

# Philosophy 136, Fall '15: Section Syllabus

Quinn Gibson

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## 1 GSI (Me)

My name is Quinn Gibson. I am a Ph.D candidate in the philosophy department. I have undergraduate degrees in philosophy and linguistics from The University of Calgary (anyone know where that is?) where I also studied classical composition and orchestral conducting. My dissertation is about ‘dual-processing’ theories of cognition, self-deception, and addiction. I am also in the very early stages of co-writing a book about music and convention.

- **Office Hours:** Tuesdays 2:00 – 3:30 in 301 Moses Hall (the philosophy department graduate student lounge) and by appointment.
- **email:** qhgibson at berkeley dot edu

Email is the best way to get in touch with me to schedule an appointment, ask an administrative question, or a quick clarificatory question about the material. But I do try to avoid long substantive philosophical discussions over email. They become convoluted very quickly. It’s better to just schedule an appointment and meet in person if you want to really dig in.

If you lose these things (yet somehow manage to remember these instructions...) you can find them on the philosophy department’s website<sup>1</sup> → People → Graduate Students → Quinn Gibson

## 2 What Section is for

The primary purpose of this discussion section is to clarify material presented in lecture and from the reading and to give you an opportunity to engage critically with the material, with me, and with each other. I will almost always come with prepared remarks designed to emphasize features of the lectures or reading that I think are particularly difficult or particularly important. But this should be an open atmosphere. Bring questions from lecture. If you don’t understand something I say, ask. If you disagree with something that I say, speak up. Feel free to direct the discussion in directions that you find interesting and relevant. If I feel like we are getting off track, I will say so.

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<sup>1</sup><http://philosophy.berkeley.edu/>

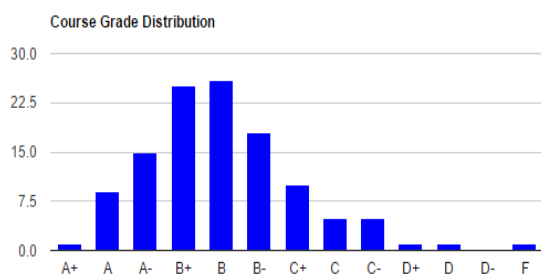
### 3 Turning in Assignments and Late Policy

In accordance with the course policy, without *prior* arrangement late papers will be penalized at one third of a letter grade per day (after one day, an ‘A’ becomes an ‘A-’; after two days, it becomes a ‘B+’ etc.)

You will submit your papers electronically. I will create a bCourses ‘assignment’ called, e.g., ‘First Paper (Quinn’s Students)’ and you will simply upload your .doc, .docx, .odt, .rtf or .pdf file there.

### 4 Grade Distribution

Here’s a grade distribution compiled from past versions of this course taught by Prof. Martin:<sup>2</sup>



The mean grade was a B and the mode was a B.

### 5 Academic Honesty

Plagiarism<sup>3</sup> is bad. Don’t do it. For one thing, it won’t help you. Plagiarized papers, even taken as they are, typically aren’t very good. For another I will probably catch you. And then we will both have to file a lot of paperwork, you will probably be given an F in the course, and you’ll have a file opened at the office of student conduct. If you have any questions about what constitutes plagiarism don’t hesitate to ask me. Every single semester I say the same thing, and every single semester we encounter cases of plagiarism. Don’t do it!

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<sup>2</sup>This information is publicly available at <https://schedulebuilder.berkeley.edu>

<sup>3</sup>See how easy it is to cite something? The code of student conduct defines what plagiarism is and is available online: <http://students.berkeley.edu/uga/conduct.pdf>