



PHIL3051

Social Philosophy

Session 1, Fully online/virtual 2020

Department of Philosophy

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General Information

Unit convenor and teaching staff

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Credit points

10

Prerequisites

130cp at 1000 level or above

Corequisites

Co-badged status

Unit description

Social philosophy is a type of philosophical investigation that focuses on issues affecting individuals and communities as a result of dysfunctions in modern society. Using the tools of philosophical analysis, it seeks to define the perspective from which criticism can be formulated, and how possible solutions can be found. The unit draws on key social philosophers of the 20th century to address some of the most pressing issues faced by contemporary societies, such as the social and environmental impacts of the current economic system; the effects of technology upon human bodies and lives; and the limitations placed on individual rights and freedoms by new forms of state and corporate institutions.

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 a general understanding of the history and significance of European social philosophy.

ULO2: Critically analyse philosophical theories in relation to significant social issues.

ULO3: Apply concepts and arguments in European social philosophy to current social, cultural and political debates.

ULO4: Communicate clearly your own perspectives on the views and arguments presented in the unit.

Assessment Tasks

Coronavirus (COVID-19) Update

Assessment details are no longer provided here as a result of changes due to the Coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic.

Students should consult [iLearn](#) for revised unit information.

[Find out more about the Coronavirus \(COVID-19\) and potential impacts on staff and students](#)

Delivery and Resources

Coronavirus (COVID-19) Update

Any references to on-campus delivery below may no longer be relevant due to COVID-19.

Please check here for updated delivery information: https://ask.mq.edu.au/account/pub/display/unit_status

This unit uses the PHL3051 ilearn website and Echo360 lecture recordings (<https://ilearn.mq.edu.au/login/MQ/>). The website contains links to lecture notes, ilecture recordings, and other learning materials you will require for the course. PHL3051 will be delivered using a combination of lectures (live and pre-recorded) and tutorial/seminar discussion groups. Online students will therefore require access to a computer and a good internet connection in order to participate in the unit effectively.

Required readings: required readings are listed in the unit guide and available for download from library eReserve or from iLearn. There is no printed unit reader.

You must read the required readings BEFORE the lecture and tutorial.

Recommended readings: As well as the required reading, recommended additional readings for each topic are listed on iLearn. You do not need to read these each week but they are highly recommended for a better understanding of the topics. They are also useful references for your assignments.

Unit Schedule

Coronavirus (COVID-19) Update

The unit schedule/topics and any references to on-campus delivery below may no longer be relevant due to COVID-19. Please consult [iLearn](#) for latest details, and check here for updated delivery information: https://ask.mq.edu.au/account/pub/display/unit_status

Section 1: Introduction to Social Philosophy

Week 1: What is Social Philosophy?

Required Reading:

Axel Honneth, Pathologies of the Social: The Past and Present of Social Philosophy, in *Disrespect: The Normative Foundations of Critical Theory*. Joseph Ganahl (trans.) Polity Press, 2007, pp. 3-48.

Recommended Reading:

György Márkus, After the System: Philosophy in the Epoch of the Sciences, in *Culture, Science, Society, The Constitution of Cultural Modernity*, Brill, 2011, pp. 263-284.

Week 2: Conceptual Foundations: Rationalisation & Reification

Required Reading:

Georg Lukács, Reification and the Consciousness of the Proletariat, in *History and Class Consciousness: Studies in Marxist Dialectics*, Rodney Livingstone (trans.), The MIT Press, 1973, pp. 83-109.

Recommended Reading:

Max Weber, Prefatory Remarks to Collected Essays in the Sociology of Religion, in *The Protestant Ethic and the Spirit of Capitalism*, Stephen Kalberg (trans.), OUP, 2011 pp. 233-250.

