



PHIX1032

Happiness, Goodness and Justice

Session 3, Fully online/virtual 2021

Department of Philosophy

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Session 2 Learning and Teaching Update

The decision has been made to conduct study online for the remainder of Session 2 for all units WITHOUT mandatory on-campus learning activities. Exams for Session 2 will also be online where possible to do so.

This is due to the extension of the lockdown orders and to provide certainty around arrangements for the remainder of Session 2. We hope to return to campus beyond Session 2 as soon as it is safe and appropriate to do so.

Some classes/teaching activities cannot be moved online and must be taught on campus. You should already know if you are in one of these classes/teaching activities and your unit convenor will provide you with more information via iLearn. If you want to confirm, see the list of [units with mandatory on-campus classes/teaching activities](#).

Visit the [MQ COVID-19 information page](#) for more detail.

General Information

Unit convenor and teaching staff

Kelly Hamilton

kelly.hamilton@mq.edu.au

Jane Johnson

jane.johnson@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? All enrolment queries should be directed to Open Universities Australia (OUA): see 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: 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 your 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 you disagree with them.

General Assessment Information

****Note that this is an intensive (accelerated) unit, and the course load is identical to the standard 13-week session in which one topic is studied per week. There is no difference in the requirements between an ordinary unit and an intensive unit, except for the shortened time frame.***

There are ten quizzes and ten forums for forum discussion (in lieu of tutorial participation). Each quiz and each forum will be open for one week (Monday to Sunday). Due to the accelerated session, you will need to complete two quizzes and two forums each week. These are timed assessments and no extensions will be granted. This is because the quiz feedback is released when the quiz closes, and the forum discussions are interactive.

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 topic of study. There are no tutorials.

There will be two forums each week, addressing the material for two topics. Each forum will contain two or three discussions, which you should participate in over the week.

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 – **ten (10) 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.

Assessment Tasks

Name	Weighting	Hurdle	Due
Reflection about Happiness	20%	No	Wed 15 December 11:59pm
Online quizzes	20%	No	Sun 11:59pm weekly
Critical Essay	40%	No	Tues 18 January 11:59pm
Tutorial Participation	20%	No	Sun 11:59pm weekly

Reflection about Happiness

Assessment Type ¹: Reflective Writing

Indicative Time on Task ²: 15 hours

Due: **Wed 15 December 11:59pm**

Weighting: **20%**

A short reflective exercise.

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.

Online quizzes

Assessment Type ¹: Quiz/Test

Indicative Time on Task ²: 10 hours

Due: **Sun 11:59pm weekly**

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.

Critical Essay

Assessment Type ¹: Essay

Indicative Time on Task ²: 35 hours

Due: **Tues 18 January 11:59pm**

Weighting: **40%**

A critical discussion of a set question where you demonstrate the critical questioning and philosophical knowledge that you have learned over 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 your own ideas with clarity and rigour, in a logical, structured argument, at an elementary level.

Tutorial Participation

Assessment Type ¹: Participatory task

Indicative Time on Task ²: 10 hours

Due: **Sun 11:59pm weekly**

Weighting: **20%**

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

On successful completion you will be able to:

- Reflect critically on philosophical theories and arguments at an elementary level.
- Formulate and defend your 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 you disagree with them.

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

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.

Unit Schedule

Week	Part	Topic	Forum	Quiz	Assessment
1: 29 Nov – 5 Dec		1. What is moral philosophy?			
	Happiness	2. “The good life is the life of pleasure” – Epicurean ethics	1 - Epicurus	1 – Epicurean ethics	
		3. Living according to nature – Stoic ethics	2 - Stoicism	2 – Stoic ethics	

2: 6 Dec – 12 Dec	Happiness	4. Happiness and character – Aristotelian ethics	3 - Aristotle	3 – Aristotle's ethics	
	Goodness	5. Morality and religion	4 – Morality and religion	4 – Morality, religion, and atheism	
3: 13 Dec – 19 Dec	Goodness	6. The challenge of moral relativism		5 – Moral relativism	Reflection about Happiness due Wed 15 Dec
		7. Egoism and self-interest	5 – Social Contract Theory	6 – Egoism and self- interest	
		8. The greatest good for the greatest number – Utilitarianism	6 - Utilitarianism		
<i>Recess</i>					
4: 4 Jan – 9 Jan	Goodness	9. The moral law is universal! – Kant's challenge	7 - Kant	7 – Kant and universal reason	
	Justice	10. Justice and inequality	8 - Rawls	8 – Justice and inequality	
5: 10 Jan – 16 Jan	Justice	11. Immigration and refugees	9 - Immigration	9 – Justice, immigration, and refugees	
		12. Climate Justice	10 – Climate Justice	10 – Climate justice	
					Critical Essay due Tues 18 Jan

Policies and Procedures

Macquarie University policies and procedures are accessible from [Policy Central \(https://policies.mq.edu.au\)](https://policies.mq.edu.au). 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](#)

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

To find other policies relating to Teaching and Learning, visit [Policy Central \(https://policies.mq.edu.au\)](https://policies.mq.edu.au) and use the [search tool](#).

Student Code of Conduct

Macquarie University students have a responsibility to be familiar with the Student Code of Conduct: <https://students.mq.edu.au/admin/other-resources/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.