

Catalog/Course Description and Broad Goals:

- 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.

Prerequisites: ENC1101 with a minimum grade of "C".

Credit Hours: 3

Textbook: [Beginning Philosophy](#), Ryan Hubbard

Instructor Information

- Dena Hurst, Ph.D.
- Office Hours: My office hours are from 12:00-2:00 pm Monday through Thursday. But since this is an online course, office hours are flexible. If you need to reach me, send me a note through Canvas and respond within 24 hours usually, 48 hours on a weekend.
- Email: dhurst@gulfcoast.edu

Learning Outcomes

1. Theory: Students will gain a comprehension of various ethical theories and how to apply them to issues in biomedical ethics.
2. Critical Thinking: students will evaluate the validity of their own and others' ideas by questioning and analyzing issues in biomedical ethics.
3. Cultural Literacy: students will gain an appreciation of human culture and its diversity through the evaluation and analysis of contemporary biomedical ethical problems.
4. Social Skills: students will develop and use social skills by engaging in interpersonal deliberation.

Technology Requirements

Canvas is where course content, grades, and communication will reside for this course.

For Canvas, passwords, or any other computer-related technical support contact the IT Service Help Desk. Technical support is available by phone 24 hours a day 7 days per week by calling (850) 913-3303.

Textbook & Reading Materials

[Beginning Philosophy](#), Ryan Hubbard (Click the link to download)

Syllabus Policy

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.

Course Policies

Student Expectation Statement:

Students are expected to come to class prepared to engage in discussion. Preparing for class requires reading the assigned reading.

Student/Instructor Communication Policy:

Canvas Inbox is the preferred method of communication for private messages between the students and the instructor. You can expect that your instructor will respond to messages in Canvas within 1 - 2 business days unless noted otherwise. My preferred method of communication is email.

Assignment of Grades:

- Quizzes & Assignments: 20%
- Paper: 20%
- Reflective Project: 10%
- Final Exam: 25%
- Midterm Exam: 15%
- Philosophy Journal: 10%

Assessment Detail:

- **Quizzes and Assignments:** There will be weekly quizzes and/or assignments to complete through Canvas. They can be found in the modules. You cannot make them up, but I drop the lowest three grades.
- **Argumentative Paper:** You will be required to write a 1200-word argumentative paper. Details will be provided later in the semester. See the schedule for paper workshop dates and due dates.
- **Reflective Project:** You will be required to develop a reflective project based on your journal entries. Details will be provided later in the semester. See the schedule for the due date.
- **Final Exam:** See the schedule for the exam date.
- **Midterm Exam:** See the schedule for the exam date.

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- **Philosophy Journal:** You are required to write 10 weekly journal entries in Canvas. Each of these should be at least 150 words. Prompts will be given each week via Canvas. Points will be taken off if you do not reach the word count.

Disclaimer: Canvas course grades may not be 100% accurate.

Make-Up Work Policy:

- Assignments will not be accepted late. If you believe there are extenuating circumstances please contact the instructor.

Grade Scale

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

Other Course Policies

- You are responsible for checking canvas announcements daily. I recommend having canvas announcements forwarded to your email.
- Class rosters are provided to the instructor with the student's legal name. I will gladly honor your request to address you by an alternate name or gender pronoun. Please advise me of this preference early in the semester so that I may make appropriate changes to my records. Feel free to speak to me in person or email me: rhubbard2@gulfcoast.edu

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 the 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 report 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 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 the submission of complete written assignments prior to their posted deadline.

Withdrawal policy for on-campus, face-to-face courses: If a student is absent more than 1/8 of a semester (four class meetings) with unexcused absences before the official published withdrawal deadline of the semester, the student may be withdrawn from the class by full-time faculty consistent with GCSC withdrawal policy.

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. 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."

Social Sciences Division Contact Information

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