

**Directed Individual Study: Meta-Ethics**  
**Phil 4396.001 Spring 2012**  
**Prof. Glenn Tiller**

**Essay Assignment**  
**Date Due: February 15<sup>th</sup>**

**Write an essay (1000 words max.) on one of the following topics.**

1. In his paper “Ethics and Observation” Gilbert Harman asserts that “Moral principles do not seem to help explain your observing what you observe”. What does Harman mean by this assertion? How does he arrive this view? If correct, what implications are there for ethics? Answer these questions and critically evaluate Harman’s position.

2. Explain and critically evaluate G. E. Moore’s objections to “ethical naturalism”. Do you think Moore is right? Defend your view.

**Format:** Your essay should be double-spaced, with 1 inch margins and a 12 pt. font. Please do not put your essay in any sort of plastic or paper folder.

**General Advice:** Strive to be concise. Do not add any filler and avoid long or block quotations. If you quote from a reading, be sure to cite the page. Define your terms. Everything you say should contribute to either (1) an explanation of the ideas under question or (2) a critical analysis of those ideas. You are strongly encouraged to get started on your essay as early as possible.

**Drafts:** I am happy to meet with you *in person* to discuss drafts. Feel free to drop by for a chat so we can discuss paper structure, arguments, passages of text, and any questions you might have.

**Lateness Policy:** Papers submitted without medical excuse after the due date will be penalized by one letter point (approximately 4 percent) per day late.

**The fine print:** Please familiarize yourself with the rules concerning plagiarism covered in the TAMUCC student handbook. Any student found plagiarizing, submitting a paper not his or her own, or handing in previously submitted work, will receive a grade of zero for that material, and will be subject to additional sanctions subsequent to an investigation by the Dean.