



PHIX2010

Ethics, Business and Work

Session 3, Online-flexible 2022

Department of Philosophy

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General Information

Unit convenor and teaching staff

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Credit points

10

Prerequisites

40cp at 1000 level or above

Corequisites

Co-badged status

Unit description

This unit investigates some of main ethical issues that arise in professional life and from the activities of businesses and corporations. The unit explores the nature and value of work as well as its role in personal identity and social organisation. We also consider the obligations and responsibilities that come with professional work and the management of businesses. We examine the nature of corporations and their responsibilities to individual workers and consumers, stakeholders, groups such as women and minorities, and the environment.

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 good general knowledge of the major issues in contemporary business and professional ethics.

ULO2: understand the major ethical concepts and theories that inform the business and professional ethics literature.

ULO3: analyse and critically evaluate theories and arguments in the relevant literature.

ULO4: relate ethical concepts and theories to relevant case studies and current events.

ULO5: develop your own perspective, through analysis of the views and arguments

presented in the unit.

ULO6: demonstrate improved skills in clarity of thought and communication.

General Assessment Information

Detailed assessment information and rubrics

Detailed information about each of the assessments, including rubrics and submission instructions will be available in the Assessment block in iLearn. Please make sure you read the assessment information carefully, watch the Guide to Assessment video, and post a message in the relevant Assessment forum if you have any questions.

Special Consideration

Requests for extensions should be submitted via a Special Consideration request, which is available in the <http://ask.mq.edu.au> portal. Your request should be submitted no later than five days after the due date and should be accompanied by appropriate documentation. Please see the Special Consideration policy in the list of policies at the end of this document for further details.

Read the policy closely as your request may be turned down if you have not followed procedure, or if you have not submitted a request in a timely manner.

Late Submission Penalty

Unless a Special Consideration request has been submitted and approved, (a) a penalty for lateness will apply – **5 marks out of 100 credit will be deducted per day for assignments submitted after the due date** – (b) **no assignment will be accepted more than seven days (incl. weekends) after the original submission date** - and (c) **No late submissions will be accepted for timed assessments** – e.g. quizzes, online tests.

Academic Integrity

In Philosophy, academic honesty is taken very seriously, and a range of methods, including but not restricted to the use of Turnitin, are used to detect plagiarism. Misrepresenting someone else's work as your own may be grounds for referral to the Faculty Disciplinary Committee. If you have questions about how to properly cite work or how to credit sources, please ask the convenor for help and see also the Academic Integrity Policy <https://staff.mq.edu.au/work/strategy-planning-and-governance/university-policies-and-procedures/policies/academic-integrity>

Note: All assignments in this unit are individual assignments. Collusion (unauthorised collaboration on individual assignments) is a breach of the Academic Integrity Policy. If in doubt, contact a member of teaching staff.

A helpful resource if you would like to know more about referencing and avoiding plagiarism is Macquarie's Academic Integrity Module, available here: <https://students.mq.edu.au/support/study/skills-development>. You will need to complete this Module before accessing the unit content, if you have not already done so. More information is available in iLearn.

Academic Writing and Study Support

Macquarie University offers a number of services to help with academic writing, referencing and study skills. For details, see: <https://students.mq.edu.au/support/study/skills/assignments>

For information about policies related to Assessment, see *Policies and Procedures* section below.

Assessment Tasks

Name	Weighting	Hurdle	Due
2 short quizzes	20%	No	23/12/2022 & 13/01/2023
Reading assignment	30%	No	08/01/2023
Final Test	35%	No	22/01/2023
Participation	15%	No	Ongoing

2 short quizzes

Assessment Type ¹: Quiz/Test

Indicative Time on Task ²: 10 hours

Due: **23/12/2022 & 13/01/2023**

Weighting: **20%**

A series of questions that assess your knowledge and understanding of key concepts and arguments regarding work and business ethics.

On successful completion you will be able to:

- demonstrate good general knowledge of the major issues in contemporary business and professional ethics.
- understand the major ethical concepts and theories that inform the business and professional ethics literature.

Reading assignment

Assessment Type ¹: Reflective Writing

Indicative Time on Task ²: 20 hours

Due: **08/01/2023**

Weighting: **30%**

Critically analyse a selected text.

On successful completion you will be able to:

- demonstrate good general knowledge of the major issues in contemporary business and professional ethics.
- understand the major ethical concepts and theories that inform the business and professional ethics literature.
- analyse and critically evaluate theories and arguments in the relevant literature.
- develop your own perspective, through analysis of the views and arguments presented in the unit.
- demonstrate improved skills in clarity of thought and communication.

