PHIL2010

Ethics, Business and Work

Session 1, Online-flexible 2024

Department of Philosophy

Contents

General Information

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Credit points 10
Prerequisites 40cp at 1000 level or above
Corequisites
Co-badged status
Unit description This unit investigates some of the main ethical issues that arise in professional life and from the activities of businesses and corporations. The unit explores the nature and value of work as well as its role in personal identity and social organisation. We also consider the obligations and responsibilities that come with professional work and the management of businesses. We examine the nature of corporations and their responsibilities to individual workers and consumers, stakeholders, groups such as women and minorities, and the environment.

Important Academic Dates

Information about important academic dates including deadlines for withdrawing from units are available at https://www.mq.edu.au/study/calendar-of-dates

Learning Outcomes

On successful completion of this unit, you will be able to:

ULO1: Demonstrate good general knowledge of the major issues in contemporary business and professional ethics.

ULO2: Understand the major ethical concepts and theories that inform the business and professional ethics literature.

ULO3: Analyse and critically evaluate theories and arguments in the relevant literature.

ULO4: Relate ethical concepts and theories to relevant case studies and current events.

ULO5: Develop your own perspective, through analysis of the views and arguments presented in the unit.

ULO6: Demonstrate improved skills in clarity of thought and communication.

General Assessment Information

Unless a Special Consideration request has been submitted and approved, a 5% penalty (of the total possible mark) will be applied each day a written assessment is not submitted, up until the 7th day (including weekends). After the 7th day, a mark of 0 (zero) will be awarded even if the assessment is submitted. Submission time for all written assessments is set at 11.55pm. A 1-hour grace period is provided to students who experience a technical issue.

This late penalty will apply to non-timed sensitive assessment (incl essays, reports, posters, portfolios, journals, recordings etc). Late submission of time sensitive tasks (such as tests/exams, performance assessments/presentations, scheduled practical assessments/labs etc) will only be addressed by the unit convenor in a Special consideration application. Special Consideration outcome may result in a new question or topic.

Note on Artificial Intelligence:

You have undoubtedly heard about ChatGPT and other Generative AI tools that can be used to generate content in relation to prompts. You may find it useful and interesting to see what these tools can tell you about some of the topics we're looking at. We will also be thinking about some interesting philosophical questions arising out of artificial intelligence. A few warnings are in order, though, about content generated by ChatGPT or similar tools:

1. It's not your work, so you can't submit it, or adapt it a bit and then submit it. This will count as a breach of the Academic Integrity Policy. This applies to any assessments.

2. It's not reliable. It gets a lot of things right, but it also gets things wrong, makes up references etc, and its outputs tend to be shallow and generic.

3. It doesn't count as research. We'll talk more later about what count as good sources for academic work, but using ChatGPT means you don't always have a way to trace and check the sources of the content you're using.

A useful analogy, I think, is to think of ChatGPT as being like a knowledgable but slightly unpredictable acquaintance. Talking to them might be a good way to get some ideas to inspire your own thinking and research, but you can't take what they say for granted, and you can't pretend their work is your own.

This unit covers a lot of really interesting topics. We want you to engage, and we want you to learn. You won't do that if you try to outsource your thinking.

Assessment Tasks

Name	Weighting	Hurdle	Due
Test	40%	No	07/04/2024 (11:55pm)
Case Study	40%	No	02/06/2024 (11:55pm)
Participation	20%	No	On-Going

Test

Assessment Type [1]: Quiz/Test
Indicative Time on Task [2]: 20 hours
Due: **07/04/2024 (11:55pm)**
Weighting: **40%**

A series of questions that assess your knowledge and understanding of concepts, methods and arguments in work and business ethics.

On successful completion you will be able to:
- Demonstrate good general knowledge of the major issues in contemporary business and professional ethics.
- Understand the major ethical concepts and theories that inform the business and professional ethics literature.
- Analyse and critically evaluate theories and arguments in the relevant literature.

Case Study

Assessment Type [1]: Case study/analysis
Indicative Time on Task [2]: 25 hours
Due: **02/06/2024 (11:55pm)**
Weighting: **40%**

Application of philosophical concepts, arguments and frameworks to a practical problem.

On successful completion you will be able to:
- Demonstrate good general knowledge of the major issues in contemporary business and

professional ethics.

- Understand the major ethical concepts and theories that inform the business and professional ethics literature.

- Analyse and critically evaluate theories and arguments in the relevant literature.

- Relate ethical concepts and theories to relevant case studies and current events.

- Develop your own perspective, through analysis of the views and arguments presented in the unit.

- Demonstrate improved skills in clarity of thought and communication.

Participation

Assessment Type [1]: Participatory task
Indicative Time on Task [2]: 15 hours
Due: **On-Going**
Weighting: **20%**

Engaging constructively in discussions and associated activities.

