



PHIL201

Business and Professional Ethics

S1 External 2016

Dept of Philosophy

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General Information

Unit convenor and teaching staff

Unit Convenor

Matthew Millar

matthew.millar@mq.edu.au

Contact via matthew.millar@mq.edu.au

Building W6A, Room 740

By appointment

Credit points

3

Prerequisites

12cp or admission to GDipArts

Corequisites

Co-badged status

Unit description

This unit provides students with an introduction to some of the main ethical issues raised by the activities of businesses and corporations in contemporary society and introduces some central topics in professional ethics. The first part of the unit examines the roles and responsibilities of businesses and corporations in relation to individuals and society. We ask whether corporations have moral responsibilities to stakeholders other than shareholders and examine competing accounts of economic justice related to this question. Other topics in this section include the ethics of discrimination and affirmative action and the influence of business on government. The second part of the unit begins with an examination of the responsibilities of business in relation to the environment. Other topics in this section include justice and globalization, conflicts of interest in medicine, the ethics of advertising, and whistleblowing. This unit is relevant to students in accounting and business studies as well as those in the humanities and social sciences.

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:

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 view or perspective, through consideration and analysis of views and arguments presented in the unit

Develop your skills in clarity of thought, clarity of verbal and written expression, and written argumentation

General Assessment Information

Unit Requirements and Expectations

All assessment exercises in this unit are compulsory.

Attendance at lectures and tutorials is compulsory. Absences must be supported by medical certificates or equivalent.

Students must attend at least 75% (18 of 24) of lectures and at least 80% (8 of 10) of tutorials.

Students who fail to meet the attendance requirements for lectures and/or tutorials will receive 0 for participation. Students who attend

less than 50% of lectures and/or tutorials will not be eligible to pass the unit.

Students can request an exemption from the lecture attendance requirement on the grounds of timetable clashes or for other reasons the unit convenor deems acceptable. Supporting documentation must be provided. **Exemption requests must be made in writing (email) to the unit convenor by the end of week 2.**

For external students: There is no on-campus session for this unit. External students are expected to contribute to the online discussion board on a regular basis. You will only be eligible to receive a participation mark if you have contributed to at least 8 of the 10 weeks. External students who fail to post answers to at least 5 of the weekly topics will not be eligible to pass the unit.

Assignment submission

Written work must be submitted via the PHIL 201 iLearn homepage. A Turnitin link will be made available for each assignment.

Details will be provided with the assignment instructions. Marked work will be returned to students online.

Extensions and late penalties

Please note that any requests for extensions must be made **in writing** (by email) **before** the due

date. Assessment submitted after the due date, or after the extension date, will lose 1 mark per day, including weekends. (Please also note that work due concurrently in other subjects is not a legitimate reason for an extension)

Disruption to Studies Policy

http://students.mq.edu.au/student_admin/exams/disruption_to_studies/

Disruption to studies is intended for a student who is prevented by serious and unavoidable disruption from completing any unit requirements in accordance with their ability.

The University defines serious and unavoidable disruption to studies as resulting from an event or set of circumstances that:

- could not have reasonably been anticipated, avoided or guarded against by the student; and
- was beyond the student's control; and
- caused substantial disruption to the student's capacity for effective study and/or completion of required work; and
- occurred during an event critical study period and was at least three (3) consecutive days duration, and / or
- prevented completion of a final examination.

Applying for Disruption to Studies:

The Disruption to Studies Notification must be completed and submitted online through www.ask.mq.edu.au within five (5) working days of the commencement of the disruption.

