



# PHIL1032

## Happiness, Goodness and Justice

Session 3, Fully online/virtual 2020

*Department of Philosophy*

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#### Disclaimer

Macquarie University has taken all reasonable measures to ensure the information in this publication is accurate and up-to-date. However, the information may change or become out-dated as a result of change in University policies, procedures or rules. The University reserves the right to make changes to any information in this publication without notice. Users of this publication are advised to check the website version of this publication [or the relevant faculty or department] before acting on any information in this publication.

#### Notice

As part of [Phase 3 of our return to campus plan](#), most units will now run tutorials, seminars and other small group learning activities on campus for the second half-year, while keeping an online version available for those students unable to return or those who choose to continue their studies online.

To check the availability of face-to-face and online activities for your unit, please go to [timetable viewer](#). To check detailed information on unit assessments visit your unit's iLearn space or consult your unit convenor.

## General Information

Unit convenor and teaching staff

Kelly Hamilton

[kelly.hamilton@mq.edu.au](mailto:kelly.hamilton@mq.edu.au)

Credit points

10

Prerequisites

Corequisites

Co-badged status

Unit description

This unit provides an introduction to major topics in ethics, moral theory and contemporary political philosophy. The first section focuses on the nature of happiness. Is pleasure essential to happiness? Or does the pursuit of pleasure harm our chances of lasting fulfilment? Must we be virtuous in order to be happy? What is the relationship between happiness and duty? The second section explores the nature of moral goodness. Is morality based ultimately in self-interest? What is the relationship between morality and religion? Are there moral principles that everyone is bound by reason to recognise? Or is the validity of moral standards relative to specific societies and cultures? In the third section we turn to questions of applied political philosophy, focusing on questions such as: What principles should govern the distribution of economic and social resources within a society? What are the obligations of wealthy nations to those less fortunate, including immigrants and refugees? And what issues of justice are raised by climate change?

## 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:

**ULO1:** Demonstrate elementary understanding of key moral and political theories.

**ULO2:** Evaluate, in an elementary way, contemporary social issues that concern happiness, goodness, and justice, using philosophical ideas and methods.

**ULO3:** Summarise and explain a philosophical text and its key features at an elementary level.

**ULO4:** Reflect critically on philosophical theories and arguments at an elementary level.

**ULO5:** Formulate and defend their own ideas with clarity and rigour, in a logical, structured argument, at an elementary level.

**ULO6:** Engage constructively and respectfully with the views of others, even if they disagree with them.

## General Assessment Information

***Note: This unit is identical to the one offered in session 2, which is 13 weeks long. This is an intensive unit, as 13 weeks is compressed to 5 weeks with no change to content or requirements.***

### 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](#).

### Submission of Assessments

All written assessments are to be submitted via the unit's iLearn site. There is no need for a coversheet, and we request that you omit your name from the document. A link to the Turnitin submission page will be provided on iLearn in the Assessments section. Written assessments will be run through the Turnitin software which detects unoriginal work.

The online quizzes will be available on iLearn. Each quiz can only be undertaken once and has a time limit.

### Assessing Active Participation

Active participation is assessed by a student's engagement in contributions to online discussion forums facilitated by the tutor. Participation is expected to be well considered and relevant to the unit of study.

### Extensions and Penalties

All work must be submitted on time unless an extension has been granted. Requests for extensions must be made in writing BEFORE the due date and will only be considered on serious grounds. **Submit your request to [ask.mq.edu.au](#).**

Applications must be made within 5 days of illness/misadventure. Extensions will not be given unless good reasons and appropriate evidence (e.g., medical certificates, counsellor's letters) are presented at the earliest opportunity. Please note that work due concurrently in other subjects is NOT an exceptional circumstance and does not constitute a legitimate reason for an extension.

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.

To obtain an extension, you must submit a Special Consideration application. See below for details on how to do that.

## Special Consideration Policy

The University classifies a disruption as serious and unavoidable if it:

- 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.

