



PHIL705

Foundations of Research in Ethics

S1 Day 2015

Dept of 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>	7

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General Information

Unit convenor and teaching staff

Unit Convenor

Paul Formosa

paul.formosa@mq.edu.au

W6A 728

Unit Convenor

Nicholas Smith

nicholas.smith@mq.edu.au

Credit points

4

Prerequisites

Admission to MRes

Corequisites

Co-badged status

Unit description

This unit will equip students with foundational research knowledge and skills in the broad area of Ethics. The unit will focus on an in depth reading of foundational texts in the history of ethics and will examine their impact on current debates in the field on such topics as virtue, character, value, autonomy, and the nature of right action. Texts may include: Aristotle's Nichomachean Ethics, Hume's Treatise (Books II and III), Kant's Groundwork for the Metaphysics of Morals, and Mill's On Liberty.

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 Kant's critical philosophy and its historical and contemporary significance.

Synthesise and analyse information from a variety of sources concerning foundational concepts and arguments in Critical Philosophy.

Articulate clearly and coherently philosophical arguments in Critical Philosophy in written

and oral form.

Analyse and critically evaluate philosophical arguments.

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
Research essay 1	40%	15/04
Research essay 2	40%	17/06
Class presentation	10%	throughout semester
Seminar attendance	10%	throughout semester

Research essay 1

Due: **15/04**

Weighting: **40%**

2,500 word essay on Part One of unit

On successful completion you will be able to:

- Acquire a coherent and advanced knowledge of Kant's critical philosophy and its historical and contemporary significance.
- Synthesise and analyse information from a variety of sources concerning foundational concepts and arguments in Critical Philosophy.
- Articulate clearly and coherently philosophical arguments in Critical Philosophy in written and oral form.
- Analyse and critically evaluate philosophical arguments.
- Apply acquired knowledge and skills in the context of philosophical scholarship.

Research essay 2

Due: **17/06**

Weighting: **40%**

2,500 word essay on Part Two of unit

On successful completion you will be able to:

- Acquire a coherent and advanced knowledge of Kant's critical philosophy and its historical and contemporary significance.
- Synthesise and analyse information from a variety of sources concerning foundational concepts and arguments in Critical Philosophy.
- Articulate clearly and coherently philosophical arguments in Critical Philosophy in written and oral form.
- Analyse and critically evaluate philosophical arguments.
- 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:

- Acquire a coherent and advanced knowledge of Kant's critical philosophy and its historical and contemporary significance.
- Articulate clearly and coherently philosophical arguments in Critical Philosophy in written and oral form.
- Work in cooperation with others and reflect on individual and group performance to identify opportunities for improvement.

Seminar attendance

Due: **throughout semester**

Weighting: **10%**

weekly attendance and participation in seminar discussion

On successful completion you will be able to:

- Acquire a coherent and advanced knowledge of Kant's critical philosophy and its historical and contemporary significance.
- Analyse and critically evaluate philosophical arguments.
- 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.

Delivery and Resources

The unit will be delivered by way of weekly seminars.

Unit Schedule

Course leaders:

Prof Nicholas Smith: Nicholas.Smith@mq.edu.au

Dr Paul Formosa: Paul.Formosa@mq.edu.au

Chronology

1781- A edition of Critique of Pure Reason

1785 – Groundwork of the Metaphysics of Morals

1787 – B edition of Critique of Pure Reason

1788 – Critique of Practical Reason

1797 – Metaphysics of Morals

Part One: Kant's *Critique of Pure Reason*

Page numbers for the main readings in part one of the unit are to *Immanuel Kant's Critique of Pure Reason* (CPuR) translated by Norman Kemp-Smith (Palgrave Macmillan). I have also suggested supplementary reading from Sebastian Gardner's *Kant and the Critique of Pure Reason* (Routledge 1999)

Week 1: Introduction: Kant's Critical Philosophy

Reading: 'Preface' to the second edition, *Critique of Pure Reason* (CPuR), pp. 17-37.

Week 2: The idea of pure reason

'Introduction', CPuR, pp. 41-62.

Gardner, *Kant and the Critique of Pure Reason*, chs 1-3.

Week 3: Space, time and transcendental idealism

‘Transcendental Aesthetic’, *CPuR*, pp. 65-91.

Gardner, *Kant and the Critique of Pure Reason*, chs. 4-5.

Week 4: Logic, concepts and intuitions

‘The idea of a transcendental logic’ and ‘The analytic of concepts’ ch1, *CPuR*, pp. 92-119.

Gardner, *Kant and the Critique of Pure Reason*, ch.6, pp. 115-135.

Week 5: The transcendental deduction of the categories

‘The Principles of any Transcendental Deduction’, *CPuR* pp. 120-128 and ‘Deduction of the Pure Concepts of Understanding’ (as re-stated in the 2nd edition), *CPR*, pp. 151-175.

Gardner, *Kant and the Critique of Pure Reason*, ch.6, pp. 135-165.

Week 6: The unity of theoretical and practical reason

‘The Canon of Pure Reason’, *CPuR*, pp. 629-644.

Gardner, *Kant and the Critique of Pure Reason*, ch.9.

Part Two: Kant’s Moral Philosophy

Page numbers for the main readings in part two of the unit are to: Kant, *Practical Philosophy*, trans. and ed. Gregor, CUP, 1996.

Week 7 :

Groundwork: Preface and Section 1; pp. 43-60

Week 8:

Groundwork: Section II; pp. 61-93

Week 9:

Groundwork: Section III; pp. 94-108.

Critique of Practical Reason: Preface; pp. 139-147.

Week 10:

Critique of Practical Reason: Introduction; pp. 148-149

Critique of Practical Reason: Book 1: Analytic Chapter 1; pp. 153-186

Week 11:

Critique of Practical Reason: Book 1: Analytic Chapter 2; pp. 186-225

Week 12:

Critique of Practical Reason: Book II: Dialectic, Chapters 1 and 2; pp. 226-258

Note: Seminars will take place on Wednesdays 3-5pm EXCEPT for weeks 10, 11 and 12 which will be held on Tuesdays (12, 19 and 26 of May) 2-4pm. The class has been timetabled to take place in tutorial room Y3A 210, but we will use the Philosophy Seminar Room (W6A 720) unless the room proves to be too small.

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.