



PHIX3051

Contemporary Topics in Applied Ethics

Session 2, 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

Convenor and lecturer

Jane Johnson

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Lecturer

Paul Formosa

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Lecturer

Mianna Lotz

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Credit points

10

Prerequisites

130cp at 1000 level or above

Corequisites

Co-badged status

Unit description

This unit will examine cutting edge topics in applied ethics curated by leading researchers in the field. Topics will be refreshed each year and may include exploration of: ethical issues in the use of AI and machine learning; animal ethics; ethics of emerging technologies including in healthcare, reproductive and genetic technologies, and computing; family ethics; children's rights and welfare; contemporary challenges in research ethics; climate change and environmental ethics. Discussion will be structured around key concepts, themes, ethical frameworks and questions such as personhood, autonomy, harm, dignity, justice, rights, vulnerability, integrity and accountability.

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: explain some of the current debates and topics in contemporary applied ethics

ULO2: analyse arguments in the relevant literature

ULO3: critically evaluate relevant theories and arguments

ULO4: communicate clearly your own perspective on the views and arguments presented in the unit

General Assessment Information

Unless a Special Consideration request has been submitted and approved, (a) a penalty for lateness will apply – 10 marks out of 100 credit will be deducted per day for assignments submitted after the due date – and (b) no assignment will be accepted more than seven days (including weekends) after the original submission date.

Assessment Tasks

Name	Weighting	Hurdle	Due
Participation	20%	No	Ongoing
Reflective writing tasks	20%	No	23:59, Sunday, 12/09/2021
Philosophical Essay	40%	No	23:59, Sunday, 07/11/2021
Online quizzes	20%	No	23:59, Sunday, weekly

Participation

Assessment Type ¹: Participatory task

Indicative Time on Task ²: 15 hours

Due: **Ongoing**

Weighting: **20%**

Demonstrating preparation for the weekly topics through active participation in online discussions

On successful completion you will be able to:

- explain some of the current debates and topics in contemporary applied ethics
- analyse arguments in the relevant literature
- critically evaluate relevant theories and arguments
- communicate clearly your own perspective on the views and arguments presented in the unit

Reflective writing tasks

Assessment Type ¹: Reflective Writing

Indicative Time on Task ²: 15 hours

Due: **23:59, Sunday, 12/09/2021**

Weighting: **20%**

Reflective writing tasks

On successful completion you will be able to:

- explain some of the current debates and topics in contemporary applied ethics
- analyse arguments in the relevant literature
- critically evaluate relevant theories and arguments
- communicate clearly your own perspective on the views and arguments presented in the unit

Philosophical Essay

Assessment Type ¹: Essay

Indicative Time on Task ²: 30 hours

Due: **23:59, Sunday, 07/11/2021**

Weighting: **40%**

In-depth analysis of a key question in applied ethics using the authors and arguments studied throughout the unit

On successful completion you will be able to:

- explain some of the current debates and topics in contemporary applied ethics
- analyse arguments in the relevant literature
- critically evaluate relevant theories and arguments
- communicate clearly your own perspective on the views and arguments presented in the unit

Online quizzes

Assessment Type ¹: Quiz/Test

Indicative Time on Task ²: 15 hours

Due: **23:59, Sunday, weekly**

Weighting: **20%**

Short online quizzes to test student understanding of key concepts and ideas

On successful completion you will be able to:

- explain some of the current debates and topics in contemporary applied ethics
-

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.

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

Technology used: You will require access to a computer and a good internet connection in order to participate in the unit effectively. The unit has an iLearn site where activities are set and unit materials distributed. Written tasks will be submitted via the plagiarism detection software turnitin.

Required readings: required readings are available for download from the library via Leganto.

You must read the required readings BEFORE participating in the lecture and tutorial.

Recommended readings: As well as the required reading, recommended additional readings for each topic are listed on iLearn. You do not need to read these each week but they are highly recommended for a better understanding of the topics.

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 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.