



PHIX131

Mind and World

SP3 OUA 2016

Dept of Philosophy

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General Information

Unit convenor and teaching staff

Convenor

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W6A 722

By arrangement

Tutor

Wilson Cooper

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Prerequisites

Corequisites

Co-badged status

Unit description

This unit introduces the big philosophical questions about human nature, personal identity and the meaning of life. What is the fundamental nature of reality? Are human beings somehow unique in nature? Do we have distinct selves that endure through time? What is the relation between our identity and the things that matter to us? We take a broadly historical approach, reading the classic philosophical texts as well as contemporary work. Three themes recur across the unit: the relation of mind and body, the quest for knowledge and the nature of the self. We begin with the philosophers of Ancient Greece. We look at how they understood the relationship between the self and the cosmos and the relation between body and soul. We then turn to conceptions of the mind at the dawn of the modern period, asking whether mind is entirely physical or could in principle survive bodily death. In the final section of the unit we focus on contemporary debates over the nature of personal identity. Is psychological continuity or bodily continuity the key to personal survival? We will then introduce the notion of narrative identity and examine more closely the role played by memory and our embodied experience in the construction of the self. All enrolment queries should be directed to Open Universities Australia (OUA): see www.open.edu.au

Important Academic Dates

Information about important academic dates including deadlines for withdrawing from units are available at <https://www.open.edu.au/student-admin-and-support/key-dates/>

Learning Outcomes

On successful completion of this unit, you will be able to:

You will understand the nature of mind and self using foundational philosophical ideas from the Early Modern period (namely Descartes and Locke), at an introductory level.

You will understand contemporary debates about the metaphysics of personal identity, at an introductory level.

You will understand, in an applied way, what some contemporary philosophical research tells us about the required capacities for being a "responsible" person - for example, in a legal scenario.

You will possess basic skills in philosophical analysis.

You will be able to respond to some common theories of mind and personhood in a reflective and critical way.

You will be able to express your own ideas with greater clarity, and construct stronger arguments than previously.

General Assessment Information

Written assignments are to be submitted through Turnitin, and will be marked and returned via Grademark. For information about these tools, see:

http://www.mq.edu.au/iLearn/student_info/assignments.htm

There is no need for a coversheet - the iLearn assignment submission (Turnitin) involves declaring your details and honesty in submitting your work. Please note, we do not accept submission by email attachment.

Extensions and Special Consideration

Requests for extensions must, normally, be made in writing before the due date. Extensions of up to three days should be directed to the unit convenor (jennifer.duke-yonge@mq.edu.au). **Requests for extensions of more than 3 days** should be submitted via a Disruption to Studies Request, which is available in the ask.mq.edu.au portal. Your request should be accompanied by appropriate documentation, as detailed in the instructions in the portal. Please see the Disruption to Studies policy in the list of policies at the end of this document for further details.

Penalties for Late Submission

Late submissions of assignments will attract a penalty of 10% per week or part-week late. All work must be submitted within 3 weeks of the assessment due date. Outside of this time, special circumstances must be proven to have interrupted your study.

Assessment Tasks

Name	Weighting	Due
Online quiz	10%	Midnight, Sunday week 4
Philosophical analysis	30%	Midnight Sunday Week 6
Essay or Case Study	40%	Midnight Sunday Week 13
Participation	20%	On-going

Online quiz

Due: **Midnight, Sunday week 4**

Weighting: **10%**

The online quiz is a 30 minute multiple choice quiz run through the unit website. It tests your understanding of important concepts introduced in the lectures and essential readings for weeks 1 to 3. It provides early feedback on your progress, and helps you to prepare for the first written exercise in week 6. It will be available from 9am Monday of week 4 to Midnight Sunday of week 4

On successful completion you will be able to:

- You will understand the nature of mind and self using foundational philosophical ideas from the Early Modern period (namely Descartes and Locke), at an introductory level.

Philosophical analysis

Due: **Midnight Sunday Week 6**

Weighting: **30%**

This assignment introduces the basics of philosophical analysis: critical reading, analysis of arguments, and defending your own opinion. You will analyse a text by, or concerning, René Descartes (1596-1650) on the nature of mind, knowledge, or the body. Your analysis will be assisted by structured questions. This assignment requires no additional reading.