On successful completion you will be able to:

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- Understand the major ethical concepts and theories that inform the business and professional ethics literature.

- Analyse and critically evaluate theories and arguments in the relevant literature.

- Relate ethical concepts and theories to relevant case studies and current events.

- Develop your own perspective, through analysis of the views and arguments presented in the unit.

- Demonstrate improved skills in clarity of thought and communication.

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[1] If you need help with your assignment, please contact:

- the academic teaching staff in your unit for guidance in understanding or completing this type of assessment

- the Writing Centre for academic skills support.

[2] Indicative time-on-task is an estimate of the time required for completion of the assessment task and is subject to individual variation

Delivery and Resources

Required and recommended texts and/or materials

All weekly readings for the unit will be made available through the Leganto link in iLearn.

Lectures

Lectures in this unit will be delivered in-person and accessible through Echo 360 block. There will be two one-hour lectures for each of the 12 topics. You should watch these videos before attending the weekly tutorial.

Tutorials

For "on campus" students, tutorials in this unit will be held in-person each week of semester for one hour.

"Online flexible" students participate in assessed discussions.

Unit Webpages and E-Resources

Much of this unit (lectures, readings, assessment instructions etc.) is delivered online through iLearn (http://ilearn.mq.edu.au). PC and Internet access are required. Basic computer skills (e.g., internet browsing) and skills in word processing are also a requirement. Please consult teaching staff for any further, more specific requirements.

Unit Schedule

- Week 1: Introduction

- Week 2: What is work and why does it matter?

- Week 3: Work and freedom

- Week 4: The goods of work

- Week 5: Work in a just society

- Week 6: The end of work?

- Week 7: Business ethics: narrow and broad

- Week 8: Equality and freedom in the workplace

- Week 9: Sweatshops and globalisation

- Week 10: Discrimination, bias & stereotypes at work

- Week 11: Factoring animals into business ethics

- Week 12: Business and the environment

Policies and Procedures

Macquarie University policies and procedures are accessible from Policy Central (https://policies.mq.edu.au). Students should be aware of the following policies in particular with regard to Learning and Teaching:

- Academic Appeals Policy
- Academic Integrity Policy
- Academic Progression Policy
- Assessment Policy
- Fitness to Practice Procedure
- Assessment Procedure
- Complaints Resolution Procedure for Students and Members of the Public
- Special Consideration Policy

Students seeking more policy resources can visit Student Policies (https://students.mq.edu.au/support/study/policies). It is your one-stop-shop for the key policies you need to know about throughout your undergraduate student journey.

To find other policies relating to Teaching and Learning, visit Policy Central (https://policies.mq.edu.au) and use the search tool.

Student Code of Conduct

Macquarie University students have a responsibility to be familiar with the Student Code of Conduct: https://students.mq.edu.au/admin/other-resources/student-conduct

Results

Results published on platform other than eStudent, (eg. iLearn, Coursera etc.) or released directly by your Unit Convenor, are not confirmed as they are subject to final approval by the University. Once approved, final results will be sent to your student email address and will be made available in eStudent. For more information visit ask.mq.edu.au or if you are a Global MBA student contact globalmba.support@mq.edu.au

Academic Integrity

At Macquarie, we believe academic integrity – honesty, respect, trust, responsibility, fairness and courage – is at the core of learning, teaching and research. We recognise that meeting the expectations required to complete your assessments can be challenging. So, we offer you a range of resources and services to help you reach your potential, including free online writing and maths support, academic skills development and wellbeing consultations.

Student Support

Macquarie University provides a range of support services for students. For details, visit http://students.mq.edu.au/support/

The Writing Centre

The Writing Centre provides resources to develop your English language proficiency, academic writing, and communication skills.

- Workshops
- Chat with a WriteWISE peer writing leader
- Access StudyWISE
- Upload an assignment to Studiosity
- Complete the Academic Integrity Module

The Library provides online and face to face support to help you find and use relevant information resources.

- Subject and Research Guides
- Ask a Librarian

Student Services and Support

Macquarie University offers a range of Student Support Services including:

- IT Support
- Accessibility and disability support with study
- Mental health support
- Safety support to respond to bullying, harassment, sexual harassment and sexual assault
- Social support including information about finances, tenancy and legal issues
- Student Advocacy provides independent advice on MQ policies, procedures, and processes

Student Enquiries

Got a question? Ask us via AskMQ, or contact Service Connect.

IT Help

For help with University computer systems and technology, visit http://www.mq.edu.au/about_us/offices_and_units/information_technology/help/.

When using the University's IT, you must adhere to the Acceptable Use of IT Resources Policy. The policy applies to all who connect to the MQ network including students.

Unit information based on version 2024.03 of the Handbook