



PHIL706

Research Topics in Ethics

S2 External 2017

Dept of Philosophy

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General Information

Unit convenor and teaching staff

Unit Convenor and Lecturer

Jane Johnson

jane.johnson@mq.edu.au

Lecturer

Wendy Rogers

wendy.rogers@mq.edu.au

Lecturer

Robert Sinnerbrink

robert.sinnerbrink@mq.edu.au

Credit points

4

Prerequisites

Admission to MRes

Corequisites

Co-badged status

Unit description

This unit will examine contemporary research in ethics, moral psychology, applied ethics or political philosophy. The unit will focus on a current 'hot' topic of research in one of these sub-disciplinary fields. The topics chosen will align with the research projects and expertise of faculty members. Examples of areas that might be explored include, the philosophy and psychology of emotions: the nature of moral cognition: justice and public health ethics. Students will develop an in-depth knowledge of the major debates relevant to the topic, and acquire the necessary research skills for pursuing their own research project.

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 advanced knowledge of the key issues, concepts and arguments in the following

areas of bioethics - animal ethics and vulnerability, organ donation, activism and bioethics, and the ethics of surgical innovation

Synthesise and analyse information from a variety of sources (including film) concerning key concepts, positions, and arguments in bioethics

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

Analyse, reflect on and critically evaluate arguments on key topics in bioethics and cinematic ethics

Develop the necessary research skills to pursue an original research project in bioethics or cinematic ethics

Work collegially with peers to develop and improve concepts, arguments and projects

Assessment Tasks

Name	Weighting	Hurdle	Due
<u>Topic based posts</u>	15%	No	Tuesday of assigned week
<u>Presentation</u>	15%	No	Friday Week 11
<u>Presentation feedback</u>	15%	No	Friday Week 12
<u>Research essay</u>	40%	No	Friday Week 13
<u>Participation</u>	15%	Yes	Ongoing

Topic based posts

Due: **Tuesday of assigned week**

Weighting: **15%**

For one of the course topics you will be responsible for providing short summaries of the assigned sources (text and film) as well as a number of questions to prompt online discussion by your peers.

This task will be assessed by the following criteria: accuracy and succinctness of the summaries, and quality of the discussion questions. A detailed rubric for this task will be supplied on iLearn.

On successful completion you will be able to:

- Acquire advanced knowledge of the key issues, concepts and arguments in the following areas of bioethics - animal ethics and vulnerability, organ donation, activism and bioethics, and the ethics of surgical innovation
- Synthesise and analyse information from a variety of sources (including film) concerning

key concepts, positions, and arguments in bioethics

- Articulate clearly and coherently philosophical arguments in written and oral form to a variety of audiences
- Analyse, reflect on and critically evaluate arguments on key topics in bioethics and cinematic ethics
- Develop the necessary research skills to pursue an original research project in bioethics or cinematic ethics

Presentation

Due: **Friday Week 11**

Weighting: **15%**

You will give a presentation providing the context and motivation for your research essay (why is it interesting and important) and outlining how you will approach your essay.

This task will be assessed by the following criteria: clarity of presentation (visual and verbal), content, structure and argument. A detailed rubric for this task will be supplied on iLearn.

On successful completion you will be able to:

- Acquire advanced knowledge of the key issues, concepts and arguments in the following areas of bioethics - animal ethics and vulnerability, organ donation, activism and bioethics, and the ethics of surgical innovation
- Synthesise and analyse information from a variety of sources (including film) concerning key concepts, positions, and arguments in bioethics
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Presentation feedback

Due: **Friday Week 12**

Weighting: **15%**

You will provide constructive feedback and questions on the presentations of other students.

This task will be assessed by the following criteria: relevance of comments and questions, how engaged and insightful these comments are, and how likely they are to contribute to the further development of your colleagues' work. A detailed rubric for this task will be supplied on iLearn.

On successful completion you will be able to:

- Work collegially with peers to develop and improve concepts, arguments and projects

Research essay

Due: **Friday Week 13**

Weighting: **40%**

You will write a research essay on a topic that you develop in consultation with one or more of the course lecturers. The essay will engage in-depth with a key course theme or question.

This task will be assessed by the following criteria: content, structure, argument, critical analysis and written expression. A detailed rubric for this task will be supplied on iLearn.

