General Information

Unit convenor and teaching staff
Unit Convenor
Jennifer Duke-Yonge
jennifer.duke-yonge@mq.edu.au
Contact via jennifer.duke-yonge@mq.edu.au, or 9850 8826
W6A 722
Monday 1-2, or by arrangement

Credit points
4

Prerequisites
Admission to MRes

Corequisites

Co-badged status

Unit description
The unit will equip students with the knowledge and skills to carry out research in the broad area of Metaphysics and Epistemology. The focus of the unit is the relationship between mind and the world as mediated by language, science, and culture. The unit will cover classic and important contemporary works on a chosen theme (such as “The Nature of the Conscious Mind”, “Free Will”, “Language and Reality”, or “Scientific Reasoning”) or will be devoted to a study of an important classical text (such as Hume’s “An Enquiry concerning Human Understanding”, Russell’s “The Problems of Philosophy”, or Wittgenstein’s “Philosophical Investigations”).

Important Academic Dates
Information about important academic dates including deadlines for withdrawing from units are available at http://students.mq.edu.au/student_admin/enrolmentguide/academicdates/

Learning Outcomes

1. Acquire a coherent and advanced knowledge of the methodology, concepts and arguments of Hume’s ‘Enquiry Concerning Human Understanding’.
2. Synthesise and analyse information from a variety of sources concerning foundational concepts and arguments in Metaphysics and Epistemology.
3. Articulate clearly and coherently philosophical arguments in of Metaphysics and Epistemology in written and oral form.
4. Analyse and critically evaluate philosophical arguments.
5. Apply acquired knowledge and skills in the context of philosophical scholarship.
6. Work in cooperation with others to enhance individual and group learning.

Assessment Tasks

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Weighting</th>
<th>Due</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Research Essay</td>
<td>50%</td>
<td>5pm Monday June 15, 2015</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>One Page Summaries</td>
<td>20%</td>
<td>On going weekly</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Class Presentation</td>
<td>15%</td>
<td>TBA in class</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Participation</td>
<td>15%</td>
<td>Weekly</td>
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</table>

Research Essay
Due: 5pm Monday June 15, 2015
Weighting: 50%

The essay is designed to develop your ability to engage with a topic in depth. The essay develops your ability to express, analyse and organise key ideas clearly and systematically, and your ability to develop a sustained argument. Essay topics will be provided, but students may develop their own topic, in consultation with the teacher.

This Assessment Task relates to the following Learning Outcomes:
- Acquire a coherent and advanced knowledge of the methodology, concepts and arguments of Hume's 'Enquiry Concerning Human Understanding'.
- Synthesise and analyse information from a variety of sources concerning foundational concepts and arguments in Metaphysics and Epistemology.
- Articulate clearly and coherently philosophical arguments in of Metaphysics and Epistemology in written and oral form.
- Analyse and critically evaluate philosophical arguments.
- Apply acquired knowledge and skills in the context of philosophical scholarship.

One Page Summaries
Due: On going weekly
Weighting: 20%
Ten one page summaries of readings: (10 pieces of work worth in total 20%). You will give a summary of each week's reading, along with at least two questions or points for discussion, and bring them along to the seminar with you. You will use the summary and questions as a basis for your own contributions to the discussion at seminar, and submit it each week at the seminar.

This Assessment Task relates to the following Learning Outcomes:

- Acquire a coherent and advanced knowledge of the methodology, concepts and arguments of Hume's 'Enquiry Concerning Human Understanding'.
- Articulate clearly and coherently philosophical arguments in of Metaphysics and Epistemology in written and oral form.
- Analyse and critically evaluate philosophical arguments.

Class Presentation
Due: **TBA in class**
Weighting: **15%**

Each student will also make one class presentation introducing the text(s) to be discussed in the seminar. This will be assessed for its clarity and ability to identify relevant issues for discussion.

