



PHIL7001

Research Topics in Philosophy II

Session 2, Online-flexible 2023

Department of Philosophy

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General Information

Unit convenor and teaching staff

Convenor and instructor

Wendy Lipworth

wendy.lipworth@mq.edu.au

By appointment

Convenor and instructor

Mark Alfano

mark.alfano@mq.edu.au

By appointment

Credit points

10

Prerequisites

Admission to MRes

Corequisites

Co-badged status

Unit description

This unit will explore various theoretical and practical issues raised by a single important recent theme in philosophy, such as the nature of the self or the impacts of technology. The unit will explore this theme from a variety of perspectives by looking at the relevant metaphysical and epistemological, ethical and moral, and political and social issues it raises. The unit's topics and themes may differ from year to year but will not replicate those covered in Research Topics in Philosophy I. Students will be exposed to important philosophical debates so that they are able to begin to pursue their own research projects.

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: understand issues discussed in the contemporary philosophical literature

ULO3: evaluate philosophical arguments

ULO2: analyse philosophical arguments

ULO4: communicate clearly your own perspective on the philosophical issues examined in this unit

General Assessment Information

OVERVIEW

Active Participation in discussion (20% – continuous)

The participation mark will be made up of three elements:

1. Contribution to class and forum discussions
2. Presentation of four papers or chapters in class across the semester (2 papers per section)
3. Consolidation after each seminar: post one short reflection, observation, or question after the seminar.

See Task description and rubric below for more information.

Essay plan (30%)

Due: 11:55pm **Sunday 8 October 2023** (end of week 9) OR 11:55pm **Sunday 22 October** (end of week 11) for students writing on the second component of the Unit.

(Note: due dates and return dates are set in Turnitin for the first submission date; no penalty will be applied for later submission of papers on the second component of the unit)

See Task description and rubric below for more information.

Essay (50%)

Due: **11:55pm Sunday 22 October 2023** (end of week 11) OR **11:55pm Sunday 5 November 2023** (end of week 13) for students writing on the second component of the Unit.

(Note: due dates and return dates are set in Turnitin for the first submission date; no penalty will be applied for later submission of papers on the second component of the unit)

See Task description and rubric below for more information.

LATE SUBMISSION

Unless a Special Consideration request has been submitted and approved, a **5% penalty (of the total possible mark) will be applied each day a written assessment is not submitted**, up until the 7th day (including weekends). After the 7th day, a mark of '0' (zero) will be awarded even if the assessment is submitted. Submission time for all written assessments is set at 11.55pm. A 1-hour grace period is provided to students who experience a technical issue. This late penalty will apply to written reports and recordings only. Late submission of time sensitive tasks (such as tests/exams, performance assessments/presentations, scheduled practical assessments/labs will be addressed by the unit convenor in a Special consideration application.

Assessment Tasks

Name	Weighting	Hurdle	Due
Essay	50%	No	22 October or 5 November (if writing on second part of Unit)
Essay Plan	30%	No	8 October or 22 October (if writing on second part of Unit)
Participation	20%	No	Ongoing

Essay

Assessment Type ¹: Essay

Indicative Time on Task ²: 38 hours

Due: **22 October or 5 November (if writing on second part of Unit)**

Weighting: **50%**

Research essay

On successful completion you will be able to:

- understand issues discussed in the contemporary philosophical literature
- evaluate philosophical arguments
- analyse philosophical arguments
- communicate clearly your own perspective on the philosophical issues examined in this unit

Essay Plan

Assessment Type ¹: Plan

Indicative Time on Task ²: 20 hours

Due: **8 October or 22 October (if writing on second part of Unit)**

Weighting: **30%**

Essay Plan

On successful completion you will be able to:

- understand issues discussed in the contemporary philosophical literature
- evaluate philosophical arguments
- analyse philosophical arguments
- communicate clearly your own perspective on the philosophical issues examined in this unit

Participation

Assessment Type ¹: Participatory task

Indicative Time on Task ²: 18 hours

Due: **Ongoing**

Weighting: **20%**

Participation in discussion and associated activities

On successful completion you will be able to:

- understand issues discussed in the contemporary philosophical literature
- evaluate philosophical arguments

- analyse philosophical arguments
 - communicate clearly your own perspective on the philosophical issues examined in this unit
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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 will run online, Thursdays 2-4pm (weeks 1-12 inclusive). If students are enrolled in Online Flexible mode and are unable to attend seminars, alternative arrangements will be made (please contact the Convenors if this is required).

There will also be an **Online Forum** (participation in which will count towards the Participation mark).

Required readings: Required readings are available for download from the library via Leganto. All readings will need to be read before the seminar (you can also post comments on the readings in the relevant forum prior to the seminar). Please also feel free to suggest additional readings that you come across.

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/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

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 Advocacy](#) provides independent advice on MQ policies, procedures, and processes

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.