



PHIX3058

Metaphysics

Session 2, 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

Convenor/tutor

Jennifer Duke-Yonge

jennifer.duke-yonge@mq.edu.au

Contact via Email, or via "Dialogues" in iLearn

25WWB719

By arrangement

Credit points

10

Prerequisites

Corequisites

Co-badged status

Unit description

This unit examines some central themes in traditional and contemporary metaphysics. We will begin by examining traditional topics such as causation, free will, laws of nature, personal identity, mental states, and time. Some of the questions we will look at are: Do we have free will or are our actions determined by the laws of nature? How does the mind relate to the brain? Will my personal identity persist over time? What is the nature of time? Is time travel possible? We will also examine a range metaphysical topics in other areas in philosophy, which may include philosophy of art, philosophy of technology, and philosophy of religion.

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: apply understanding developed through course material, readings and research to explain key problems in Metaphysics and responses to them.

ULO2: apply advanced skills in critical analysis and reflection to respond to the problems and theories introduced in the unit.

ULO3: clearly communicate your own perspective on the views and arguments presented in the unit.

ULO4: contribute to the learning of the group by engaging constructively in philosophical discussion and activities.

General Assessment Information

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

<https://students.mq.edu.au/support/study/tools-and-resources/ilearn/ilearn-quick-guides-for-students/assignments-and-grades>

Special Consideration

Requests for extensions should be submitted via a Special Consideration request, which is available in the <http://ask.mq.edu.au> portal. Your request should be accompanied by appropriate documentation, such as a medical certificate. Please see the Special Consideration policy in the list of policies at the end of this document for further details.

Read the policy closely as your request may be turned down if you have not followed procedure, or if you have not submitted a request in a timely manner.

Late Assessment Penalty

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.

Academic Integrity

In Philosophy, academic honesty is taken very seriously. Misrepresenting someone else's work as your own may be grounds for referral to the Faculty Disciplinary Committee. If you have questions about how to properly cite work or how to credit sources, please talk to one of the teaching staff and see also Academic Integrity Policy (see the Policies and Procedures section below).

Please note that the policy also prohibits resubmitting work you have already submitted in another unit or unit offering. This counts as **self-plagiarism**. To avoid self-plagiarism, if you have done this unit previously, you should write on another topic this time. If this presents you with any problems, please contact the unit convenor as soon as possible.

All due times/dates are based on Sydney time. If you are in a different timezone, check [here](#) to confirm times.

Assessment Tasks

Name	Weighting	Hurdle	Due
<u>Final essay</u>	40%	No	Sunday 8/11 (Week 13)
<u>First essay</u>	30%	No	Sunday 20/9 (Mid-semester break)
<u>Tutorial/online discussion</u>	10%	No	Weeks 2-12
<u>Online quizzes</u>	15%	No	Weeks 5, 9, 13
<u>Essay plan</u>	5%	No	Sunday 18/10 (Week 10)

Final essay

Assessment Type ¹: Essay

Indicative Time on Task ²: 30 hours

Due: **Sunday 8/11 (Week 13)**

Weighting: **40%**

An argumentative essay on themes from the unit.

On successful completion you will be able to:

- apply understanding developed through course material, readings and research to explain key problems in Metaphysics and responses to them.
- apply advanced skills in critical analysis and reflection to respond to the problems and theories introduced in the unit.
- clearly communicate your own perspective on the views and arguments presented in the unit.

First essay

Assessment Type ¹: Essay

Indicative Time on Task ²: 20 hours

Due: **Sunday 20/9 (Mid-semester break)**

Weighting: **30%**

A short argumentative essay on themes from the unit.

On successful completion you will be able to:

- apply understanding developed through course material, readings and research to explain key problems in Metaphysics and responses to them.
- apply advanced skills in critical analysis and reflection to respond to the problems and

theories introduced in the unit.

- clearly communicate your own perspective on the views and arguments presented in the unit.

Tutorial/online discussion

Assessment Type ¹: Participatory task

Indicative Time on Task ²: 10 hours

Due: **Weeks 2-12**

Weighting: **10%**

Students should be well prepared for tutorials (in class or online). Students should make a constructive contribution to classroom/online discussion and activities.

On successful completion you will be able to:

- clearly communicate your own perspective on the views and arguments presented in the unit.
- contribute to the learning of the group by engaging constructively in philosophical discussion and activities.

Online quizzes

Assessment Type ¹: Quiz/Test

Indicative Time on Task ²: 9 hours

Due: **Weeks 5, 9, 13**

Weighting: **15%**

Multiple choice questions covering material from lectures and set readings.

On successful completion you will be able to:

- apply understanding developed through course material, readings and research to explain key problems in Metaphysics and responses to them.

Essay plan

Assessment Type ¹: Plan

Indicative Time on Task ²: 5 hours

Due: **Sunday 18/10 (Week 10)**

Weighting: **5%**

Prior to the final essay, students will submit an essay plan of their intended chosen question for the final essay.

On successful completion you will be able to:

- apply understanding developed through course material, readings and research to

explain key problems in Metaphysics and responses to them.

- apply advanced skills in critical analysis and reflection to respond to the problems and theories introduced in the unit.
- clearly communicate your own perspective on the views and arguments presented in the unit.

¹ 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.

² 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

For the first half of this course, we'll use the following textbook:

John W. Carroll and Ned Markosian. (2010). *Introduction to Metaphysics*. Cambridge University Press.

Please buy this book before the course begins. It is available as a hard copy via [Booktopia](#), but is also available in a [Kindle edition](#) if you prefer.

For the second half, we'll use selected articles which will be available electronically through the Macquarie University Library, with links from iLearn.

Online units can be accessed at: <http://ilearn.mq.edu.au/>. Unit resources include video lecture recordings, quizzes, written content, discussion forums and assignment submission.

PC and Internet access are required. Basic computer skills (e.g., internet browsing) and skills in word processing are also a requirement. A reliable internet connection is required throughout semester.

Unit Schedule

Week 1 (beginning 27/7)	Course introduction: What is Metaphysics?
Week 2 (beginning 3/8)	Causation
Week 3 (beginning 10/8)	Free Will and Determinism
Week 4 (beginning 17/8)	Laws of Nature
Week 5 (beginning 24/8)	Personal Identity
Week 6 (beginning 31/8)	Mental States

Week 7 (beginning 7/9)	The Metaphysics of God
14/9 - 27/9	Midsemester break
Week 8 (beginning 28/9)	Time
Week 9 (beginning 5/10)	Time Travel
Week 10 (beginning 12/10)	The Metaphysics of Art
Week 11 (beginning 19/10)	The Metaphysics of Artefacts
Week 12 (beginning 26/10)	The Metaphysics of Virtual Reality

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/policy-central) (<https://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.

Changes from Previous Offering

Minor changes to assessment

