors student, please consult with your professor regarding the Honors Project for the course.

Attendance Policy:

Students are expected to attend all classes. Students have the responsibility to attend class and to consult with the instructor when an absence occurs. If for some reason you must leave class early, you should inform the instructor prior to the start of class of your reason for leaving early.

Again, attendance is expected, and you remain responsible for assignments due, material covered, and schedule changes announced in class while absent.

Make-up and Late Work Policy:

Generally speaking, late work or make-up exams will only be accepted in extreme circumstances. If you think your circumstances warrant a deadline extension or a make-up exam, you must speak to me about it before the deadline, not after. Documentation will be required.

Audit Policy:

If you are taking the class as an audit, you are expected to do the readings and participate in discussion. You do not have to do any of the written work, however.

Communication:

The College considers the Montgomery College email account to be the official means of communication between students and faculty. It is recommended that you check this account routinely for official communication or as directed by your professor. Some items you may find there are: course announcements, invoices, important admission/registration information, waitlist status. To check your e-mail, log into your MyMC online account and locate the e-mail icon in the upper right hand corner of the page.

Classroom Behavior:

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 interfere with the faculty member's right to teach or the other students' rights to learn. Faculty and staff set the standards of behavior that are within the guidelines and spirit of the Student Code of Conduct or other College policies for classrooms, events, offices, and areas, by announcing or posting these standards early in the semester.

If a student behaves disruptively or inappropriately in the classroom, an event, an office, or an area after the instructor or staff member has explained the unacceptability of such conduct and the consequences that will result, the student may be asked to leave that classroom, event, office, or area for the remainder of the day. If the student does not leave willingly, the faculty member may request the assistance of Security. This does not restrict the student's right to attend other scheduled classes or appointments.

Disruptive/inappropriate behaviors include (but are not limited to) the following:

- continuing to socialize once class has begun;
- refusing to complete assigned tasks in the class or labs;
- sleeping in class;
- arguing with the professor (disagreement issues including grading of work should be discussed privately with the professor during his or her office hours);
- participating in any activity that disrupts the class, including the use of cell phones and CD players. **Cell phones, beepers/pagers, and devices with headphones are to be turned off during class time.**

If a student is asked to leave the class because of disruptive behavior, the faculty member and the student are expected to meet to resolve the issue before the next class session (See the *Student Code of Conduct*, 07/01/03, for further information).

Academic Dishonesty/Misconduct:

Academic dishonesty in college is a very serious offense. Each student is expected to do his/her own work on all tests, papers, and other assignments. Students who engage in any act that the classroom instructor judges to be academic dishonesty or misconduct are subject to sanctions. (See the *Student Code of Conduct*, 07/01/03, for further information.)

Academic Dishonesty or Misconduct can occur in many ways. Some common forms include

- cheating on assignments or examinations;
- plagiarizing from written, video, or Internet resources;
- submitting materials that are not the student's own;
- taking examinations in the place of another student, including assessment tests.

For purposes of this course, any one of the above may result in a failure ('F' grade) for the course.

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.

General Education Requirement:

PHIL 140 fulfills a General Education Program Humanities Distribution requirement and the Global and Cultural Perspectives 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 personal lives. This course provides multiple opportunities to develop two or more of the following competencies: written and oral communication, scientific and quantitative reasoning, critical analysis and reasoning, technological competency, and information literacy. For more information, please see www.montgomerycollege.edu/gened.

General Information:

Be on time, and attend as many classes as possible. Late arrivals are an irritating distraction to both your fellow students and myself; early departures are just as rude. If you must leave early, please tell me beforehand. Bring the assigned texts with you. Be familiar with them beforehand. The instructor *may* drop students accumulating excessive absences; according to the College catalog, an excessive absence is "one more absence than the number of classes per week during a spring or fall semester." Common courtesy is expected. *All* electronic devices should be turned off. This includes notebook computers. Cell phones should be turned off or turned to vibrate. This class is only 55 minutes long: as an adult, you should not need to leave the room during this period. If you must, be discreet and do not make a habit out of it. Finally, if you are having difficulty in class, contact me as soon as possible. If you don't, there's nothing I can do to help you. If you find the texts and concepts difficult, come talk to me outside of class. If you have questions that are not discussed in class, come talk to me outside of class. If you can't make my office hours, we can make other arrangements or you can email me with questions.

