



# PHIL704

## Research Topics in Modern European Philosophy

S2 Day 2014

*Philosophy*

### Contents

<u>General Information</u>	2
<u>Learning Outcomes</u>	2
<u>Assessment Tasks</u>	3
<u>Delivery and Resources</u>	4
<u>Unit Schedule</u>	5
<u>Policies and Procedures</u>	6
<u>Graduate Capabilities</u>	8
<u>Changes from Previous Offering</u>	11

#### Disclaimer

Macquarie University has taken all reasonable measures to ensure the information in this publication is accurate and up-to-date. However, the information may change or become out-dated as a result of change in University policies, procedures or rules. The University reserves the right to make changes to any information in this publication without notice. Users of this publication are advised to check the website version of this publication [or the relevant faculty or department] before acting on any information in this publication.

## General Information

Unit convenor and teaching staff

Other Staff

Jean-Philippe Deranty

[jp.deranty@mq.edu.au](mailto:jp.deranty@mq.edu.au)

Contact via [jp.deranty@mq.edu.au](mailto:jp.deranty@mq.edu.au)

W6A 738

TBA

Credit points

4

Prerequisites

Admission to MRes

Corequisites

Co-badged status

Unit description

The unit will examine contemporary research in the field of Modern European Philosophy. Examples of areas to be explored include recent developments in the Frankfurt School tradition of Critical Theory (especially the 'recognition' paradigm'), theories of subjectivity and intersubjectivity, and recent developments in French Philosophy (especially aesthetics). The unit will revolve around a current 'hot' topic of research in this area. Students will be brought up to speed on this topic so that they are in a position to begin to pursue their own research project.

## 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:

Acquire a coherent and advanced knowledge in the area of: Philosophical Critique of Society.

Synthesise and analyse the key concepts and arguments in the area of Philosophical Critique of Society.

Articulate clearly and coherently philosophical arguments of Philosophical Critique of

Society in written and oral form.

Analyse and critically evaluate philosophical arguments and their application to contemporary social issues.

Apply acquired knowledge and skills in the context of philosophical scholarship.

Work in cooperation with others and reflect on individual and group performance to identify opportunities for improvement.

## Assessment Tasks

Name	Weighting	Due
<u>Text analysis</u>	15%	29/8, 10/10, 7/11
<u>Research essay</u>	60%	21/11
<u>Class presentation</u>	10%	throughout semester
<u>Seminar attendance</u>	15%	throughout semester

### Text analysis

Due: **29/8, 10/10, 7/11**

Weighting: **15%**

3 x 500 words analyses of readings

On successful completion you will be able to:

- Acquire a coherent and advanced knowledge in the area of: Philosophical Critique of Society.
- Articulate clearly and coherently philosophical arguments of Philosophical Critique of Society in written and oral form.
- Analyse and critically evaluate philosophical arguments and their application to contemporary social issues.

### Research essay

Due: **21/11**

Weighting: **60%**

1 x 3000-4000 word research essay

On successful completion you will be able to:

- Acquire a coherent and advanced knowledge in the area of: Philosophical Critique of

Society.

- Synthesise and analyse the key concepts and arguments in the area of Philosophical Critique of Society.
- Articulate clearly and coherently philosophical arguments of Philosophical Critique of Society in written and oral form.
- Analyse and critically evaluate philosophical arguments and their application to contemporary social issues.
- Apply acquired knowledge and skills in the context of philosophical scholarship.

## Class presentation

Due: **throughout semester**

Weighting: **10%**

Oral presentation on a given topic

On successful completion you will be able to:

- Articulate clearly and coherently philosophical arguments of Philosophical Critique of Society in written and oral form.
- Apply acquired knowledge and skills in the context of philosophical scholarship.
- Work in cooperation with others and reflect on individual and group performance to identify opportunities for improvement.