Final Test

Assessment Type ¹: Quiz/Test

Indicative Time on Task ²: 20 hours

Due: **22/01/2023**

Weighting: **35%**

A series of questions that assess your knowledge and understanding of concepts, methods and arguments in work and business ethics.

On successful completion you will be able to:

- demonstrate good general knowledge of the major issues in contemporary business and professional ethics.
- understand the major ethical concepts and theories that inform the business and professional ethics literature.
- analyse and critically evaluate theories and arguments in the relevant literature.

Participation

Assessment Type ¹: Participatory task

Indicative Time on Task ²: 10 hours

Due: **Ongoing**

Weighting: **15%**

Contributing to online discussions through engaging constructively with peers and tutor.

On successful completion you will be able to:

- demonstrate good general knowledge of the major issues in contemporary business and professional ethics.
- understand the major ethical concepts and theories that inform the business and professional ethics literature.
- analyse and critically evaluate theories and arguments in the relevant literature.
- relate ethical concepts and theories to relevant case studies and current events.
- develop your own perspective, through analysis of the views and arguments presented in the unit.
- demonstrate improved skills in clarity of thought and communication.

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 and recommended texts and/or materials

All weekly readings for the unit will be made available through the Leganto link in iLearn.

Lectures in this unit will be delivered online. These will be released through the Echo 360 block in iLearn.

Unit Schedule

Please Note:

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.

Week 1:

Week 1 will cover the first three topics in the unit. **Topic 1** is an introduction to the course as whole and what it means to think philosophically about work. **Topic 2** addresses the question: *how should work be divided?* by looking at the relationship between justice and work in the philosophy of Plato. **Topic 3** addresses the question: *what is the best kind of work?* by looking at Aristotle's hierarchy of human action.

Week 2:

Week 2 will cover the next three topics in the unit, it will also conclude the first section of the course. **Topic 4** investigates the connection between work, wealth and well-being. **Topic 5** addresses the question: *can we be free in our work?* by looking the philosophy of work in the 19th century German philosopher G.W.F. Hegel. **Topic 6** explores this same question as it is discussed in the early philosophical writings of Karl Marx.

Week 3:

Week 3 signals a change in direction for the course. We shift emphasis from philosophical accounts of the significance of work and begin to analyse and discuss philosophical accounts of the social obligations of modern corporations. **Topic 7** introduces the idea of business ethics and covers the so-called 'narrow' view of business ethics. **Topic 8** offers a contrasting view by examining the 'broader' view of business ethics developed by Kenneth Goodpaster.

Week 4:

In Week 4 we move into the third and final section of the course. Throughout this last section we will continue to examine the obligations and responsibilities of businesses. However, this section will provide a number of concrete case studies which flesh out the approaches covered in the prior weeks. **Topic 9** examines the issues surrounding sweatshops and globalisation, whilst **Topic 10** explores the problem of bias, discrimination and stereotypes in work.

Week 5:

Week 5 is the final week of the course. We conclude by evaluating two further ethical issues facing business in the 21st century. **Topic 11** critically discusses the role and treatment of non-human animals in contemporary economic life. **Topic 12** explores the responsibilities of corporations towards the environment.

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](#)
- [Assessment Procedure](#)
- [Complaints Resolution Procedure for Students and Members of the Public](#)
- [Special Consideration Policy](#)

Students seeking more policy resources can visit [Student Policies \(https://students.mq.edu.au/su\)](https://students.mq.edu.au/su)

[pport/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>) 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

Academic Integrity

At Macquarie, we believe [academic integrity](#) – honesty, respect, trust, responsibility, fairness and courage – is at the core of learning, teaching and research. We recognise that meeting the expectations required to complete your assessments can be challenging. So, we offer you a range of resources and services to help you reach your potential, including free [online writing and maths support](#), [academic skills development](#) and [wellbeing consultations](#).

Student Support

Macquarie University provides a range of support services for students. For details, visit <http://students.mq.edu.au/support/>

The Writing Centre

[The Writing Centre](#) provides resources to develop your English language proficiency, academic writing, and communication skills.

- [Workshops](#)
- [Chat with a WriteWISE peer writing leader](#)
- [Access StudyWISE](#)
- [Upload an assignment to Studiosity](#)
- [Complete the 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

Macquarie University offers a range of [Student Support Services](#) including:

- [IT Support](#)
- [Accessibility and disability support](#) with study
- Mental health [support](#)
- [Safety support](#) to respond to bullying, harassment, sexual harassment and sexual assault
- [Social support including information about finances, tenancy and legal issues](#)

Student Enquiries

Got a question? Ask us via [AskMQ](#), or contact [Service Connect](#).

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.