This Assessment Task relates to the following Learning Outcomes:

- Acquire a coherent and advanced knowledge of the methodology, concepts and arguments of Hume's 'Enquiry Concerning Human Understanding'.
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Participation
Due: **Weekly**
Weighting: **15%**

Seminar participation is a vital part of learning in philosophy. You are expected to attend all seminars, to prepare thoroughly for seminars by reading the material set for each week, and to participate in class discussion. Your participation mark will depend on your engagement with the
This Assessment Task relates to the following Learning Outcomes:

• Acquire a coherent and advanced knowledge of the methodology, concepts and arguments of Hume's 'Enquiry Concerning Human Understanding'.

• Synthesise and analyse information from a variety of sources concerning foundational concepts and arguments in Metaphysics and Epistemology.

• Articulate clearly and coherently philosophical arguments in Metaphysics and Epistemology in written and oral form.

• Analyse and critically evaluate philosophical arguments.

• Work in cooperation with others to enhance individual and group learning.

**Delivery and Resources**

**Delivery:**

Students are expected to attend and participate in one two-hour discussion seminar each week, from 12-2 on Thursdays in Y3A210. There is also an iLearn site for this course.

**Set Text:**


Please get a copy of this edition. It is inexpensive (only $10.95 from the Co-op), and it makes a reading-based unit much easier if everyone has the same edition.

**Supplementary reading:**

Suggestions for supplementary readings on each topic will be given through iLearn.

**Technologies used and required**

iLearn

**Changes since last offering**

Minor changes only.
**Unit Schedule**

PHIL701 will focus on Hume's *Enquiry Concerning Human Understanding*. Section references below are to that text.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Week</th>
<th>Section(s)</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1, 26/2</td>
<td>Introduction</td>
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<tr>
<td>2, 5/3</td>
<td>Section I: Of the different Species of Philosophy</td>
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<tr>
<td>3, 12/3</td>
<td>Section II: Of the Origin of Ideas</td>
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<td>Section III: Of the Association of Ideas</td>
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<td>4, 19/3</td>
<td>Section IV: Sceptical Doubts concerning the Operations of the Understanding</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Section V: Sceptical Solution of these Doubts</td>
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<tr>
<td>5, 26/3</td>
<td>Section VI: Of Probability</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Section VII: Of the Idea of Necessary Connexion</td>
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<tr>
<td>6, 2/4</td>
<td>Section VIII: Of Liberty and Necessity</td>
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<tr>
<td>7, 23/4</td>
<td>Section IX: Of the Reason of Animals</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Section X: Of Miracles</td>
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<tr>
<td>8, 30/4</td>
<td>Section XI: Of a particular Providence and of a Future State</td>
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<tr>
<td>9, 7/5</td>
<td>Section XII: Of the Academical or Sceptical Philosophy</td>
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</tbody>
</table>
Weeks 10-12 will be spent on topics from Hume, which will be decided based on the interests of the class. Topics may include (but are not restricted to): the nature of Hume’s scepticism; Naturalism; Causation; and the relationship between the *Treatise* and the *Enquiries*. We may also consider some of the connections between Hume and his philosophical influences. Topics will be confirmed during the unit.

Week 13 will be reserved for essay preparation and consultation.

**Policies and Procedures**

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


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/)
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](http://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/](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 Enquiry Service

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

Equity 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.

IT 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 of the methodology, concepts and arguments of Hume’s ‘Enquiry Concerning Human Understanding’.
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• Apply acquired knowledge and skills in the context of philosophical scholarship.

Assessment tasks

• Research Essay
• One Page Summaries
• Class Presentation
• Participation

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 of Metaphysics and Epistemology in written and oral form.
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Assessment tasks

• Research Essay
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• Participation
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 outcome**

- Work in cooperation with others to enhance individual and group learning.

**Assessment tasks**

- Class Presentation
- Participation

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**

- Synthesise and analyse information from a variety of sources concerning foundational concepts and arguments in Metaphysics and Epistemology.
- Articulate clearly and coherently philosophical arguments in of Metaphysics and Epistemology 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 to enhance individual and group learning.

**Assessment tasks**

- Research Essay
- One Page Summaries
- Class Presentation
- Participation
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**

- Synthesise and analyse information from a variety of sources concerning foundational concepts and arguments in Metaphysics and Epistemology.
- Analyse and critically evaluate philosophical arguments.
- Apply acquired knowledge and skills in the context of philosophical scholarship.

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- Research Essay
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