PHIL708

Neurolaw

S1 Day 2015

Dept of Philosophy

Contents

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General Information

Unit convenor and teaching staff
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Credit points
4

Prerequisites
Admission to MRes

Corequisites

Co-badged status

Unit description
This unit examines the implications of developments in the neurosciences and behavioural genetics for our understanding of morally significant cognitive capacities and of conditions, such as addiction or psychopathy, which might impair these capacities and potentially reduce moral or legal responsibility. It addresses the ethical and policy challenges for the law raised by new technologies to assess defendants' competence and reliability (e.g., improved lie detection techniques) or to intervene in the brain to restore or enhance morally and legally relevant mental capacities. Neurolaw is a new interdisciplinary field and this unit is especially suitable for students with a background in philosophy, cognitive science, psychology, law, or bioethics.

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 of the methodology, concepts and arguments of the new interdisciplinary field of neurolaw

Synthesise and analyse information from a variety of sources concerning foundational concepts, positions, and arguments in the neurolaw literature

Articulate clearly and coherently philosophical arguments in written and oral form to a

variety of audiences

Analyse and critically evaluate arguments on key topics in neurolaw.

Apply acquired knowledge and skills at the intersection of philosophy, law, science, and ethics to legal cases

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

Assessment Tasks

Name	Weighting	Due
Critical exegesis	15%	Weekly as assigned
Neurolaw Case Study	20%	Week 8
Literature review	20%	Week 12
Presentation and feedback	10%	Week 12
Research essay	35%	10/6/15

Critical exegesis

Due: **Weekly as assigned**
Weighting: **15%**

Short exegesis of set text x 2 (700 words each) plus discussion questions. To be brought to the relevant class at which you will lead discussion and submitted at the end of class.

On successful completion you will be able to:

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- Articulate clearly and coherently philosophical arguments in written and oral form to a variety of audiences
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Neurolaw Case Study

Due: **Week 8**
Weighting: **20%**

You will select a criminal or civil case where neuro-evidence has been presented and provide a short case summary and analysis of the issues raised in terms of course concepts. (1200-1500 words)

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- Synthesise and analyse information from a variety of sources concerning foundational concepts, positions, and arguments in the neurolaw literature
- Apply acquired knowledge and skills at the intersection of philosophy, law, science, and ethics to legal cases

Literature review

Due: **Week 12**
Weighting: **20%**

Choose 3 texts that are important for your research essay. Provide a brief summary of each and explain why it is important for your topic and what role it will play in your argument or account.

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- Analyse and critically evaluate arguments on key topics in neurolaw.

Presentation and feedback

Due: **Week 12**
Weighting: **10%**

1. You will give a presentation to the class providing the context and motivation for your research essay (why is it interesting and important) and an outline of your approach.

2. You will provide constructive feedback on other student's work

On successful completion you will be able to:
- Synthesise and analyse information from a variety of sources concerning foundational concepts, positions, and arguments in the neurolaw literature
- Work in cooperation with others and reflect on individual and group performance to

identify opportunities for improvement.

Research essay

Due: **10/6/15**
Weighting: **35%**

You will write a research essay on a topic that you develop in consultation with course convenors, that engages in depth with a key course theme or question and makes use of course concepts

On successful completion you will be able to:

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Delivery and Resources

Required text: Nicole Vincent (ed) *Neuroscience and Legal Responsibility* Oxford University Press 2013

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.html

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

Disruption to Studies Policy 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/

Results

Results shown in *iLearn*, 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.

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) 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

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 - 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

- Synthesise and analyse information from a variety of sources concerning foundational concepts, positions, and arguments in the neurolaw literature
- Apply acquired knowledge and skills at the intersection of philosophy, law, science, and ethics to legal cases
- Work in cooperation with others and reflect on individual and group performance to identify opportunities for improvement.

Assessment tasks

- Neurolaw Case Study
- Presentation and feedback
- Research essay

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 of the methodology, concepts and arguments of the new interdisciplinary field of neurolaw
- Synthesise and analyse information from a variety of sources concerning foundational concepts, positions, and arguments in the neurolaw literature
- Articulate clearly and coherently philosophical arguments in written and oral form to a variety of audiences
- Analyse and critically evaluate arguments on key topics in neurolaw.
- Apply acquired knowledge and skills at the intersection of philosophy, law, science, and ethics to legal cases

Assessment tasks

- Critical exegesis
- Neurolaw Case Study
- Literature review
- 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 of the methodology, concepts and arguments of the new interdisciplinary field of neurolaw
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Assessment tasks

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- 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

- Articulate clearly and coherently philosophical arguments in written and oral form to a variety of audiences
- Analyse and critically evaluate arguments on key topics in neurolaw.
- Apply acquired knowledge and skills at the intersection of philosophy, law, science, and ethics to legal cases

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

Assessment tasks

- Neurolaw Case Study
- Literature review
- 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

- Articulate clearly and coherently philosophical arguments in written and oral form to a variety of audiences
- Analyse and critically evaluate arguments on key topics in neurolaw.
- Apply acquired knowledge and skills at the intersection of philosophy, law, science, and ethics to legal cases
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Assessment tasks

- Critical exegesis
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- Presentation and feedback
- Research essay

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 outcome

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

Assessment tasks

- Presentation and feedback
- Research essay