Students with a pre-existing disability/health condition or prolonged adverse circumstances may be eligible for ongoing assistance and support. Such support is governed by other policies and may be sought and coordinated through [Campus Wellbeing and Support Services](#).

How to submit a Special Consideration application?

## Assessment Tasks

| Name                                       | Weighting | Hurdle | Due                           |
|--|-----------|--------|-------------------------------|
| <a href="#">Tutorial Participation</a>     | 20%       | No     | Ongoing                       |
| <a href="#">Online quizzes</a>             | 20%       | No     | Ongoing                       |
| <a href="#">Reflection about Happiness</a> | 20%       | No     | Wednesday 16 December 11:59pm |
| <a href="#">Critical Essay</a>             | 40%       | No     | Wednesday 20 January 11:59pm  |

### Tutorial Participation

Assessment Type <sup>1</sup>: Participatory task

Indicative Time on Task <sup>2</sup>: 10 hours

Due: **Ongoing**

Weighting: **20%**

Demonstrate engagement with course materials by responding to questions and contributing to tutorial discussions.

On successful completion you will be able to:

- Reflect critically on philosophical theories and arguments at an elementary level.
- Formulate and defend their own ideas with clarity and rigour, in a logical, structured argument, at an elementary level.
- Engage constructively and respectfully with the views of others, even if they disagree with them.

## Online quizzes

Assessment Type <sup>1</sup>: Quiz/Test

Indicative Time on Task <sup>2</sup>: 10 hours

Due: **Ongoing**

Weighting: **20%**

A weekly online quiz on the topic covered that week. There are 10 quizzes in total.

On successful completion you will be able to:

- Demonstrate elementary understanding of key moral and political theories.

## Reflection about Happiness

Assessment Type <sup>1</sup>: Reflective Writing

Indicative Time on Task <sup>2</sup>: 15 hours

Due: **Wednesday 16 December 11:59pm**

Weighting: **20%**

A short reflective exercise about what has been learnt from part one of the unit. The reflection will have three sections requiring the student to consider their view of happiness held when beginning the unit; to describe a relevant theory of happiness; and to reflect on whether their view of happiness has changed.

On successful completion you will be able to:

- Demonstrate elementary understanding of key moral and political theories.
- Evaluate, in an elementary way, contemporary social issues that concern happiness, goodness, and justice, using philosophical ideas and methods.

- Summarise and explain a philosophical text and its key features at an elementary level.

## Critical Essay

Assessment Type <sup>1</sup>: Essay

Indicative Time on Task <sup>2</sup>: 35 hours

Due: **Wednesday 20 January 11:59pm**

Weighting: **40%**

Critical discussion of a set question from parts 2 or 3 of the unit, demonstrating the critical questioning and philosophical knowledge has been learnt throughout the unit.

On successful completion you will be able to:

- Demonstrate elementary understanding of key moral and political theories.
- Summarise and explain a philosophical text and its key features at an elementary level.
- Reflect critically on philosophical theories and arguments at an elementary level.
- Formulate and defend their own ideas with clarity and rigour, in a logical, structured argument, at an elementary level.

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<sup>1</sup> If you need help with your assignment, please contact:

- the academic teaching staff in your unit for guidance in understanding or completing this type of assessment
- the [Writing Centre](#) for academic skills support.

<sup>2</sup> Indicative time-on-task is an estimate of the time required for completion of the assessment task and is subject to individual variation

## Delivery and Resources

### Required Readings

All required readings and most supplementary readings are available from the Library via Leganto, which should be accessed via the link on iLearn. You are responsible for gaining access to the readings. A schedule of the required readings is provided on iLearn.

There is no textbook and you are not required to buy any reading materials.

### Technologies used

This unit has an online presence in iLearn where activities are set and subject materials distributed. Students will require access to reliable broadband and a computer. Some assessments are conducted through this site, and written tasks will be submitted using Turnitin, a

plagiarism scanning program. All required readings are provided in electronic form by the Library, via Leganto. All lectures will be provided as recordings via Echo, on iLearn.

## Contacting the Teaching Staff

The first point of contact is the tutor. Please see iLearn for email details, listed in the right column. Should the tutor be unable to assist, the tutor will forward the inquiry to the convenor, Kelly Hamilton.

