

# Introduction to Philosophy PHI 2010

Section 14811 Spring B 2024 (3 Credit Hours)

January 5 – February 28 2024

Gulf Coast State College

Instructor: Tara VanNette



## *Section I—Introduction*

- For any syllabus posted prior to the beginning of the term, the instructor reserves the right to make minor changes prior to or during the term. The instructor will notify students via e-mail or Canvas announcement when changes are made in the requirements and/or grading of the course.
- Online Courses at Gulf Coast State College: All online courses at GCSC utilize the Canvas Learning System. Students should read all information presented in the Canvas course site and should periodically check for updates—at least every 48 hours.
- Remember: This course is not one in which students may work at their own pace. Each week there are learning modules, assignments, online lectures, online discussions, and/or online exams with due dates. Refer to the schedule within this syllabus for more information.

## Instructor and Division Information

Instructor: Tara M. VanNette

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Contact: [Adjunct off campus but can make arrangements to talk in person via phone or zoom, please contact me to make arrangements.](#)

### **Social Sciences Office Contacts:**

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## Office Hours

I am off campus but can “meet” via telephone, or Zoom. If you need to talk with me please send me an email and I will make the necessary arrangements. I will schedule a zoom meeting the first week of class and during the midterm. You will not be required to attend but it is highly encouraged.

## Technology Requirements for this Course

### Computer Systems

Check to make sure your computer is compatible with the Learning Management System (LMS) used to deliver and manage course content. <https://www.gulfcoast.edu/current-students/canvas.html> Your computer needs to be configured per recommended settings. Failure to do so often results in test submission and other participative action errors. These types of errors are usually not accepted as an excuse for missed submissions.

### GCSC Computer Lab

If you do not have access to a computer and reliable Internet connection at home, access to computer labs is available on campus. It is your responsibility to arrange for transportation to and from computer labs.

### Student Computer & Learning Management System Skills

Basic web-browsing skills and understanding the functions of the LMS are required skills to function and succeed in an online course.

This course is taught completely (or partially) online via the Internet. You must have access to a computer with reliable Internet access to take this course.

Plan on logging into the course website (for each course) 4-5 times per week.

You should have a backup plan in place for those times when your regular method of accessing the online classroom is unavailable. Computer problems or Internet connection problems are not acceptable excuses for turning work in late.

## Technical Assistance:

- Technical support is available by phone 24 hours a day 7 days per week by calling (850) 913-3303.
- Technicians are available on the Panama City Campus from 8:00 am to 4:00 pm Monday through Friday.

## THE FOLLOWING POLICIES APPLY TO ALL GULF COAST STATE COLLEGE SOCIAL SCIENCE COURSES

Academic Integrity Policy - Honest participation in academic endeavors fosters an environment in which optimal learning can take place and is consistent with the college's mission. Academic misconduct is destructive to the spirit of an educational environment and therefore will not be tolerated.

The following definitions will apply:

- a. "Cheating" includes but is not limited to use of any unauthorized assistance in taking quizzes, tests or examinations; dependence upon the aid of sources beyond those authorized by the instructor in writing papers, preparing reports, solving problems, or carrying out other assignments; the acquisition without permission of tests or other academic materials belonging to a member of the College's faculty.
- b. Plagiarism includes, but is not limited to, the use by paraphrase or direct quotation of the published or unpublished work of another person without full and clear acknowledgment.

- “Self-plagiarism” occurs when a student submits the same or considerably similar document to fulfill requirements in different classes. For example, if a student submits a term paper in Religion they originally wrote for an English class, this is self-plagiarism.
  - Plagiarism also includes the unacknowledged use of materials prepared by another person or agency engaged in the selling of term papers or other academic materials.
  - **Plagiarism also includes overuse of an editing program like Grammarly or submitting work written by an Artificial Intelligence (AI) generator like ChatGPT.** Make certain to consult your course syllabi for your instructors’ guidelines on AI material.
- c. Individual instructors or programs may provide students with additional academic integrity policy statements at the start of a semester.
  - d. Sanctions for incidences of academic misconduct, depending on the severity of the incidence and/or its repetition, may range from receiving an F grade (or zero) for the test, assignment, or activity to failure of the course, to suspension, or dismissal from the program or the college.
  - e. An instructor who believes that an incidence of academic misconduct has occurred will discuss it immediately with the student. If, in the judgment of the instructor, the student has committed an act of academic misconduct, or if the student admits that there has been misconduct, the instructor will assess the appropriate penalty.
  - f. Instances of admitted or proven academic misconduct should be reported in writing to the Dean of Student Life. The purpose of this reporting is to track individuals who have repeated incidences. The Vice President of Academic Affairs reserves the right to pursue disciplinary action against a student if deemed necessary.
  - g. Students who think they have been treated unfairly may invoke the Student Academic Grievance Procedure.