Assessment Tasks

Name	Weighting	Due
Attendance & Participation	10%	Ongoing
Moral Reasoning Assignment	20%	21/03/2016
Reading Assignment 2	30%	9/05/2016
Essay	40%	07/06/2016

Attendance & Participation

Due: **Ongoing**

Weighting: **10%**

Contributions to tutorial discussions are an important part of this unit. This means doing assigned

readings, coming with questions and engaging constructively with peers. **Internal students must attend at least 80% of tutorials and at least 75% of lectures to be eligible to receive a participation mark.**

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
- Relate ethical concepts and theories to relevant case studies and current events
- Develop your own view or perspective, through consideration and analysis of views and arguments presented in the unit
- Develop your skills in clarity of thought, clarity of verbal and written expression, and written argumentation

Moral Reasoning Assignment

Due: **21/03/2016**

Weighting: **20%**

All students must complete an initial assignment of 700-800 words. The aim of this exercise is to help you become familiar with the techniques of moral reasoning and to encourage you to think critically about moral issues in relation to current events.

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 view or perspective, through consideration and analysis of views and arguments presented in the unit
- Develop your skills in clarity of thought, clarity of verbal and written expression, and written argumentation

Reading Assignment 2

Due: **9/05/2016**

Weighting: **30%**

All students will be expected to complete a second assignment of 800-900 words. Students must analyze in detail the arguments presented in a selected reading and answer questions about a case study related to one of the central debates in 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
- Develop your skills in clarity of thought, clarity of verbal and written expression, and written argumentation

Essay

Due: **07/06/2016**

Weighting: **40%**

All students must complete an essay of 1800 words. Essays develop your ability to engage with a topic in detail and to express, analyze and organize key ideas clearly and systematically.

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
- Develop your own view or perspective, through consideration and analysis of views and

arguments presented in the unit

- Develop your skills in clarity of thought, clarity of verbal and written expression, and written argumentation

Delivery and Resources

CLASSES

For lecture times and classrooms please consult the MQ Timetable website: <http://www.timetables.mq.edu.au>. This website will display up-to-date information on your classes and classroom locations.

Lecture 1: Wednesday 12.00 - 1.00

C5A 226 Tutorial Rm

Lecture 2: Friday 1.00 – 2.00

W5A 205 Tutorial Rm

Tutorials:

Wednesday 1.00 - 2.00

W5A 204 Tutorial Rm

Friday 2.00 - 3.00

W5A 204 Tutorial Rm

REQUIRED AND RECOMMENDED TEXTS AND/OR MATERIALS

All required readings and most supplementary readings are available from eReserve. Consult the unit schedule on the iLearn homepage for a week by-week outline of required readings and supplementary readings.

UNIT WEBPAGE AND TECHNOLOGY USED AND REQUIRED

The unit uses the following technology: iLearn, iletecture, web discussion board

Online units can be accessed at: <http://ilearn.mq.edu.au>

Unit Schedule

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://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.

Graduate Capabilities

Creative and Innovative

Our graduates will also be capable of creative thinking and of creating knowledge. They will be imaginative and open to experience and capable of innovation at work and in the community. We want them to be engaged in applying their critical, creative thinking.

This graduate capability is supported by:

Learning outcomes

- 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 view or perspective, through consideration and analysis of views and

arguments presented in the unit

- Develop your skills in clarity of thought, clarity of verbal and written expression, and written argumentation

Assessment tasks

- Attendance & Participation
- Moral Reasoning Assignment
- Essay

Capable of Professional and Personal Judgement and Initiative

We want our graduates to have emotional intelligence and sound interpersonal skills and to demonstrate discernment and common sense in their professional and personal judgement. They will exercise initiative as needed. They will be capable of risk assessment, and be able to handle ambiguity and complexity, enabling them to be adaptable in diverse and changing environments.

This graduate capability is supported by:

Learning outcomes

- Relate ethical concepts and theories to relevant case studies and current events
- Develop your own view or perspective, through consideration and analysis of views and arguments presented in the unit
- Develop your skills in clarity of thought, clarity of verbal and written expression, and written argumentation

Assessment tasks

- Attendance & Participation
- Moral Reasoning Assignment

Commitment to Continuous Learning

Our graduates will have enquiring minds and a literate curiosity which will lead them to pursue knowledge for its own sake. They will continue to pursue learning in their careers and as they participate in the world. They will be capable of reflecting on their experiences and relationships with others and the environment, learning from them, and growing - personally, professionally and socially.

