



Course Syllabus

Introduction to Philosophy

PHI 2600 / CRN: 82827 / Fall 2026

A Session (8/17/26 – 12/10/26)

Credit Hours: 3

Pre-requisites: ENC1101

Contact Information

Instructor

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Response Time: 24-48 hours

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Course Information

Important Note

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.

Catalog Description:

Prerequisite: ENC1101 with a minimum grade of "C." Through textbook readings and selected primary materials, including selections from the Western Canon, this introductory course centers on the various schools of thought that are foundational to the study of ethics and explores a range of contemporary ethical issues. PHI 2600 requires that students produce extensive college-level writing and complete the course with a minimum grade of "C."

Student Learning Outcomes:

Students will:

- Analyze various concepts, ideas, and theories in philosophy.
- Demonstrate an ability to evaluate their own and others' philosophical views.
- Demonstrate how to engage with issues through questioning.
- Demonstrate knowledge of human culture and its diversity through the comprehension and evaluation of historical and contemporary philosophical problems.
- Demonstrate social skills to engage in reasoned interpersonal deliberation.

Course Materials & Resources:

Doing Ethics: Moral Reasoning, Theory, and Contemporary Issues

(Seventh Edition, 2024)

Louis Vaughn

W. W. Norton & Company

ISBN : 9781324071266

Delivery Method:

This is a web-based course. 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 and within Canvas for more information.

Attendance and Make-Up Policies for this Course

Attendance Policy:

Although physical class meetings are not part of this course, participation in all interactive learning activities is required. Students “attend” class by listening to each of the lectures as assigned and taking thorough notes on each of them.

Make-Up Work Policy:

Late work should be the exception and not the norm. Missing any of the scheduled work may prevent completion of the course. If you foresee difficulty of any type (e.g., an illness, employment change, etc.) that may prevent completion of this course, notify the instructor as soon as possible. Failure to do so may result in failure for an assignment and/or failure of the course.

Late work will be accepted up to 4 weeks from the original due date. Late points of 10% per week are deducted. Exceptions to late points or make-up time limits will not be made beyond this date. Computer/technology problems do not constitute extraordinary circumstances because access to proper technology is required for this online class.

AI Policy for this Course

Generative AI Use with Permission and Disclosure

Students may use basic assistive technologies for spelling, grammar, and formatting (e.g., PaperRater or SpellCheckPlus). Generative AI tools (e.g., ChatGPT, Copilot, Grammarly’s AI function, etc.) may also be used for classes and/or assignments where instructors have given explicit permission. Students must clearly disclose and properly cite any AI-generated content used in their work, following course guidelines. Students are permitted to use AI only in the manner and means described by the instructor. Unacknowledged or unauthorized AI use 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.

Student Expectations

Communication and feedback within the course will occur primarily through Canvas.

Additionally, as a student at Gulf Coast State College, you are expected to:

- **Adhere to Course Guidelines:** Follow the instructions within the course syllabus along with any additional instructions provided by the instructor. Be certain you understand the course objectives, grading criteria, and academic policies.
- **Maintain Regular Contact:** Keep in touch with your instructor via Canvas email. Regular contact helps clarify doubts, share ideas, and foster a collaborative learning environment.
- **Active Participation:** Engage actively in the course and submit assignments on time. Your active participation is crucial for your academic success and contributes to a deeper learning experience.

As your instructor, my commitment to you is to:

- **Provide Timely Feedback:** I will review and provide feedback on your assignments and submissions promptly. My goal is to help you understand your strengths and areas for improvement.
- **Respond via Canvas Inbox:** I will respond to your emails or messages within 24-48 hours, excluding weekends unless otherwise noted. I understand the importance of clear and timely communication in addressing your questions and concerns.
- **Post Regular Announcements:** Announcements will be posted to keep you updated and help you manage your time. These reminders will include important dates, upcoming assignments, and any changes to the course schedule.
- **Maintain Weekly Office Hours:** I will maintain regular weekly office hours, but I can also be available by appointment. This is to ensure I'm available for any questions or concerns that may come up during the week.

Course Requirements:

Students enrolled in this course will be required to:

- Listen to and take thorough notes on the digital lectures and other resources assigned with each weekly Learning Module;
- Read all textbook chapters assigned with each Learning Module;
- Contribute to the Discussion Board in scheduled weeks;
- Complete all assignments as scheduled (see the course schedule below).
- Contact the instructor via email at once with any problems or issues. I cannot help you if I don't know what you are struggling with.

