# PHIL2026

## The Ethics and Moral Psychology of Good and Evil

Session 1, Fully online/virtual 2021

*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 activities on campus, and most will keep an online version available to those students unable to return or those who choose to continue their studies online.

To check the availability of face-to-face activities for your unit, please go to [timetable viewer](https://timetable.mq.edu.au/). 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, Lecturer
Mianna Lotz
Mianna.Lotz@mq.edu.au
By appointment

Lecturer, tutor
Mark Alfano
mark.alfano@mq.edu.au
By appointment

Lecturer, tutor
Paul Formosa
paul.formosa@mq.edu.au
By appointment

Tutor
Kelly Hamilton
kelly.hamilton@mq.edu.au
By appointment

Credit points
10

Prerequisites
40cp at 1000 level or above

Corequisites

Co-badged status
Unit description
What is it that makes us good or evil, virtuous or vicious? What does it mean to be a competent agent who can be held responsible for moral as well as immoral action? And what does morality and moral theory require of us as agents? Thinking about what motivates morality raises important questions about the role played by reason, will, emotion and intuition in bringing about moral behaviour. It also offers a basis for critically examining prominent ethical theories to see how well they can accommodate the lived realities of human agency and motivation. And it invites further questions about the contribution of social context and psychopathic conditions in explaining ordinary and extreme forms of wrongdoing. This unit will critically examine the philosophical and psychological literature on moral agency, virtue, goodness, and evil, as well as exploring historical and contemporary philosophical accounts of the importance of such things as integrity, character, autonomy and respect for others in moral life and moral relations.

Important Academic Dates
Information about important academic dates including deadlines for withdrawing from units are available at https://students.mq.edu.au/important-dates

Learning Outcomes
On successful completion of this unit, you will be able to:

UL01: draw on sources used in the unit to give clear accounts of the relevant philosophical moral concepts and theories
UL02: demonstrate a good general understanding of how contemporary philosophical and psychological research contributes to our understanding of moral agency, judgement and motivation
UL03: analyse and critically evaluate relevant competing philosophical theories and arguments.
UL04: apply the theoretical knowledge gained to analysis and evaluation of selected case studies in moral psychology
UL05: construct sound arguments in support of your own ethical positions, judgements and values

General Assessment Information
NOTE: It is expected that students will complete ALL ASSESSMENT COMPONENTS in this unit. You do not need to have passed each assessment to pass the unit, but it is expected that all assessments are attempted.

General Submission Procedure: Written assessments must be submitted via TurnItIn at the correct link provided on the Unit iLearn site. Please ensure that you use the correct link for your
assessment!

Extensions: Extensions must be sought via the MQ Special Consideration application procedure, in advance of the due date. Extensions will only be granted for medical or equivalent reasons, supported by documentation (medical certificate or equivalent). Please note that workload in other units, and employment outside of university, will not be accepted as grounds for an extension.

LATE SUBMISSION POLICY: Unless a Special Consideration request has been submitted and approved, the following will apply:

(a) Late penalty – two (2) marks out of 100 will be deducted per day for assignments submitted after the due date;

(b) No assignment will be accepted more than seven (7) days (incl. weekends) after the original submission deadline.

(c) No late submissions will be accepted for timed assessments – i.e. online quizzes.

Assessment Tasks

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Weighting</th>
<th>Hurdle</th>
<th>Due</th>
</tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Quizzes</td>
<td>25%</td>
<td>No</td>
<td>Weekly starting in Week 2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Reflective tasks</td>
<td>20%</td>
<td>No</td>
<td>11.59pm Sunday 21 March 2021</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Reflective essay</td>
<td>35%</td>
<td>No</td>
<td>11.59pm Fri 4 June 2021</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Participation</td>
<td>20%</td>
<td>No</td>
<td>Continuous</td>
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Quizzes

Assessment Type: Quiz/Test
Indicative Time on Task: 15 hours
Due: Weekly starting in Week 2
Weighting: 25%

Online quizzes to test comprehension of the required readings

On successful completion you will be able to:

- draw on sources used in the unit to give clear accounts of the relevant philosophical moral concepts and theories
- demonstrate a good general understanding of how contemporary philosophical and psychological research contributes to our understanding of moral agency, judgement and
motivation

• analyse and critically evaluate relevant competing philosophical theories and arguments.
• apply the theoretical knowledge gained to analysis and evaluation of selected case studies in moral psychology

Reflective tasks

Assessment Type 1: Reflective Writing
Indicative Time on Task 2: 15 hours
Due: 11.59pm Sunday 21 March 2021
Weighting: 20%

Short reflective and analytic writing tasks

On successful completion you will be able to:

• draw on sources used in the unit to give clear accounts of the relevant philosophical moral concepts and theories
• demonstrate a good general understanding of how contemporary philosophical and psychological research contributes to our understanding of moral agency, judgement and motivation
• analyse and critically evaluate relevant competing philosophical theories and arguments.
• apply the theoretical knowledge gained to analysis and evaluation of selected case studies in moral psychology
• construct sound arguments in support of your own ethical positions, judgements and values