On successful completion you will be able to:

- You will understand the nature of mind and self using foundational philosophical ideas from the Early Modern period (namely Descartes and Locke), at an introductory level.
- You will possess basic skills in philosophical analysis.
- You will be able to respond to some common theories of mind and personhood in a reflective and critical way.
- You will be able to express your own ideas with greater clarity, and construct stronger arguments than previously.

Essay or Case Study

Due: **Midnight Sunday Week 13**

Weighting: **40%**

In this assignment you will pull together all of the skills and knowledge that you have developed through the unit, to write a final paper on one of the later course topics. You will need to not only show that you know the topic well, but also show that you can think and write independently about the kinds of objects and experiences that the topic involves.

On successful completion you will be able to:

- You will understand contemporary debates about the metaphysics of personal identity, at an introductory level.
- You will understand, in an applied way, what some contemporary philosophical research tells us about the required capacities for being a "responsible" person - for example, in a legal scenario.
- You will possess basic skills in philosophical analysis.
- You will be able to express your own ideas with greater clarity, and construct stronger arguments than previously.

Participation

Due: **On-going**

Weighting: **20%**

20% of the assessment for this unit is based on your participation. Your participation mark will be based on two components:

- online discussion (10%)
- engagement with course resources (10%)

Online discussion (10%)

Online forum participation represents a commitment to the academic environment necessary to any good philosophy course. Your mark will be based on the quality of your participation. This is not just measured by the philosophical content of your posts, but by your willingness to engage in discussion with your peers. Much of what you learn in philosophy you will learn by involving yourself in discussion and argument. So while we would like to see some well thought out responses to the topics for each week, we would also really encourage you to respond to the messages of other students, ask questions, post your thoughts and engage fully in the philosophical community. You'll find that if you make the most of the discussion facilities available, not only will you maximise your participation marks, but you will also get more out of the course in general.

Engagement with online resources (10%)

The website for this unit contains a lot of resources designed to help you get the most out of the course material. Each week, there are audio lectures with written notes to accompany them, reading questions to guide you through the readings, and self-test quizzes to allow you to test your own understanding of the topics that are introduced. To get the most out of the unit, you are expected to engage with these resources on a regular basis.

The marks for this component will be based on your engagement with the online self-test quizzes each week, which contain a review of the basic material for each week, and should be done after you have listened to the lectures and attempted the readings. To get the marks for this component of the assessment, you will need to complete each week's online quiz to at least a Pass standard. You may attempt each quiz multiple times until you get to a Pass. You will receive 10 marks for completing all of the quizzes to a satisfactory standard, with a one mark deduction for each quiz that is not completed satisfactorily. **The self-test quiz for each week will only be available until two weeks after the end of the relevant week** (eg the week 3 quiz must be completed by the end of week 5). You will still be able to access your completed quizzes after this time for revision purposes.

On successful completion you will be able to:

- You will understand contemporary debates about the metaphysics of personal identity, at an introductory level.
- You will possess basic skills in philosophical analysis.

Delivery and Resources

Required Reading

There is no text book for this unit. All essential readings are available electronically through Macquarie University Library', with links from iLearn.

Suggestions for additional reading are given each week in the website.

Technology Used and Required

We use an iLearn website, and the Echo360 lecture recordings. Lecture notes and any other material you need will be available through the iLearn website. You will need reliable internet connection throughout semester.

Unit Schedule

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Week 1: General introduction

2: Descartes on what can be known

3: Descartes on the nature of the mind

- 4: Locke and Personal Identity
- 5: Personal Identity - Do I survive?
- 6 Identity and Bodies
- 7: Identity: Multiple Personality
- 8: Free Will and Determinism
- 9: Free Will and Making Choices
- 10: Responsibility and Memory
- 11: Responsibility and Narrating our own lives
- 12: Case studies in Responsibility
- 13: No lectures: revision and review

Policies and Procedures

Late Submission - applies unless otherwise stated elsewhere in the unit guide

Unless a Special Consideration request has been submitted and approved, (a) a penalty for lateness will apply – two (2) marks out of 100 will be deducted per day for assignments submitted after the due date – and (b) no assignment will be accepted more than seven (7) days (incl. weekends) after the original submission deadline. No late submissions will be accepted for timed assessments – e.g. quizzes, online tests.