I urge you to get to know one another. This is difficult material, and discussing it with your fellow students will be very beneficial to you. There is a reason that Plato presents Socratic *dialogues* rather than *monologues*.

Lastly, philosophy is hard. Students are frequently surprised by this fact, since in contemporary usage "philosophy" simply means one's general point of view. But this is not what philosophy means in an academic context. Likewise, the readings assigned in this class are not "textbook" readings. Often they are translations of works written hundreds, if not thousands of years ago. As such, they are not immediately clear in their meaning. You cannot simply "skim" the text in order to understand it. Instead, you must enter into a conversation with the text: asking the author *why* he or she makes this argument, *what* does it mean or imply, and how does it relate to other parts of the book or to other philosophers. Your goal here is not to learn *about* the philosophers we read, but to learn *from* them.

Because of this, it is *highly* recommended that you write in your books. Underline passages that seem important. Mark cross-references, and write comments, notes and questions in the margins. To truly engage these philosophers, one must enter into a conversation with them, and not read them passively. Real reading is done with a pen or pencil in hand. If you have any questions or concerns, please contact me, and I'll be happy to assist you.

Important Student Information Links:

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/>

The Academic Calendar is located at

<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>

Basic Needs Statement:

"Any student who has difficulty accessing sufficient food to eat every day, or who lacks a safe and stable place to live, is urged to contact the *Dean of Students Affairs* on your campus. Furthermore, please notify the professor if you are comfortable in doing so. This will enable the professor to provide any resources that they may possess. We know this can affect performance in the course and Montgomery College is committed to your success."

The Deans of Student Affairs, by Campus

Germantown: Dr. Jamin Bartolomeo, jamin.bartolomeo@montgomerycollege.edu

Rockville: Dr. Tonya R. Mason, tonya.mason@montgomerycollege.edu

Takoma Park/ Silver Spring: Dr. Clemmie Solomon, clemmie.solomon@montgomerycollege.edu

STUDENT HEALTH AND WELLNESS/ FUEL FOR SUCCESS WEBSITE

This website offers information about resources for food on our campuses and in the community and has links for community resources. The site offers the schedule for the mobile markets, locations of the food pantries as well as a link for those who wish to contribute their time or money to support our students <http://cms.montgomerycollege.edu/student-health-and-wellness/fuel-for-success/>

CAMPUS FOOD PANTRIES

Each of the main campuses has a pantry stocked with snacks and food. Students are welcome to come pick up a snack to carry you through your next class, and to take a few items home.

Campus	Pantry Location	Days & Hours of Operation
Germantown	<i>High Tech (HT) Food Pantry</i> In the hallway, near HT300	9:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.
Rockville	<i>Women's' and Gender Studies Program</i> <i>Food Pantry</i> Hallway outside of MT212 --- <i>Biology Department Food Pantry</i> Science Center, 2 nd floor hallway	Monday-Friday 9:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m. --- Monday-Friday 9:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.
Takoma Park/Silver Spring	<i>Commons Food Pantry</i> CM 110 ---	Monday - Thursday 8:00 a.m. - 7:00 p.m. Saturdays 9:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m.

<i>Institute for Justice, Race and Civic Engagement Food Pantry</i> Pavilion 4, #202 Vincent.intondi@montgomerycollege.edu	--- Monday and Wed: 12:30-4 Tuesday and Thursday: 2-4
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MOBILE MARKETS

The College has a partnership with the Capital Area Food Bank. They distribute a variety of foods at Mobile Markets, at each of the three main campuses. Food is available on a first-come basis for MC students, faculty/staff, and the community. The markets are open to the entire community. No proof of eligibility is required. For information on volunteering at the Mobile Markets, reach to Student Affairs, [Carmen Poston-Travis](#) 240-567-5253 or [Benita Rashaw](#) 240-567-4389. *Please consider volunteering at the Mobile Markets!*