## Seminar attendance

Due: **throughout semester**

Weighting: **15%**

weekly attendance and participation in seminar discussion

On successful completion you will be able to:

- Acquire a coherent and advanced knowledge in the area of: Philosophical Critique of Society.
- Articulate clearly and coherently philosophical arguments of Philosophical Critique of Society in written and oral form.
- Work in cooperation with others and reflect on individual and group performance to identify opportunities for improvement.

## Delivery and Resources

The unit explores the possibility of a philosophically informed critique of society by confronting two key authors in the French and German traditions of "Critical Theory": Jacques Rancière and

Axel Honneth.

The unit will be delivered by way of weekly seminars.

The main texts will be provided through the unit's iLearn space.

Further references and sources will be provided during the semester.

## Unit Schedule

<b>Week 1</b>	<b>Introduction</b>  Aims of the unit: What is a philosophical critique of society? What are its conceptual tools, its key concepts, its limitations?  Unit structure and content: the works of Axel Honneth and Jacques Rancière.  Assignments; allocation of seminar presentations
<b>Week 2</b>	<b>Axel Honneth's Conception of Critical Theory</b>  <u>Readings:</u>  Axel Honneth, "Pathologies of the Social"  Axel Honneth, chapter 8 of his <i>Struggle for Recognition</i> .
<b>Week 3</b>	<b>Jacques Rancière's Critical Theory</b>  <u>Reading:</u>  Jacques Rancière, "Ten Theses on Politics"
<b>Week 4</b>	<b>A Common Ancestor? Critical Theories and their Relationships to Marx</b>  <u>Readings:</u>  Axel Honneth, "Domination and Moral Struggle", chap. 1 of his <i>The Fragmented World of the Social</i>  Emmanuel Renault, "The Many Marx of Jacques Rancière", chap 10 in JP Deranty and A Ross (eds) <i>Jacques Rancière and the Contemporary Scene</i> .
<b>Week 5</b>	<b>The Norms of Critique: Freedom as Autonomy</b>  <u>Reading:</u>  Axel Honneth, Chapter 9 of his <i>Struggle for Recognition</i>  Axel Honneth, Introduction, <i>Freedom's Right</i>
<b>Week 6</b>	<b>The Norms of Critique: Radical Equality</b>  <u>Readings:</u>  Jacques Rancière, extracts from <i>The Ignorant Schoolmaster</i>  Jacques Rancière, "The Method of Equality"

<b>Week 7</b>	<p><b>Which Community? Society or the People?</b></p> <p><u>Readings:</u></p> <p>Axel Honneth, Chapter 3, <i>Freedom's Right</i></p> <p>Jacques Rancière, "Does Democracy mean something?"</p>
	<b>Mid-semester Break</b>
<b>Week 8</b>	<p><b>The Subject of Politics</b></p> <p><u>Readings:</u></p> <p>Axel Honneth, "Appropriating Freedom"</p> <p>Jacques Rancière, "Work, Identity, Subject"</p>
<b>Week 9</b>	<p><b>Self-realisation or Democracy: Conceptions of Emancipation</b></p> <p><u>Readings:</u></p> <p>Axel Honneth,</p> <p>Jacques Rancière, chapter 3 of <i>The Hatred of Democracy</i></p>
<b>Week 10</b>	<p><b>Critical Categories: Reification, Ideology, End of Politics</b></p> <p><u>Readings:</u></p> <p>Axel Honneth, "Ideology", extracts from <i>Reification</i></p> <p>Jacques Rancière, last chapter of <i>Disagreement</i></p>
<b>Week 11</b>	<p><b>History of Struggles, History of Progress?</b></p> <p><u>Readings:</u></p> <p>Axel Honneth, "Perspectives for a recognition-theoretical conception of justice", in <i>Redistribution or Recognition?</i></p> <p>Jacques Rancière, extracts from <i>The Names of History</i></p>
<b>Week 12</b>	<p><b>The Method of Social Criticism. Hermeneutics versus Aesthetics</b></p> <p><u>Readings:</u></p> <p>Axel Honneth, "Disclosing Critique", extracts from <i>Freedom's Right</i></p> <p>Jacques Rancière, extracts from <i>The Nights of Labour</i>, "The Aesthetic Revolution and Its Outcomes"</p>
<b>Week 13</b>	Review

