



# ACCG8048

## Business and Professional Ethics

Session 1, Weekday attendance, North Ryde 2020

*Department of Accounting & Corporate Governance*

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## General Information

Unit convenor and teaching staff

Unit Convenor

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Level 3, 4 Eastern Road

N/A

Credit points

10

Prerequisites

20cp at 6000 level or above including ACCG611 or ACCG6011 or ACCG614 or ACCG6014 or MGNT603 or ACCG6003

Corequisites

Co-badged status

Unit description

The principal aim of this unit is to provide students with an understanding of the main ethical issues raised by the activities of the business and corporate sphere, both in relation to the society and environment within which they operate, and in relation to individuals employed within corporations. The unit has a strong research focus and students will apply the theoretical knowledge gained in the course to real-world situations. After completing the unit, students will be able to recognise and confidently engage with the complex ethical issues that will inevitably arise during the course of their careers.

## 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:** Investigate major issues in contemporary business and professional ethics and articulate a clear and informed ethical position on these issues.

**ULO2:** Critically interpret the major ethical theories that have informed the development of the business ethics literature and articulate their own ethical perspective.

**ULO3:** Analyse and critically evaluate moral theories and arguments.

**ULO4:** Relate ethical theories to relevant real-world business cases and current events.

## 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](#)

## General Assessment Information

### Submission and marking criteria

Refer to the ACCG8048 Assessment Guide, available on iLearn. Feedback will be provided via an iLearn marking rubric.

### Late submission(s)

Late assessment must also be submitted through Turnitin. No extensions will be granted. There will be a deduction of 10% of the total available marks made from the total awarded mark for each 24 hour period or part thereof that the submission is late (for example, 25 hours late in submission incurs a 20% penalty). Late submissions will not be accepted after solutions have been discussed and/or made available. This penalty does not apply for cases in which an application for [Special Consideration](#) is made and approved. Note: applications for [Special Consideration Policy](#) must be made within 5 (five) business days of the due date and time.

### Requirements to satisfactorily complete the unit

Satisfactory completion of ACCG8048 is an overall passing grade. There is no requirement to achieve a passing grade in each individual assessment component. However, since each

assessment component contributes to the overall learning outcomes of the unit, students are expected to complete each assessment task in order to maximise their educational experience.

## 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](https://ask.mq.edu.au/account/pub/display/unit_status)

### Classes and schedule

ACCG8048 utilizes a combination of video lectures and class seminars. Lecture videos will be posted on iLearn. For class times, refer to the Macquarie University timetable.

### Required texts and materials

The prescribed text for this unit is: Joseph DesJardins, An Introduction to Business Ethics, 6th edition, McGraw-Hill, New York, 2020. The material in this text is fundamental to the concepts covered in the unit and should be read carefully. Additional materials may be posted on iLearn.

### Teaching and learning activities

This unit provides an opportunity for students to research an ethical issue of their choosing after providing some background in moral theory. Having obtained an understanding of the basic moral theories, students will select an individual topic via an essay proposal. They will then develop this proposal into a full essay, submitted in two parts during the semester. On average, the unit will require students to complete between 6 to 8 hours of private study per week.

### Technology used and required

The unit web page can be accessed from [ilearn.mq.edu.au](http://ilearn.mq.edu.au). Please note that student activity on the unit web page is logged, and may be utilized by the unit convenor and other university staff in resolving student disputes regarding such issues as assignment submission. Instructions for obtaining help with accessing the unit web page can also be found at the above URL.

## 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](http://ilearn) for latest details, and check here for updated delivery information: [https://ask.mq.edu.au/account/pub/display/unit\\_status](https://ask.mq.edu.au/account/pub/display/unit_status)

Week	Seminar topic	Ethical issue	Ethical theory
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1	Is business ethics a science or an art?	Introduction	Introduction
2	When in Rome, do –uh, what exactly?	Globalisation and bribery	Ethical relativism
3	Should we sweat about sweatshops?	Labour outsourcing	Utilitarian ethics
4	What happens at Fight Club ..	Employee responsibilities and whistleblowing	Kantian ethics
5	Customers – always right or routinely ripped off?	Customers	Virtue ethics
6	Who to believe: the Pencil or the Piano Man?	Corporate social responsibility	Critical theory
7	So long and thanks for all the fish	The environment	Environmental ethics
Recess – private study			
8	How simple is safety?	Workplace health and safety	Discourse ethics
9	Fair trade	Fair trade	Revision
10	Why your first day could be your last	Peer pressure	Situationist ethics
11	Current topic 1	Workplace sexual harassment	
12	Current topic 2	Impression management	
13	Conclusions		

## 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.

## Changes from Previous Offering

Materials/topics have been updated to reflect recent business ethics issues.