



PHIL2010

Ethics, Business and Work

Session 3, Online-flexible 2024

Department of Philosophy

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General Information

Unit convenor and teaching staff

Convenor

Jennifer Duke-Yonge

jennifer.duke-yonge@mq.edu.au

By arrangement

Other teaching staff contact details will be available in iLearn

Credit points

10

Prerequisites

40cp at 1000 level or above

Corequisites

Co-badged status

Unit description

This unit investigates some of the 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

**Note that the Session 3 offering of PHIL/PHIX2010 is an intensive (accelerated) unit of only five teaching weeks, 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.*

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.

Note on Artificial Intelligence:

You have undoubtedly heard about ChatGPT and other Generative AI tools that can be used to generate content in relation to prompts. You may find it useful and interesting to see what these tools can tell you about some of the topics we're looking at. We will also be thinking about some interesting philosophical questions arising out of artificial intelligence. A few warnings are in order, though, about content generated by ChatGPT or similar tools:

1. It's not your work, so you can't submit it, or adapt it a bit and then submit it. This will count as a breach of the Academic Integrity Policy. This applies to any assessments.
2. It's not reliable. It gets a lot of things right, but it also gets things wrong, makes up references etc, and its outputs tend to be shallow and generic.
3. It doesn't count as research. We'll talk more later about what count as good sources for academic work, but using ChatGPT means you don't always have a way to trace and check the sources of the content you're using.

A useful analogy, I think, is to think of ChatGPT as being like a knowledgeable but slightly unpredictable acquaintance. Talking to them might be a good way to get some ideas to inspire your own thinking and research, but you can't take what they say for granted, and you can't pretend their work is your own.

If teaching staff suspect the use of AI in an assessment task, you may be called to a meeting to discuss the contents of your submitted work and the process by which you researched and wrote it.

Additional information about this unit's policy on the use of AI will be made available in the Assessment block in iLearn. Please check that information and contact the convenor if you have any questions.

This unit covers a lot of really interesting topics. We want you to engage, and we want you to learn. You won't do that if you try to outsource your thinking.

Assessment Tasks

Name	Weighting	Hurdle	Due
Participation	20%	No	Weekly
Test	40%	No	11.55pm Sunday 5/1
Case Study	40%	No	11.55pm Monday 20/1

Participation

Assessment Type ¹: Participatory task

Indicative Time on Task ²: 15 hours

Due: **Weekly**

Weighting: **20%**

Engaging constructively in discussions and associated activities.

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.

Test

Assessment Type ¹: Quiz/Test

Indicative Time on Task ²: 20 hours

Due: **11.55pm Sunday 5/1**

Weighting: **40%**

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.

Case Study

Assessment Type ¹: Case study/analysis

Indicative Time on Task ²: 25 hours

Due: **11.55pm Monday 20/1**

Weighting: **40%**

Application of philosophical concepts, arguments and frameworks to a practical problem.

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

Lectures in this unit will be accessible online through the Echo 360 block in iLearn. There will be two one-hour lectures for each of the 12 topics. You should watch the lectures before participating in the relevant forums.

Forum discussions

Active Participation is an important part of your assessment in this unit. Active participation is assessed by a student's engagement in contributions to online discussion forums facilitated by teaching staff. Participation is expected to be well considered and relevant to the topic of study. There are no tutorials or other scheduled classes.

There will be multiple forums each week, addressing the material for the week's topics. Each forum will contain two or three discussions, which you should participate in over the week. Check iLearn for further information about how Participation is assessed in this unit.

Note that normal standards of Academic Integrity apply in the discussion forums, and any breaches (including unauthorised use of AI, the use of uncited sources, or copying from other students) will be followed up in accordance with the Academic Integrity Policy. If you are unsure about this, please check with teaching staff.

Unit Webpages and E-Resources

Much of this unit (lectures, readings, assessment instructions etc.) is delivered online through iLearn (<http://ilearn.mq.edu.au>). PC and Internet access are required. Basic computer skills (e.g., internet browsing) and skills in word processing are also a requirement. Please consult teaching staff for any further, more specific requirements.

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.

PART 1 (Lecturer: Prof. Jean-Philippe Deranty)

Week 1 (Beginning 9/12)

- Topic 1: Introduction
- Topic 2: What is work and why does it matter?
- Topic 3: Work and freedom

Week 2 (Beginning 16/12)

- Topic 4: The goods of work
- Topic 5: Work in a just society
- Topic 6: The end of work?

Mid-semester break (23/12-1/1)

Week 3 (2/1-3/1: No lectures. Test due Sunday 5/1)

Part 2 (Lecturer: Dr. Paul-Mikhail Catapang Podosky)

Week 4 (Beginning 6/1)

- Topic 7: Business ethics: narrow and broad
- Topic 8: Equality and freedom in the workplace
- Topic 9: Sweatshops and globalisation

Week 5 (Beginning 13/1)

- Topic 10: Discrimination, bias & stereotypes at work
- Topic 11: Factoring animals into business ethics
- Topic 12: Business and the environment

Week 6 (Beginning 20/1: No lectures. Case Study due Monday 20/1)

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 connect.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 the [Service Connect Portal](#), 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.

Unit information based on version 2024.03 of the [Handbook](#)