This graduate capability is supported by:

Learning outcome

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

Assessment tasks

- Attendance & Participation
- Moral Reasoning Assignment

Discipline Specific Knowledge and Skills

Our graduates will take with them the intellectual development, depth and breadth of knowledge, scholarly understanding, and specific subject content in their chosen fields to make them competent and confident in their subject or profession. They will be able to demonstrate, where relevant, professional technical competence and meet professional standards. They will be able to articulate the structure of knowledge of their discipline, be able to adapt discipline-specific knowledge to novel situations, and be able to contribute from their discipline to inter-disciplinary solutions to problems.

This graduate capability is supported by:

Learning outcomes

- 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

Assessment tasks

- Attendance & Participation
- Moral Reasoning Assignment
- Reading Assignment 2
- Essay

Critical, Analytical and Integrative Thinking

We want our graduates to be capable of reasoning, questioning and analysing, and to integrate and synthesise learning and knowledge from a range of sources and environments; to be able to critique constraints, assumptions and limitations; to be able to think independently and systemically in relation to scholarly activity, in the workplace, and in the world. We want them to have a level of scientific and information technology literacy.

This graduate capability is supported by:

Learning outcomes

- 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 view or perspective,through consideration and analysis of views and arguments presented in the unit
- Develop your skills in clarity of thought,clarity of verbal and written expression,and written argumentation

Assessment tasks

- Attendance & Participation
- Moral Reasoning Assignment
- Reading Assignment 2
- Essay

Problem Solving and Research Capability

Our graduates should be capable of researching; of analysing, and interpreting and assessing data and information in various forms; of drawing connections across fields of knowledge; and they should be able to relate their knowledge to complex situations at work or in the world, in order to diagnose and solve problems. We want them to have the confidence to take the initiative in doing so, within an awareness of their own limitations.

This graduate capability is supported by:

Learning outcomes

- 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 view or perspective,through consideration and analysis of views and arguments presented in the unit
- Develop your skills in clarity of thought,clarity of verbal and written expression,and written argumentation

Assessment tasks

- Attendance & Participation
- Moral Reasoning Assignment
- Reading Assignment 2
- Essay

Effective Communication

We want to develop in our students the ability to communicate and convey their views in forms effective with different audiences. We want our graduates to take with them the capability to read, listen, question, gather and evaluate information resources in a variety of formats, assess, write clearly, speak effectively, and to use visual communication and communication technologies as appropriate.

This graduate capability is supported by:

Learning outcomes

- 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 skills in clarity of thought, clarity of verbal and written expression, and written argumentation

Assessment tasks

- Attendance & Participation
- Moral Reasoning Assignment
- Reading Assignment 2
- Essay

Engaged and Ethical Local and Global citizens

As local citizens our graduates will be aware of indigenous perspectives and of the nation's historical context. They will be engaged with the challenges of contemporary society and with knowledge and ideas. We want our graduates to have respect for diversity, to be open-minded, sensitive to others and inclusive, and to be open to other cultures and perspectives: they should have a level of cultural literacy. Our graduates should be aware of disadvantage and social justice, and be willing to participate to help create a wiser and better society.

This graduate capability is supported by:

Learning outcome

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

Assessment tasks

- Attendance & Participation
- Moral Reasoning Assignment
- Essay

Socially and Environmentally Active and Responsible

We want our graduates to be aware of and have respect for self and others; to be able to work with others as a leader and a team player; to have a sense of connectedness with others and country; and to have a sense of mutual obligation. Our graduates should be informed and active participants in moving society towards sustainability.

This graduate capability is supported by:

Learning outcome

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

Assessment tasks

- Attendance & Participation
- Moral Reasoning Assignment
- Reading Assignment 2

Changes from Previous Offering

We have introduced some new topics and changed the set readings for some weeks. There is no longer a final exam and an additional reading assignment has been added.