Extension Request

[Special Consideration Policy and Procedure \(https://staff.mq.edu.au/work/strategy-planning-and-governance/university-policies-and-procedures/policies/special-consideration\)](https://staff.mq.edu.au/work/strategy-planning-and-governance/university-policies-and-procedures/policies/special-consideration)

The University recognises that students may experience events or conditions that adversely affect their academic performance. If you experience serious and unavoidable difficulties at exam time or when assessment tasks are due, you can consider applying for Special Consideration.

You need to show that the circumstances:

1. were serious, unexpected and unavoidable
2. were beyond your control
3. caused substantial disruption to your academic work

4. substantially interfered with your otherwise satisfactory fulfilment of the unit requirements
5. lasted at least three consecutive days or a total of 5 days within the teaching period and prevented completion of an assessment task scheduled for a specific date.

If you feel that your studies have been impacted submit an application as follows:

1. Visit [Ask MQ](#) and use your OneID to log in
2. Fill in your relevant details
3. Attach supporting documents by clicking 'Add a reply', click 'Browse' and navigating to the files you want to attach, then click 'Submit Form' to send your notification and supporting documents
4. Please keep copies of your original documents, as they may be requested in the future as part of the assessment process

Outcome

Once your submission is assessed, an appropriate outcome will be organised.

OUA Specific Policies and Procedures

Withdrawal from a unit after the census date

You can withdraw from your subjects prior to [the census date](#) (last day to withdraw). If you successfully withdraw before the census date, you won't need to apply for Special Circumstances. If you find yourself unable to withdraw from your subjects before the census date - you might be able to [apply for Special Circumstances](#). If you're eligible, we can refund your fees and overturn your fail grade.

If you're studying Single Subjects using FEE-HELP or paying up front, you can [apply online](#).

If you're studying a degree using HECS-HELP, you'll need to [apply directly to Macquarie University](#).

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

New Assessment Policy in effect from Session 2 2016 http://mq.edu.au/policy/docs/assessment/policy_2016.html. For more information visit http://students.mq.edu.au/events/2016/07/19/new_assessment_policy_in_place_from_session_2/

Assessment Policy prior to Session 2 2016 <http://mq.edu.au/policy/docs/assessment/policy.html>

Grading Policy prior to Session 2 2016 <http://mq.edu.au/policy/docs/grading/policy.html>

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

Complaint Management Procedure for Students and Members of the Public http://www.mq.edu.au/policy/docs/complaint_management/procedure.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://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:

Assessment task

- Essay or Case Study

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

- You will understand, in an applied way, what some contemporary philosophical research tells us about the required capacities for being a "responsible" person - for example, in a legal scenario.
- You will be able to respond to some common theories of mind and personhood in a reflective and critical way.
- You will be able to express your own ideas with greater clarity, and construct stronger arguments than previously.

Assessment task

- Essay or Case Study

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

- You will understand the nature of mind and self using foundational philosophical ideas from the Early Modern period (namely Descartes and Locke), at an introductory level.
- You will understand contemporary debates about the metaphysics of personal identity, at an introductory level.

Assessment task

- Online quiz

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

- You will understand contemporary debates about the metaphysics of personal identity, at an introductory level.
- You will possess basic skills in philosophical analysis.

Assessment tasks

- Philosophical analysis
- Participation

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 outcome

- You will understand, in an applied way, what some contemporary philosophical research

tells us about the required capacities for being a "responsible" person - for example, in a legal scenario.

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

- You will possess basic skills in philosophical analysis.
- You will be able to respond to some common theories of mind and personhood in a reflective and critical way.
- You will be able to express your own ideas with greater clarity, and construct stronger arguments than previously.

Assessment tasks

- Philosophical analysis
- Essay or Case Study
- Participation

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

- You will understand, in an applied way, what some contemporary philosophical research tells us about the required capacities for being a "responsible" person - for example, in a legal scenario.

Assessment task

- Essay or Case Study

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:

Assessment tasks

- Essay or Case Study
- Participation