Campus	Mobile Market Location	Time	Dates
Germantown	Outside SA (In inclement weather - High Tech Building (HT), Second Floor Upper Lobby)	10:00 a.m.- 12:00 p.m.	February 13, 2019 March 20, 2019 April 10, 2019 May 8, 2019
Rockville	Outside of the North Garage (NG)	10:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.	February 20, 2019 March 27 , 2019 April 17, 2019 May 15, 2019
Takoma Park/Silver Spring	Outdoor space between the Student Center and North Pavilion (In inclement weather - ST atrium)	2:00 p.m. - 4:00 p.m.	February 6, 2019 March 6, 2019 April 3, 2019 May 1, 2019

Important Administrative Dates:

1/29/2019	Deadline to drop with a refund
2/12/2019	Deadline to drop with no credit or change to audit
3/11/2019-3/17/2019	Spring Break: no classes
4/16/2019	Deadline to drop with a grade of 'W'
5/08/2019	Final Exam

Course Schedule of Readings and Assignments:**(The professor reserves the right to change/modify the course content/syllabus as needed)**

Week	Class Topics	Readings/Assignments Done Prior To Class
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*PHIL 140-32115: Introduction to the Study of Ethics, MWF, 11:00 a.m. – 11:50 a.m., HU 111.***The Context**

01/23	Introduction to the Course/Syllabus “What is Philosophy?” “What is Ethics”?	
01/25	Chp. 1: The Need for Ethics	Chapter 1
01/28	Chp. 1: The Need for Ethics	Chapter 1
01/30	Chp. 2: The Role of the Majority View	Chapter 2
02/01	Chp. 2: The Role of the Majority View	Chapter 2
02/04	Chp. 3: The Role of Feelings	Chapter 3
02/06	Chp. 3: The Role of Feelings	Chapter 3
02/08	Chp. 4: The Role of Conscience	Chapter 4
02/11	Chp. 4: The Role of Conscience	Chapter 4
02/13	Chp. 4: The Role of Conscience	Chapter 4
02/15	Chp. 5: Comparing Cultures	Chapter 5
02/18	Chp. 5: Comparing Cultures	Chapter 5
02/20	Chp. 5: Comparing Cultures	Chapter 5
02/22	<u>Review for Exam #1</u>	<u>Review</u>
02/25	Exam # 1	Exam # 1

The Strategy

02/27	Chp. 6: A Foundation for Judgment	Chapter 6
03/01	Chp. 6: A Foundation for Judgment	Chapter 6
03/04	Chp. 7: The Basic Criteria	Chapter 7
03/06	Chp. 7: The Basic Criteria	Chapter 7
03/08	Chp. 7: The Basic Criteria	Chapter 7
03/11	Spring Break	No Class
03/13	Spring Break	No Class
03/15	Spring Break	No Class
03/18	Chp. 8 (9): Considering Obligations	Chapter 8 (9)
03/20	Chp. 8 (9): Considering Obligations	Chapter 8 (9)
03/22	Chp. 9 (10): Considering Moral Ideals	Chapter 9 (10)
03/25	Chp. 10 (8): Considering Consequences	Chapter 10 (8)
03/27	Chp. 11: Determining Moral Responsibility	Chapter 11
03/29	<u>Review for Exam # 1</u>	<u>Review</u>
04/01	Exam # 2	Exam # 2

The Tradition

04/03	Chp. 12: “A Perspective on History”: The Classical Period	Chapter 12
04/05	No Class	Assignment Given
04/08	No Class	Assignment Given
04/10	Chp. 12: “A Perspective on History”: The Medieval Period The Modern Period	Chapter 12
04/12	Assignment Due Chp. 12: “A Perspective on History”: The Ethics of Duty (Deontology) The Ethics of Consequences (Utilitarianism)	Chapter 12
04/15	Chp. 12: “A Perspective on History”: More Recent Developments Great Issues in Ethics	Chapter 12
04/16	Deadline to drop with a grade of ‘W’	

Contemporary Ethical Controversies

04/17	Student Presentations	Student Presentations
04/19	Student Presentations	Student Presentations
04/22	Student Presentations	Student Presentations
04/24	Student Presentations	Student Presentations
04/26	Student Presentations	Student Presentations
04/29	Student Presentations	Student Presentations
05/01	Student Presentations	Student Presentations
	Final, Take-Home, Exam Given	Final Exam Given
05/03	Student Presentations	Student Presentations
	<u>Final Review</u>	<u>Final Review</u>
05/08	Final, Take-Home, Exam Due	Final Exam Due at 10:15 AM