**Student Accessibility Statement** - Gulf Coast State College supports an inclusive learning environment for all students. If there are aspects of the instruction or design of this course that hinder your full participation, reasonable accommodations can be arranged. Prior to receiving accommodations, you must register with Student Accessibility Resources. Appropriate academic accommodations will be determined based on the documented needs of the student. For information regarding the registration process, email [sar@gulfcoast.edu](mailto:sar@gulfcoast.edu) or call 850-747-3243.

**Recording Lectures** - In accordance with federal and state privacy laws, students may record class lectures for their own personal educational use, in connection with a complaint to the college, or as evidence in internal or external legal proceedings. Students may not publish or upload the recordings or any components thereof without the knowledge and written permission of the faculty member. Failure to obtain permission to publish could lead to the students’ having to pay damages, attorney fees, and court costs. For more information about what can be recorded, please see the guidelines in the GCSC Student Handbook.

**Email & Voicemail Response Time** - Instructors will check and respond to messages sent to their gulfcoast.edu email within 48 hours during scheduled workdays, barring illness or emergencies. The instructor may not check email during holidays or weekends. This policy also applies to messages sent via

Canvas, as well as voicemails left on a provided phone number.

**Attendance** - Regular class attendance and participation are significant factors that help to promote success in college. In face-to-face courses, students are required to be in class at the beginning of each class session, as attendance will be taken at this time. If a student arrives late, it is his/her responsibility to inform the instructor after class of his/her presence. Failure to do so may result in the student being marked as “Absent.” Attendance in an online/hybrid CANVAS class is defined as submission of complete written assignments prior to their posted deadline.

**Withdrawals** - Students may withdraw themselves from any course until the published withdrawal deadline for that term in the Gulf Coast State College catalog. Students wishing to withdraw from a course and receive a “W” must complete a withdrawal form and submit this to the Office of Enrollment Services prior to the scheduled withdrawal date as published on the college calendar. Social Sciences instructors do not withdraw students from their individual courses under any circumstances. If you feel you have a unique situation that warrants removal from all of your courses for a term after the withdrawal deadline has passed, you may contact the Vice President of Student Affairs to discuss your situation.

**Consequences of Withdrawals** - Two withdrawals are permitted per credit course; after that, a grade will be assigned. Please be concerned about withdrawals. When admitting students into certain programs, universities may calculate withdrawals as grades. It is your responsibility to verify the effects of enrollment and/or withdrawal upon your financial assistance (financial aid, scholarships, grants, etc.).

**Incomplete Grades** - Grades of Incomplete in any Social Sciences course can only be assigned to students who have an emergency arise during the last two weeks of the course.

To receive an Incomplete, students must:

- Submit a written request to the instructor prior to the last face-to-face class meeting. For online courses, a written Incomplete request must be received no later than the week before the Final Exam period begins.
- Have completed no less than 60 percent of the course requirements and be passing the course at the time the request for an Incomplete is submitted.

Important Note: The Incomplete option provides 30 days from the date grades are due to make up any missing work; if work is not submitted during this period, the grade will automatically change to an “F.”

## *Section II—What and how the course works*

### Course Description and Broad Goals

(Offered fall, spring, and summer). Prerequisite: ENCI101 with a minimum grade of “C.” (Meets Philosophy/Religion Humanities requirement.)

- This is a foundation course in philosophy. Students will learn about topics such as epistemology, metaphysics, and ethics. The course introduces the methods of philosophy, addresses some major philosophical questions, and examines the views of various philosophers from around the world. This course is a Gordon Rule Writing course where students will produce extensive college-level writing and require completion with a minimum grade of “C.”
- The course instruction implements reading, lecture, and discussion boards.
- The broad goals of the course include investigating perennial philosophical questions, examining theories that attempt to answer these questions, and developing the ability to identify, evaluate, and construct arguments.

## Textbook

[Beginning Philosophy](#) by Dr. Ryan Hubbard. This can only be found on the course's Canvas.