Assignments/Assessment Instruments

I. Quizzes/Exams

Quizzes will be given during the semester. The quizzes are multiple choice, true/false and short answer. All quizzes will be given through Canvas. There is no need to come to campus for testing unless you choose to.

II. Critical Thinking Essay

A 1,500-word research paper on a philosophical topic of your choice is required. Further instructions are provided in Canvas along with resources to assist in writing a philosophical paper.

III. Video Lectures

Each week, you are required to watch the week's recorded lecture, view the other assigned resources, and submit assignments designed to reinforce the week's learning and check comprehension. These weekly assignments are "critical thinking" activities.

IV. Discussions

Discussion assignments are scheduled throughout the course. Discussion posts can take place at your own pace, provided they are posted each work week by Sunday 11:59 pm.

Points are awarded based on the number and quality of posts. All posts should add substantively to our discussion and generate further discussion and additional in-depth analysis. All posts must be at least 150 words in length and include supporting citations referencing the digital lectures, readings or other assigned resources. Points are deducted for lack of citations and not meeting the required word minimum.

Course Schedule

Dates	Module	Module Assignments
8/17/26 – 8/23/26	Week 1 Chapter 1 & 2 Reading/ Resources	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• View module 1 lectures• Read/view module resources• Complete poster assessment• Discussion forum
8/24/26 – 8/30/26	Week 2 Chapters 3 & 4 Reading/ Resources	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• View module 2 lecture• Read/view module resources• Chapters 1-4 Quiz
8/31/26 – 9/6/26	Week 3 Chapter 5 Reading/ Resources	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• View module 3 lecture• Read/view module resources• Complete quizzes• Complete creative assessment• Discussion forum
9/7/26 – 9/13/26	Week 4 Chapter 6 Reading/ Resources	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• View module 4 lectures• Read/view module resources• Complete quiz• Complete creative assessment• Discussion forum

9/14/26 – 9/20/26	Week 5 Chapters 7-8 Reading/ Resources	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • View module 5 lectures • Read/view module resources • Complete quiz • Complete creative assessment • Discussion forum
9/21/26 – 9/27/26	Week 6 Chapter 10 Reading/ Resources	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • View module 6 lecture • Read/view module resources • Complete quiz • Critical thinking discussion
9/28/26 – 10/4/26	Week 7 Chapter 11 Reading/ Resources	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • View module 7 lecture • Read/view module resources • Complete quiz • Critical thinking discussion
10/5/26 – 10/11/26	Week 8 Chapter 19 Reading/ Resources	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • View module 8 lecture • Read/view module resources • Complete quiz • Critical thinking discussion • Reflection assessment
10/12/26 – 10/18/26	Week 9 Chapter 12 Reading/ Resources	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • View module 9 lecture • Read/view module resources • Complete quiz • Critical thinking discussion
10/19/26 – 10/25/26	Week 10 Chapter 15 Reading/ Resources	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • View module 10 lecture • Read/view module resources • Complete quiz • Critical thinking discussion
10/26/26 – 11/1/26	Week 11 Chapter 21 Reading/ Resources	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • View module 11 lecture • Read/view module resources • Complete quiz • Critical thinking discussion
11/2/26 – 11/8/26	Week 12 Chapter 22 Reading/ Resources	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • View module 12 lecture • Read/view module resources • Complete quiz • Critical thinking discussion • Writing assignment
11/9/26 – 11/15/26	Week 13 Chapter 20 Reading/ Resources	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • View module 13 lecture • Read/view module resources • Complete quiz • Critical thinking discussion
11/16/26 – 11/22/26	Week 14 Chapter 17 Reading/ Resources	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • View module 14 lecture • Read/view module resources • Complete creative assessment • Critical thinking discussion
11/23/26 – 11/29/26		Thanksgiving Break

11/30/26 – 12/6/26	Week 15 Personal Code of Ethics Reading/ Resources	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • View module lecture • Read/view module resources • Complete poster assignment • Discussion forum
12/8/26		Final Exam and all Late Work Due – No Exceptions
12/10/26		Course Ends – Final Grades Submitted

Grading

Grading Scale

All grades will be posted in the student grade book in Canvas and will be assigned according to the following scale:

A	90%-100%
B	80%-89%
C	70%-79%
D	60%-69%
F	59% and below

Grades are rounded to the nearest whole number. For example, 89.5% rounds to 90%, but 88.5% rounds to 89%. It is your responsibility to monitor your grades weekly to ensure you earn the grade you desire.

There are no extra credit assignments. Work cannot be redone to earn a higher score.

All written work undergoes review for plagiarism and use of AI. Incidents of plagiarism will be dealt with according to the College's Academic Integrity policies.