## Policies and Procedures

Macquarie University policies and procedures are accessible from [Policy Central](#). Students should be aware of the following policies in particular with regard to Learning and Teaching:

Academic Honesty Policy [http://mq.edu.au/policy/docs/academic\\_honesty/policy.ht](http://mq.edu.au/policy/docs/academic_honesty/policy.ht)

[ml](#)

Assessment Policy <http://mq.edu.au/policy/docs/assessment/policy.html>

Grading Policy <http://mq.edu.au/policy/docs/grading/policy.html>

Grade Appeal Policy <http://mq.edu.au/policy/docs/gradeappeal/policy.html>

Grievance Management Policy [http://mq.edu.au/policy/docs/grievance\\_management/policy.html](http://mq.edu.au/policy/docs/grievance_management/policy.html)

Disruption to Studies Policy [http://www.mq.edu.au/policy/docs/disruption\\_studies/policy.html](http://www.mq.edu.au/policy/docs/disruption_studies/policy.html) *The Disruption to Studies Policy is effective from March 3 2014 and replaces the Special Consideration Policy.*

In addition, a number of other policies can be found in the [Learning and Teaching Category](#) of Policy Central.

## **Student Code of Conduct**

Macquarie University students have a responsibility to be familiar with the Student Code of Conduct: [https://students.mq.edu.au/support/student\\_conduct/](https://students.mq.edu.au/support/student_conduct/)

### **Extensions and special consideration**

#### **Extensions and Penalties**

All work must be submitted on time unless an extension has been granted. Requests for extensions must be made in writing (including email) BEFORE the due date and will only be considered on serious grounds. Extensions will not be given unless good reasons and appropriate evidence (e.g., medical certificates, counsellor's letters) are presented at the earliest opportunity. Please note that work due concurrently in other subjects is NOT an exceptional circumstance and does not constitute a legitimate reason for an extension.

If the assessment is submitted after the due date and an extension has not been granted then the work will be graded normally (out of 100). For each day the work is late 5% will be deducted from the grade. For example, if the work was graded as 70/100 and was handed in 2 days late, the work would receive a mark of 60/100. If the work is not submitted within ten days after the due date then the work will receive a mark of 0 for that assessment item. Weekends, but not public holidays, count in the calculation of late penalties.

#### **Special Consideration Policy**

[http://www.mq.edu.au/policy/docs/special\\_consideration/policy.html](http://www.mq.edu.au/policy/docs/special_consideration/policy.html)

#### **Applying for Special Consideration**

Students applying for Special Consideration circumstances of three (3) consecutive days duration, within a study period, and/or prevent completion of a formal examination must submit an on-line application with the Faculty of Arts. For an application to be valid, it must include a completed Application for Special Consideration form and all supporting documentation.

The online Special Consideration application is found at:

[http://www.arts.mq.edu.au/current\\_students/undergraduate/admin\\_central/special\\_consideration](http://www.arts.mq.edu.au/current_students/undergraduate/admin_central/special_consideration).

## Student Support

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

## Learning Skills

Learning Skills ([mq.edu.au/learningskills](http://mq.edu.au/learningskills)) provides academic writing resources and study strategies to improve your marks and take control of your study.

- [Workshops](#)
- [StudyWise](#)
- [Academic Integrity Module for Students](#)
- [Ask a Learning Adviser](#)

## Student Services and Support

Students with a disability are encouraged to contact the [Disability Service](#) who can provide appropriate help with any issues that arise during their studies.

## Student Enquiries

For all student enquiries, visit Student Connect at [ask.mq.edu.au](http://ask.mq.edu.au)

## IT Help

For help with University computer systems and technology, visit <http://informatics.mq.edu.au/help/>.