## Student Expectation Statement

It is expected that you read and accept the terms of both the syllabus and the course information found on Canvas.

It is expected that you log on to your course multiple times throughout the week so that you can complete the weekly assignments on time (due dates are always on Sunday prior to 11:59 PM CST)

It is expected that you start working on the course required research paper quickly and not wait until the night before it is due.

It is expected that if you are having any problems with the course material that you contact the instructor so you can receive the necessary guidance you need.

### **Suggested Study Time:**

In order to be successful in this course, you will need to spend approximately 6-9 hours per week studying the material covered in class (3 credit hour course x 2-3 study hours per credit hour = 6-9 study hours per week). You will also need to have a good understanding of your learning style as well as the best time and place for you to study. To discover your learning style, go here: <http://www.how-to-study.com/learning-style-assessment/>

### **Study tips:**

1. Organize your workspace and priorities.
2. Organize your time by using a planner and to-do lists, creating a model semester schedule, and breaking large tasks into smaller ones.
3. Allow extra time (overestimate the amount of time needed to complete a task).
4. Use "hidden" time to study, such as in between commercial breaks of your favorite show or when waiting for the bus.
5. Learn to say "no" to distractions or things that interfere with your main priorities.
6. Work with, not against, your personal time-clock (if you're not a morning person, don't schedule your study time for 8 am).

## Student Learning Outcomes

**Philosophical Thought:** Students will comprehend and analyze various concepts, ideas, and theories in philosophy.

**Critical Thinking:** Students will develop the ability to evaluate their own and others' philosophical views. Students will learn how to engage issues through questioning.

**Cultural Literacy:** Students will develop an appreciation of human culture and its diversity through the comprehension and evaluation of historical and contemporary philosophical problems

**Social Skills:** Students will develop and use social skills by engaging in interpersonal deliberation.

## Grading Information

### ***Grade Scale***

A	90-100
B	80-89
C	70-79

D 60-69  
F 0-59

## *Course Requirements & percentage of overall grade*

### Research Paper—35%

This course does require a research paper (Gordon Rule). You will be given further instructions on how to complete this portion of the class. There will be mini research assignments in addition to a final draft of a 5-7 page argumentative research paper.

### Midterm & Final Exam—15%

You will complete a comprehensive final exam. The final will be completed on Canvas. The final exam can consist of short essay and essay questions, multiple choice, T/F, fill in the blank, multiple answers.. You will have 3 days to work on the final exam. See class schedule for time frame of the final exam.

### Assignments, quizzes & discussions –50%

A quiz will be required for nearly every chapter. Quizzes can take the following formats: essay, short essay, multiple choice, true/false, matching, fill in the blank, outlines. You will have unlimited time for the quizzes however you only have one attempt. **Quizzes cannot be made up.\*** Emergencies are exempt from this policy but do require notification and documentation and are left to the discretion of the instructor. It is highly recommended that you read the chapter and any other required readings before attempting the quiz as you only have one attempt.

Each week you will have a discussion board and/or assignments to complete. The instructions for each discussion and/or assignment will be posted during the week a discussion or assignment is due. This category will also include your research paper assignments.

## *Section III—other information*

### Turnitin

GCSC maintains a site license agreement for an online text matching service called Turnitin. Turnitin will be used to help determine the originality of students' papers, and to help detect plagiarism.

### Netiquette

Netiquette is important when communicating with your instructor and your fellow students in an online course. Follow these guidelines:

1. Be clear.
  - a. Use Standard English and do not abbreviate.
  - b. Spell-check, revise and edit your messages before sending them.
  - c. Use appropriate subject lines that reflect the content of the message.
2. Be polite and careful.
  - a. Do not use ALL UPPERCASE LETTERS!!! or multiple exclamation marks, as this sometimes makes it difficult to understand the tone of the message.
  - b. Typing in all capital letters is analogous to yelling at someone.
  - c. Similarly, avoid sarcasm and irony, which can be easily misinterpreted by the reader.
3. Demonstrate respect for the opinions of others when responding to your classmates.
4. Disagree respectfully and with facts, not gossip.
5. Be inclusive. Send group messages to all members as well as to the instructor to ensure that all lines of communication stay open.

***Section VI—Course Schedule\**** *the schedule listed below is subject to change depending on the class situation, check Canvas for updates*

\*\* See canvas for the assignments, quizzes and exams