

PHI 2010 Course Syllabus

Summer 2026 (6/8/2026 - 7/31/2026)

PHI 2010 - 51883 (WEB)

Course Description

Prerequisite: ENC1101 with a minimum grade of "C." (Meets Philosophy/Religion Humanities requirement.) In this course, students will be introduced to the nature of philosophy, philosophical thinking, major intellectual movements in the history of philosophy, including topics from the Western philosophical tradition, and various problems in philosophy. Students will strengthen their intellectual skills, become more effective learners, and develop broad foundational knowledge. PHI 2010 requires that students produce extensive college-level writing and complete the course with a minimum grade of "C."

Credit Hours: 3

Textbook: *Beginning Philosophy*, Ryan Hubbard. Available on Canvas.

Instructor Information

- James Simpson, Ph.D.
- Online Office Hours: T, 9:00 AM – 11:00 AM. The Zoom link is available on Canvas. You can also email me for the Zoom link.
- Email: jsimpson8@gulfcoast.edu

Learning Outcomes/SLOs

Students will:

- Students will develop critical thinking skills.
- Students will demonstrate an understanding of classical Western philosophical views.
- Students will analyze, explain, and evaluate foundational concepts of epistemology, metaphysics, and ethics.

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 (free to students through Canvas)

Other required readings will be made available on Canvas.

Syllabus Policy

For any syllabus posted before the beginning of the term, the instructor reserves the right to make minor changes before 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 do the assigned readings, review the lecture material and other assigned resources, and complete all assigned work.

Student/Instructor Communication Policy:

Canvas Inbox is the preferred method of communication for private messages between students and the instructor. You can expect that your instructor will respond to messages in Canvas within 24-48 business days unless noted otherwise.

Assignment of Grades:

- Discussion posts: 10%
- Short Writing Assignments: 20%
- Argumentative Paper: 25%
- Final Exam: 25%
- Quizzes: 20%

Assessment Detail:

- *Short Writing Assignments:* There will be two 300-word writing assignments during the semester. They will be short expository essays on some topic or view discussed in the class. They cannot be made up. If you believe there are extenuating circumstances, then please contact me.
 - *Due dates:* 06/28 and 7/14
- *Quizzes:* Most weeks, there will be a quiz on that week's readings. It will be a simple true-false quiz. These are very easy quizzes if you have done the relevant readings. Quizzes cannot be made up. If you believe there are extenuating circumstances, then please contact me.
- *Discussion:* There will be five discussion assignments throughout the semester. You will be required to ask a single but genuine question about that week's readings or to make a single critical comment about that week's readings.
- *Paper:* You will be required to write one five-page argumentative essay (1200-2000 words). Paper topics will be assigned. The paper will test your understanding of the course material and your skill at writing philosophical essays in the analytical style. More details will be provided later in the semester. Papers will not be accepted late.
 - *Due date:* 07/27
- *Final Exam:* The final exam will be cumulative and multiple-choice, true-false. You will take it online.
 - *Due date:* 07/31

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

GRADES FOR ASSIGNMENTS WILL BE POSTED WITHIN TWO WEEKS.

GCSC Grade Scale

90 – 100 = A

80 – 89 = B

70 – 79 = C

60 – 69 = D

Below 60 = D

Course Schedule by Topics

1. Arguments
2. Ontological Argument
3. Contingency Argument
4. Fine-Tuning Argument
5. Problem of Evil
6. Pascal's Wager
7. Gettier Problem
8. Final Exam

Make-Up Work Policy:

- Assignments will not be accepted late unless there are properly documented extenuating circumstances. Please contact the instructor if this applies to you.

Other Course Policies

- You are responsible for checking Canvas announcements daily. I recommend having Canvas announcements forwarded to your email.
- Professional courtesy and sensitivity are important concerning individuals and topics dealing with differences of race, culture, religion, politics, sexual orientation, gender, and nationalities.

Institutional Policies

Academic Integrity

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, including cheating or plagiarism, is destructive to the spirit of an educational environment. GCSC professors report every instance of student academic misconduct to the college for inclusion in the student's records.

“Cheating” includes but is not limited to the use of any unauthorized assistance in completing coursework.

“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 as well as the purchase of papers or projects.

“Self-plagiarism” occurs when a student submits the same or a considerably similar document to fulfill requirements in different classes. For example, if a student submits a term paper in Religion that they originally wrote for an English class, this is self-plagiarism. Once a paper receives a grade in one class, it cannot be submitted again for another class.

AI Policy: Prohibited Use of AI: The use of AI-generated content is strictly prohibited in all assignments, class work, and throughout all stages of the work process, such as brainstorming, outlining, or drafting. This includes, but is not limited to, tools such as ChatGPT, Copilot, and Grammarly's AI function. Use of AI tools will be treated as a violation of academic integrity and may result in penalties, including a zero on the assignment and additional disciplinary actions as outlined in the college's academic integrity policy.

Sanctions for incidents of academic misconduct, depending on the severity of the incident and/or its repetition, may range from receiving an F grade (or 0) for the test, assignment, or activity, to failure of the course, to suspension or dismissal from the college.

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 or 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 before their posted deadline.

Withdrawal Policy and "I" Grade 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 before the scheduled withdrawal date as published on the college calendar. 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 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 before 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” in Lighthouse.

Students with Disabilities

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. Before 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.

Classroom Recording

Under 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.

Division Contact Information

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