Reflective essay

Assessment Type 1: Essay
Indicative Time on Task 2: 30 hours
Due: 11.59pm Fri 4 June 2021
Weighting: 35%

A major essay applying relevant concepts and theories introduced in the unit

On successful completion you will be able to:

• draw on sources used in the unit to give clear accounts of the relevant philosophical
moral concepts and theories
  • demonstrate a good general understanding of how contemporary philosophical and psychological research contributes to our understanding of moral agency, judgement and motivation
  • analyse and critically evaluate relevant competing philosophical theories and arguments.
  • apply the theoretical knowledge gained to analysis and evaluation of selected case studies in moral psychology
  • construct sound arguments in support of your own ethical positions, judgements and values

Participation

Assessment Type 1: Participatory task
Indicative Time on Task 2: 15 hours
Due: Continuous
Weighting: 20%

Participation in class discussion and activities. Students are expected to be well-prepared and make a constructive contribution.

On successful completion you will be able to:
  • draw on sources used in the unit to give clear accounts of the relevant philosophical moral concepts and theories
  • demonstrate a good general understanding of how contemporary philosophical and psychological research contributes to our understanding of moral agency, judgement and motivation
  • analyse and critically evaluate relevant competing philosophical theories and arguments.
  • apply the theoretical knowledge gained to analysis and evaluation of selected case studies in moral psychology
  • construct sound arguments in support of your own ethical positions, judgements and values

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 Learning Skills Unit for academic skills support.
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**

Due to COVID-19 restrictions there will be a recorded lecture each week (which may be broken into 2-3 parts) and one 1-hour tutorial (zoom or face-to-face for Internals) or discussion board Forum (for Externals) per week.

Students are expected to complete at least 3.5 hours of unit reading and private study per week in this unit, additional to lecture listening and tutorial participation and any assessment preparation time.

REQUIRED READING: All required reading in this unit can be accessed via the PHIL2026 Leganto link on the unit iLearn site. Additional readings will be notified on iLearn and in lectures. The readings are compulsory reading for this unit. You will be expected to keep up with the readings throughout semester, and tutorial/online discussion as well as the quizzes will require prior familiarity with the relevant readings.

**Unit Schedule**

**PHIL2026 UNIT SCHEDULE AND READINGS**

The following is an outline of the topics and the Essential Readings that will be covered week by week. The listed essential readings are all available in Leganto under the unit code PHIL2026. These are the minimum required reading for the unit. Further readings recommended in classes will assist you to develop an expanded understanding of the issues discussed in lectures, and are expected to be used for essays.

**SECTION 1: ETHICAL THEORY, GOODNESS, AND MORAL PSYCHOLOGY** (Mianna Lotz)

Week 1 (beginning 22 February): Introduction to Consequentialist ethics

*Essential Reading:*


Week 2 (beginning 1 March) – Consequentialism and moral psychology (i): Is the good consequentialist a person without integrity?

*Essential Reading:*

https://unitguides.mq.edu.au/unit_offerings/136298/unit_guide/print

Tutorials and online discussion forums commence this week.

**Week 3 (beginning 8 March) – Consequentialism and moral psychology (ii): Is the good consequentialist incapable of genuine friendship and intimacy?**

*Essential Reading:*


**Week 4 (beginning 15 March) – Virtue ethics and moral psychology: What kind of person is the Aristotelean virtuous agent?**

*Essential Reading:*


* SHORT WRITING TASK DUE: 11.59pm Sunday 21 March 2021

**SECTION 2: EVIL (Paul Formosa)**

**Week 5 (beginning 22 March): Evil Actions and Evil People**

*Essential reading:*


**Week 6 (beginning 29 March): Kantian rationalism, Moral Development, and Evil**

*Essential reading:*


** *** MID-SEMESTER BREAK: 5-16 April 2021 *** **

SECTION 3: CONNECTING MORAL PSYCHOLOGY AND EMPIRICAL PSYCHOLOGY (Mark Alfano)

Week 7 (beginning 19 April): Wellbeing and the evolution of preferences

*Essential Reading:*


Week 8 (beginning 26 April): Being and becoming responsible

*Essential Reading:*


Week 9 (beginning 3 May): Emotions: It's not facts versus feelings

*Essential Reading:*


Week 10 (beginning 10 May): Character: the good, the bad, and the ugly

*Essential Reading:*


Week 11 (beginning 17 May): Moral agreement and disagreement
**Essential Reading:**


**Week 12 (beginning 24 May): Trust and distrust: How to live in a polarized world**

**Essential Reading:**


* ESSAY DUE: 11.59pm Friday 4 June 2021

**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). 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). 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).

**Student Code of Conduct**

Macquarie University students have a responsibility to be familiar with the Student Code of
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 Enquiry Service

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

Equity 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.

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 since First Published

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<th>Description</th>
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