Calculation of Grades

Discussion 30%
Video lectures 25%
Assessments 25%
Essay 20%

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 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 sixty 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 all remaining work is not submitted during this period, the grade will automatically change to an "F."

General GCSC Course Policies

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. Please visit [GCSC's Student Accessibility Resource \(SAR\) webpage](#) to learn more. For information regarding the registration process, email sar@gulfcoast.edu or call 850-747-3243.

GCSC Attendance Policy

Regular class attendance and participation are significant factors that help to promote success in college. Students are expected to attend all class meetings of all courses for which they are registered.

You are expected to know the instructor's specific attendance policy as stated in the syllabus for each course. In the event of absence, you should contact your instructor as soon as possible to indicate the reason and to inquire whether make-up work is possible. (Make-up work is offered solely at the discretion of your professor.)

If your absences in a class become excessive, as stated in the course syllabus, your professor can withdraw you from the course for excessive absences without your permission.

Instructors will monitor attendance at the beginning of each semester. If you are not in attendance during this period, you may be withdrawn from the course. You will be financially responsible for the course, and a "W or NS" will appear on your transcript. Withdrawal from a course may also have implications for financial aid.

Withdrawal Policy

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.). There are two kinds of withdrawals - student and administrative.

- **Student Withdrawal (W1)** - Students wishing to withdraw must complete the online Student Withdrawal Form before the scheduled withdrawal deadline as published in the College catalog. Student withdrawals initiated prior to the scheduled withdrawal deadline will be recorded as a grade of "W." The withdrawal deadline for an off-term or condensed term is one week after midterm.

- **Administrative Withdrawal (W2)** – A faculty member may withdraw a student up to the published withdrawal deadline for violation of the class attendance policy, in which case the student will receive a grade of “W.” The withdrawal deadline for an off-term or condensed term is one week after midterm.

Students cannot withdraw from developmental studies courses (college-preparatory classes) after the drop/add period without written permission from their instructor and/or their academic advisor.

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 on the student’s records.

Most course syllabi include an academic honesty policy and the consequences for violating this policy. Familiarize yourself with course policies regarding authorized or unauthorized use of AI to avoid the pitfalls of academic dishonesty.

The following definitions will apply:

"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.

"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. It can also include 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 instructor's guidelines of AI material.

"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. Once a paper receives a grade in one class, it cannot be submitted again for another class.

"Generative Artificial Intelligence (AI)" is technology that uses machine learning to create new content, such as text, images, or code, based on user input. These systems are trained on vast amounts of data, including large language models and image or code generators. Common examples include ChatGPT, GitHub, Copilot, Google Gemini, Perplexity, and the Grammarly AI function.

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.

Classroom Recording

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.

Generative Artificial Intelligence (AI) Policy

The use of generative AI tools in academic work requires clear guidelines to maintain academic integrity. Please review the policy selected for this course regarding the use of AI tools such as ChatGPT, Copilot, Grammarly's AI features, and similar platforms for assignments, research, and other coursework.

See the student handbook for further information. Students with questions about acceptable use should consult their instructor.

Anti-Discrimination Policy

Gulf Coast State College does not discriminate against any person in its programs, activities, policies or procedures on the basis of race, ethnicity, color, national origin, marital status, religion, age, gender, sex, pregnancy, sexual orientation, gender identity, genetic information, disability, or veteran status.

All questions or inquiries regarding compliance with laws relating to non-discrimination and all complaints regarding sexual misconduct or discrimination may be directed to Amanda Reed, Executive Director of Human Resources/Title II/504/Title IX Coordinator and Employment Equity Officer, Gulf Coast State College, 5230 W. US Highway 98, Panama City, FL 32401; 850-769-1551, ext. 3516. Rules, policies, fees, and courses described in this catalog are subject to change without notice.

Student Support Resources

Gulf Coast State College is committed to providing you with the resources you need for success as a student and beyond. View all the academic and student support resources provided at GCSC on the [Student Services web page](#).

Course Technology & Support

To successfully participate in this online course, students must have basic computer and digital information literacy skills and meet the following technology requirements:

- Computer: Up-to-date web browser that supports the Canvas learning management system; please refer to the system requirements for compatibility and information on using the Canvas app on mobile devices.
- Internet Speed: Minimum bandwidth of 8 Mbps upload/download speed to effectively engage in online activities and access multimedia.
- Office 365 software: Available for free download through GCSC Information Technology Services (ITS).
- If you need technical support, contact the ITS Help Desk, available 24/7 at (850) 913-3303.