On successful completion you will be able to:

- Acquire advanced knowledge of the key issues, concepts and arguments in the following areas of bioethics - animal ethics and vulnerability, organ donation, activism and bioethics, and the ethics of surgical innovation
- Synthesise and analyse information from a variety of sources (including film) concerning key concepts, positions, and arguments in bioethics
- Articulate clearly and coherently philosophical arguments in written and oral form to a variety of audiences
- Analyse, reflect on and critically evaluate arguments on key topics in bioethics and cinematic ethics
- Develop the necessary research skills to pursue an original research project in bioethics or cinematic ethics

Participation

Due: **Ongoing**

Weighting: **15%**

This is a hurdle assessment task (see [assessment policy](#) for more information on hurdle assessment tasks)

Discussion is a vital part of learning in philosophy. Students will discuss unit material via the discussion forum.

This task will be assessed by the following criteria: quality of your posts and their timeliness (you should post within a week of the topic). Quality is not just measured by the philosophical content of your posts, but by your willingness to engage and be responsive with your peers.

On successful completion you will be able to:

- Acquire advanced knowledge of the key issues, concepts and arguments in the following areas of bioethics - animal ethics and vulnerability, organ donation, activism and

bioethics, and the ethics of surgical innovation

- Synthesise and analyse information from a variety of sources (including film) concerning key concepts, positions, and arguments in bioethics
- Articulate clearly and coherently philosophical arguments in written and oral form to a variety of audiences
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Delivery and Resources

Required readings will be provided through the iLearn site. Seminars will be recorded and available through iLearn.

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_2016.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 (in effect until Dec 4th, 2017): http://www.mq.edu.au/policy/docs/disruption_studies/policy.html

Special Consideration Policy (in effect from Dec 4th, 2017): <https://staff.mq.edu.au/work/strategy-planning-and-governance/university-policies-and-procedures/policies/special-consideration>

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.m](#)

mq.edu.au.

Late Submission Unless otherwise stated, late submission of written work will result in a deduction of 10% of the mark awarded for each week or part of a week beyond the due date, or date to which an extension has been granted.

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

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 (including film) concerning

key concepts, positions, and arguments in bioethics

- Analyse, reflect on and critically evaluate arguments on key topics in bioethics and cinematic ethics
- Develop the necessary research skills to pursue an original research project in bioethics or cinematic ethics
- Work collegially with peers to develop and improve concepts, arguments and projects

Assessment tasks

- Topic based posts
- Presentation
- Presentation feedback
- Research essay
- Participation

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 advanced knowledge of the key issues, concepts and arguments in the following areas of bioethics - animal ethics and vulnerability, organ donation, activism and bioethics, and the ethics of surgical innovation
- Synthesise and analyse information from a variety of sources (including film) concerning key concepts, positions, and arguments in bioethics
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Assessment tasks

- Topic based posts
- Presentation
- Presentation feedback

- Research essay
- 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

- Acquire advanced knowledge of the key issues, concepts and arguments in the following areas of bioethics - animal ethics and vulnerability, organ donation, activism and bioethics, and the ethics of surgical innovation
- Synthesise and analyse information from a variety of sources (including film) concerning key concepts, positions, and arguments in bioethics
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Assessment tasks

- Topic based posts
- Presentation
- Presentation feedback
- Research essay
- 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 (including film) concerning key concepts, positions, and arguments in bioethics
- Articulate clearly and coherently philosophical arguments in written and oral form to a variety of audiences
- Analyse, reflect on and critically evaluate arguments on key topics in bioethics and cinematic ethics
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Assessment tasks

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- Presentation
- Presentation feedback
- Research essay
- 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 written and oral form to a variety of audiences
- Develop the necessary research skills to pursue an original research project in bioethics or cinematic ethics
- Work collegially with peers to develop and improve concepts, arguments and projects

Assessment tasks

- Topic based posts
- Presentation
- Presentation feedback
- Research essay

- Participation

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 outcomes

- Acquire advanced knowledge of the key issues, concepts and arguments in the following areas of bioethics - animal ethics and vulnerability, organ donation, activism and bioethics, and the ethics of surgical innovation
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Assessment tasks

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- Presentation feedback
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Changes from Previous Offering

The previous offering of this unit focused on neuroethics and neurolaw. This iteration focuses on bioethics and cinematic ethics.