## Unit Schedule

***Note: This unit is identical to the one offered in session 2, which is 13 weeks long. This is an intensive unit, as 13 weeks is compressed to 5 weeks with no change to content or requirements.***

The unit will introduce philosophy under three big ideas:

1. Living a life of happiness
2. Justifying what goodness (morality) is
3. Topical issues of justice

There are 12 topics in total, over 5 weeks. Each lecture will have an accompanying forum discussion.

## Unit Schedule:

### Week 1:

- Topic 1: Introduction: What is moral philosophy?

#### **§ Part 1: Happiness**

- Topic 2: "The good life is the life of pleasure" - Epicurean ethics
- Topic 3: Living according to nature - Stoic ethics

? Quiz 1 and Quiz 2

### Week 2:

- Topic 4: Happiness and character - Aristotelian ethics

#### **§ Part 2: Goodness**

- Topic 5: Morality and religion

? Quiz 3 and Quiz 4

### Week 3:

#### **► 16 December 2020: Reflection about happiness due**

- Topic 6: The challenge of moral relativism
- Topic 7: Egoism and self-interest

- Topic 8: The greatest good for the greatest number - Utilitarianism

? Quiz 5 and Quiz 6

## **Recess**

### **Week 4:**

- Topic 9: The moral law is universal! - Kant's challenge

### **§ Part 3: Justice**

- Topic 10: Justice and inequality: Who gets how much and is it fair?

? Quiz 7 and Quiz 8

### **Week 5:**

- Topic 11: Immigration and refugees: Who gets to come and who gets to stay?
- Topic 12: Climate change and justice: Who should pay to fix it?

? Quiz 9 and Quiz 10

### **Week 6:**

► **20 January 2021: Critical essay due**

## **Policies and Procedures**

Macquarie University policies and procedures are accessible from [Policy Central](https://staff.mq.edu.au/work/strategy-planning-and-governance/university-policies-and-procedures/policy-central) (<https://staff.mq.edu.au/work/strategy-planning-and-governance/university-policies-and-procedures/policy-central>). Students should be aware of the following policies in particular with regard to Learning and Teaching:

- [Academic Appeals Policy](#)
- [Academic Integrity Policy](#)
- [Academic Progression Policy](#)
- [Assessment Policy](#)
- [Fitness to Practice Procedure](#)
- [Grade Appeal Policy](#)
- [Complaint Management Procedure for Students and Members of the Public](#)
- [Special Consideration Policy](#) (**Note:** *The Special Consideration Policy is effective from 4 December 2017 and replaces the Disruption to Studies Policy.*)

Students seeking more policy resources can visit the [Student Policy Gateway](https://students.mq.edu.au/support/study/student-policy-gateway) (<https://students.mq.edu.au/support/study/student-policy-gateway>). It is your one-stop-shop for the key policies you need to know about throughout your undergraduate student journey.

If you would like to see all the policies relevant to Learning and Teaching visit [Policy Central](https://staff.mq.edu.au/work/strategy-planning-and-governance/university-policies-and-procedures/p) (<https://staff.mq.edu.au/work/strategy-planning-and-governance/university-policies-and-procedures/p>



[olicy-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/study/getting-started/student-conduct>

## Results

Results published on platform other than [eStudent](#), (eg. iLearn, Coursera etc.) 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) or if you are a Global MBA student contact [globalmba.support@mq.edu.au](mailto:globalmba.support@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](http://mq.edu.au/learningskills)) provides academic writing resources and study strategies to help you improve your marks and take control of your study.

- [Getting help with your assignment](#)
- [Workshops](#)
- [StudyWise](#)
- [Academic Integrity Module](#)

The Library provides online and face to face support to help you find and use relevant information resources.

- [Subject and Research Guides](#)
- [Ask a Librarian](#)

## 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](http://ask.mq.edu.au)

If you are a Global MBA student contact [globalmba.support@mq.edu.au](mailto:globalmba.support@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/](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.