Section 2: German Social Philosophy: The Frankfurt School

Week 3: Modernity in Crisis (I): The Dialectic of Enlightenment

Required Reading:

Max Horkheimer and Theodor Adorno, The Concept of Enlightenment, in *Dialectic of Enlightenment: Philosophical Fragments*, Edmund Jephcott (trans.) Stanford University Press, 2002, pp. 1-35.

Recommended Reading:

Max Horkheimer, Means and Ends, in *The Eclipse of Reason*, Continuum, 2004, pp. 3-40.

Week 4: Modernity in Crisis (II): The Authoritarian State and the Decline of the Individual

Required Reading:

Max Horkheimer, The Rise and Decline of the Individual, in *The Eclipse of Reason*, Continuum, 2004, pp. 87-109.

Recommended Reading:

Max Horkheimer, The Authoritarian State, in *The Essential Frankfurt School Reader*, A. Arato & E. Gebhardt (eds.), Continuum, 1985, pp. 95-117.

Section 3: Contemporary Approaches to Critical Theory

Week 5: Jürgen Habermas & the Reconstruction of Critical Theory

Required Reading:

Jürgen Habermas, Toward a Reconstruction of Historical Materialism, in *Communication and the Evolution of Society*, Thomas McCarthy (trans.), Polity, 1991, pp. 130-178.

Recommended Reading:

Jürgen Habermas, The Entwinement of Myth and Enlightenment: Max Horkheimer and Theodor Adorno, in *The Philosophical Discourse of Modernity: Twelve Lectures*, Frederick Lawrence (trans.), Polity, 1987, pp. 106-130.

Week 6: Communicative Rationality & The Colonisation of the Lifeworld

Required Reading:

Jürgen Habermas, extracts from *The Theory of Communicative Action, Volume II: Lifeworld and System*, Thomas McCarthy (trans.), Beacon Press, 1987, pp. TBA.

Week 7: Reading Week

No classes due to Good Friday public holiday.

Week 8: The Struggle for Recognition

Required Reading:

Axel Honneth, Patterns of Intersubjective Recognition: Love, Rights and Solidarity, in *The Struggle for Recognition*, Joel Anderson (trans.), The MIT Press, pp. 92-130.

Recommended Reading:

Axel Honneth, Personal Identity and Disrespect: The Violation of the Body, the Denial of Rights, and the Denigration of Ways of Life, in *The Struggle for Recognition*, Joel Anderson (trans.), The MIT Press, pp. 131-140.

Week 9: Reinterpreting Reification

Required Reading:

Axel Honneth, *Reification: A New Look at an Old Idea*, Joseph Ganahl (trans.), OUP, 2008, pp. 17-85.

Section 4: Eastern European Social Philosophy: The Budapest School

Week 10: The Dissatisfied Society

Required Reading:

Agnes Heller, The Dissatisfied Society in *The Power of Shame*, 1985, pp. 300-314.

Agnes Heller and Ferenc Fehér, On Being Satisfied a Dissatisfied Society, in *The Postmodern Political Condition*, Columbia University Press, 1988, pp.14-30.

Week 11: The Logic(s) of Modernity and the Modern Imagination

Required Reading:

Agnes Heller, *A Theory of Modernity*, Blackwell, 1999, pp. 64-114.

Week 12: The Contradictions of Modern Culture

Required Reading:

György Márkus, The Paradoxical Unity of Culture: The Arts and Sciences, in *Culture, Science, Society, The Constitution of Cultural Modernity*, Brill, 2011, pp. 59-81.

Recommended Reading:

György Márkus, The Antinomies of 'Culture,' in *Culture, Science, Society, The Constitution of Cultural Modernity*, Brill, 2011, pp. 633-653.

Week 13: Conclusion and Recap

No readings for Week 13.

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](http://staff.mq.edu.au/work/strategy-planning-and-governance/university-policies-and-procedures/policy-central) (<http://staff.mq.edu.au/work/strategy-planning-and-governance/university-policies-and-procedures/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/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 or if you are a Global MBA student contact 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) 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

If you are a Global MBA student contact 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/.

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.