



MMCC2016

Sex, Death and Politics: Media Representations

Session 1, Special circumstances, North Ryde 2021

Department of Media, Communications, Creative Arts, Language and Literature

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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](#). 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

Chris Muller

chris.muller@mq.edu.au

Contact via chris.muller@mq.edu.au

Office 160; 10 Hadenfeld Avenue

Monday 1:30-2:30pm (online) and per appointment (on campus)

Credit points

10

Prerequisites

40cp at 1000 level or above

Corequisites

Co-badged status

Unit description

This unit is about the common (yet often scandalous) dilemmas or big issues we confront or have to ethically decide upon in our everyday lives. For example, why do we, or would we, decide to have an affair or a one night stand? Why do we decide to have kids, or not? Why do we decide to work, or be educated? Why do we decide it is important to prolong human life, or not (euthanasia)? Why do we choose to eat or not eat animals? Selecting from topics such as health, environment, science, to adultery, marriage, abortion, euthanasia, religion, war, sport, and work, this unit will draw on a number of key thinkers, ethical and practical approaches, and media representations, to debate how and why we make the decisions we do, why we think some decisions are more important than others, and how our decisions are influenced by media and politicians, religion and society, family and friends.

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: analyse, identify, and communicate broad and specific arguments in contemporary media, cultural, political, and ethical debates.

ULO2: evaluate various media representations that contribute to cultural, social, and

ethical values.

ULO3: apply theoretical arguments underpinning contemporary issues and debates to specific ethical decision making in everyday life.

ULO4: apply team and individual problem solving and enquiry based learning to contemporary social, cultural, and ethical issues and debates.

ULO5: reflect critically on the impact and consequence of one's arguments on others, while respecting the difference of counterarguments.

General Assessment Information

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.

Assessment Tasks

Name	Weighting	Hurdle	Due
Position Paper	35%	No	Week 6 or semester break (9/4/2021) depending on topic
Team Debate	35%	No	Weeks 8 - 12
Self-Reflective Essay	30%	No	Week 12 or 13 depending on date of debate

Position Paper

Assessment Type ¹: Essay

Indicative Time on Task ²: 38 hours

Due: **Week 6 or semester break (9/4/2021) depending on topic**

Weighting: **35%**

Students will choose a class topic and write a position paper in the form of an essay that develops a particular argument. The essay needs to respond to a clearly identified case study / media representation of a particular topic and build on course reading, analysis of relations of power and individual research. Refer to iLearn for further information.

On successful completion you will be able to:

- analyse, identify, and communicate broad and specific arguments in contemporary media, cultural, political, and ethical debates.
- evaluate various media representations that contribute to cultural, social, and ethical values.
- apply theoretical arguments underpinning contemporary issues and debates to specific ethical decision making in everyday life.
- apply team and individual problem solving and enquiry based learning to contemporary social, cultural, and ethical issues and debates.

Team Debate

Assessment Type ¹: Debate

Indicative Time on Task ²: 35 hours

Due: **Weeks 8 - 12**

Weighting: **35%**

Students will be assigned a team, which will focus on a particular topic from the weekly lectorials. Students will be randomly assigned to one side of the argument and will develop, debate and defend a specific position. Debates will happen in scheduled class hours where possible. Refer to iLearn for further information.

On successful completion you will be able to:

- analyse, identify, and communicate broad and specific arguments in contemporary media, cultural, political, and ethical debates.
- evaluate various media representations that contribute to cultural, social, and ethical values.
- apply theoretical arguments underpinning contemporary issues and debates to specific ethical decision making in everyday life.
- apply team and individual problem solving and enquiry based learning to contemporary social, cultural, and ethical issues and debates.
- reflect critically on the impact and consequence of one's arguments on others, while respecting the difference of counterarguments.

Self-Reflective Essay

Assessment Type ¹: Reflective Writing

Indicative Time on Task ²: 25 hours

Due: **Week 12 or 13 depending on date of debate**

Weighting: **30%**

Students will write a scholarly essay on the nuances and complications that arose when arguing for a specific position before an audience of peers. Refer to iLearn for further information.

On successful completion you will be able to:

- analyse, identify, and communicate broad and specific arguments in contemporary media, cultural, political, and ethical debates.
- evaluate various media representations that contribute to cultural, social, and ethical values.
- apply theoretical arguments underpinning contemporary issues and debates to specific ethical decision making in everyday life.
- apply team and individual problem solving and enquiry based learning to contemporary social, cultural, and ethical issues and debates.
- reflect critically on the impact and consequence of one's arguments on others, while respecting the difference of counterarguments.

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

This unit comprises of an interactive two-hour lectorial, which has been adapted for online delivery. Teaching for this unit starts in week 2 (week starting on 1st of March). Up to the semester break you will be introduced to a range of topics and pressing societal issues through interactive lectures and debate activities in smaller groups. Following the semester break, there will be two interactive sessions in which you are introduced to the principles of effective public speaking and you will be able to practice these skills with your peers to build toward your team debate presentations. For the remaining weeks, you will be participating in team debate sessions.

This unit is supported by an extensive reading list on Leganto and a range of additional resources for individual study. Lectures will be available as recordings and the classes are supported by worksheets and debate questions that can be accessed via iLearn.

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.