When using the University's IT, you must adhere to the [Acceptable Use Policy](#). The policy applies to all who connect to the MQ network including students.

## Graduate Capabilities

### PG - Discipline Knowledge and Skills

Our postgraduates will be able to demonstrate a significantly enhanced depth and breadth of knowledge, scholarly understanding, and specific subject content knowledge in their chosen fields.

This graduate capability is supported by:

### Learning outcomes

- Acquire a coherent and advanced knowledge in the area of: Philosophical Critique of



Society.

- Apply acquired knowledge and skills in the context of philosophical scholarship.

## **Assessment tasks**

- Text analysis
- Research essay

## **PG - Critical, Analytical and Integrative Thinking**

Our postgraduates will be capable of utilising and reflecting on prior knowledge and experience, of applying higher level critical thinking skills, and of integrating and synthesising learning and knowledge from a range of sources and environments. A characteristic of this form of thinking is the generation of new, professionally oriented knowledge through personal or group-based critique of practice and theory.

This graduate capability is supported by:

## **Learning outcomes**

- Acquire a coherent and advanced knowledge in the area of: Philosophical Critique of Society.
- Synthesise and analyse the key concepts and arguments in the area of Philosophical Critique of Society.
- Apply acquired knowledge and skills in the context of philosophical scholarship.

## **Assessment tasks**

- Text analysis
- Research essay

## **PG - Research and Problem Solving Capability**

Our postgraduates will be capable of systematic enquiry; able to use research skills to create new knowledge that can be applied to real world issues, or contribute to a field of study or practice to enhance society. They will be capable of creative questioning, problem finding and problem solving.

This graduate capability is supported by:

## **Learning outcomes**

- Acquire a coherent and advanced knowledge in the area of: Philosophical Critique of Society.
- Synthesise and analyse the key concepts and arguments in the area of Philosophical Critique of Society.

## **Assessment tasks**

- Text analysis
- Research essay

## **PG - Effective Communication**

Our postgraduates will be able to communicate effectively and convey their views to different social, cultural, and professional audiences. They will be able to use a variety of technologically supported media to communicate with empathy using a range of written, spoken or visual formats.

This graduate capability is supported by:

## **Learning outcomes**

- Synthesise and analyse the key concepts and arguments in the area of Philosophical Critique of Society.
- Articulate clearly and coherently philosophical arguments of Philosophical Critique of Society in written and oral form.
- Work in cooperation with others and reflect on individual and group performance to identify opportunities for improvement.

## **Assessment tasks**

- Text analysis
- Class presentation
- Seminar attendance

## **PG - Engaged and Responsible, Active and Ethical Citizens**

Our postgraduates will be ethically aware and capable of confident transformative action in relation to their professional responsibilities and the wider community. They will have a sense of connectedness with others and country and have a sense of mutual obligation. They will be able to appreciate the impact of their professional roles for social justice and inclusion related to national and global issues

This graduate capability is supported by:

## **Learning outcomes**

- Analyse and critically evaluate philosophical arguments and their application to contemporary social issues.
- Work in cooperation with others and reflect on individual and group performance to identify opportunities for improvement.

## **PG - Capable of Professional and Personal Judgment and**

## Initiative

Our postgraduates will demonstrate a high standard of discernment and common sense in their professional and personal judgment. They will have the ability to make informed choices and decisions that reflect both the nature of their professional work and their personal perspectives.

This graduate capability is supported by:

## Learning outcomes

- Articulate clearly and coherently philosophical arguments of Philosophical Critique of Society in written and oral form.
- Analyse and critically evaluate philosophical arguments and their application to contemporary social issues.
- Work in cooperation with others and reflect on individual and group performance to identify opportunities for improvement.

## Assessment task

- Seminar attendance

## Changes from Previous Offering

The course content has changed from problems in Recognition Theory to problems and arguments in Models of Critical Theory, on the basis of two key authors, Axel Honneth and Jacques Ranciere.