



# PHIX2042

## Practical Ethics

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

OUA Convenor

Jennifer Duke-Yonge

[jennifer.duke-yonge@mq.edu.au](mailto:jennifer.duke-yonge@mq.edu.au)

Contact via Email, or via "Dialogues" in iLearn

25WWB719

By arrangement

Tutor

Thomas Corbin

[thomas-alexander.corbin@mq.edu.au](mailto:thomas-alexander.corbin@mq.edu.au)

Contact via Email, or via "Dialogues" in iLearn

Credit points

10

Prerequisites

Corequisites

Co-badged status

Unit description

This unit focuses on a range of topics in applied ethics, starting with ethics in the personal sphere and expanding the sphere of moral concern outwards to include those with whom we are not in a personal relationship and also non-human animals and the environment. We consider ethical questions to do with abortion, marriage, children's rights, suicide and euthanasia; questions of what we owe to those less well off than ourselves (e.g. those in poverty, refugees and asylum seekers); and ethical issues in the breakdown of moral relations (e.g. war, terrorism, torture and punishment). Discussion of the different topics is structured around key concepts, themes and questions including personhood, harm, and justice. The unit aims to encourage deep intellectual and also personal reflection on the complex ethical issues raised by such questions and to introduce students to the different positions and arguments within the relevant philosophical debates. All enrolment queries should be directed to Open Universities Australia (OUA): see [www.open.edu.au](http://www.open.edu.au)

## 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:** Recognize and describe key issues, questions and theories in practical and philosophical ethics.

**ULO2:** Apply ethical theories to the practical ethical issues discussed in class and beyond.

**ULO3:** Develop well defended ethical arguments, rather than relying on intuitions or emotional reactions.

**ULO4:** Identify and evaluate the relative merits of competing ethical values, perspectives and/or theories, whilst appreciating that ethical conflicts are often inevitable and sometimes insoluble.

**ULO5:** Reflect on and critically interrogate the values they have and how they influence them as a person, student, citizen and future professional.

## 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
<a href="#">Active participation/engagement</a>	20%	No	Weeks 1-12
<a href="#">Reflective Journal Part 1</a>	15%	No	Sunday 9/8 (Week 2)
<a href="#">Short Paper</a>	20%	No	Sunday 6/9 (Week 6)
<a href="#">Essay</a>	30%	No	Sunday 11/10 (Week 9)
<a href="#">Reflective Journal Part 2</a>	15%	No	Sunday 8/11 (Week 13)

### Active participation/engagement

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

Indicative Time on Task <sup>2</sup>: 20 hours

Due: **Weeks 1-12**

Weighting: **20%**

Students participate actively in 75% of online discussions, demonstrating that they have read the required readings and making active and constructive contributions to discussions.

On successful completion you will be able to:

- Recognize and describe key issues, questions and theories in practical and philosophical ethics.
- Develop well defended ethical arguments, rather than relying on intuitions or emotional reactions.
- Identify and evaluate the relative merits of competing ethical values, perspectives and/or theories, whilst appreciating that ethical conflicts are often inevitable and sometimes insoluble.
- Reflect on and critically interrogate the values they have and how they influence them as

a person, student, citizen and future professional.

## Reflective Journal Part 1

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

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

Due: **Sunday 9/8 (Week 2)**

Weighting: **15%**

Students write about a morally challenging decision they have faced and reflect on the approach they took to managing it.

On successful completion you will be able to:

- Recognize and describe key issues, questions and theories in practical and philosophical ethics.
- Identify and evaluate the relative merits of competing ethical values, perspectives and/or theories, whilst appreciating that ethical conflicts are often inevitable and sometimes insoluble.
- Reflect on and critically interrogate the values they have and how they influence them as a person, student, citizen and future professional.

## Short Paper

Assessment Type <sup>1</sup>: Qualitative analysis task

Indicative Time on Task <sup>2</sup>: 20 hours

Due: **Sunday 6/9 (Week 6)**

Weighting: **20%**

Students select one required reading from the first part of the unit, and identify and discuss one objection or critical point made to an argument in that reading.

On successful completion you will be able to:

- Recognize and describe key issues, questions and theories in practical and philosophical ethics.
- Develop well defended ethical arguments, rather than relying on intuitions or emotional reactions.
- Identify and evaluate the relative merits of competing ethical values, perspectives and/or theories, whilst appreciating that ethical conflicts are often inevitable and sometimes insoluble.

## Essay

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

Indicative Time on Task <sup>2</sup>: 30 hours

Due: **Sunday 11/10 (Week 9)**

Weighting: **30%**

Students produce a more sustained and researched piece of argumentative writing (word limit 1500 words).

On successful completion you will be able to:

- Recognize and describe key issues, questions and theories in practical and philosophical ethics.
- Apply ethical theories to the practical ethical issues discussed in class and beyond.
- Develop well defended ethical arguments, rather than relying on intuitions or emotional reactions.
- Identify and evaluate the relative merits of competing ethical values, perspectives and/or theories, whilst appreciating that ethical conflicts are often inevitable and sometimes insoluble.

## Reflective Journal Part 2

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

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

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

Weighting: **15%**

Students revisit their first journal submission at the end of semester, reflecting on and evaluating their approach to managing it, using concepts and theory acquired in the course of the unit.

On successful completion you will be able to:

- Recognize and describe key issues, questions and theories in practical and philosophical ethics.
- Apply ethical theories to the practical ethical issues discussed in class and beyond.
- Identify and evaluate the relative merits of competing ethical values, perspectives and/or theories, whilst appreciating that ethical conflicts are often inevitable and sometimes insoluble.
- Reflect on and critically interrogate the values they have and how they influence them as a person, student, citizen and future professional.

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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

**Readings:** All required readings and some supplementary readings are available through the Leganto link on the iLearn site.

## Unit Schedule

Week 1 (beginning 27/7).	Introduction to course and ethical reasoning
Week 2 (beginning 3/8)	Abortion, moral status and personhood
Week 3 (beginning 10/8)	Children, the family and parenting
Week 4 (beginning 17/8)	Death (a) Suicide
Week 5 (beginning 24/8)	Death (b) Euthanasia
Week 6 (beginning 31/8)	What we owe to those less fortunate (a) Poverty
Week 7 (beginning 7/9)	What we owe to those less fortunate (b) Refugees and asylum seekers

### *Mid Semester break ( 14/9 - 27/9)*

Week 8 (beginning 28/9)	Non -human animals
Week 9 (beginning 5/10)	The environment
Week 10 (beginning 12/10)	War and humanitarian intervention
Week 11 (beginning 19/10)	Torture
Week 12 (beginning 26/10)	Punishment and capital punishment
Week 13 (beginning 2/11)	Review week

## 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](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.