MMCC2016

Sex, Death and Politics: Media Representations

Session 1, Online-scheduled-weekday 2024

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

Contents

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General Information

Unit convenor and teaching staff
Convenor
Joanne Faulkner
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Contact via Email
25 Wally's Walk, Rm B450A
Mondays 3PM, Wednesdays 3PM, by zoom.

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 and/or media practices 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 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

The first two assessment tasks in this unit are designed to scaffold the third major assessment task, which involves submitting a short video outlining a position the student has come to through studying the unit, and then participation in panel discussions during tutorials in weeks ten to twelve. Students will need to be in attendance during those weeks to receive a grade. Attendance in the previous weeks is strongly advised, however, as we will focus on developing skills in collaborative, respectful, and constructive discussion and building the rapport with classmates that is fundamental to those skills.

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
Position Paper	30%	No	Week 1, 11:55PM, 07/04/24
Panel Debate	40%	No	Video due week 9, 11:55PM, Friday 03/05/24
Self-Reflective Essay	30%	No	Week 13, 11:55PM 02/06/24

Position Paper

Assessment Type [1]: Essay
Indicative Time on Task [2]: 38 hours
Due: **Week 1, 11:55PM, 07/04/24**
Weighting: **30%**

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.

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- evaluate various media representations and/or media practices 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 problem solving and enquiry based learning to contemporary social, cultural, and ethical issues and debates.

Panel Debate

Assessment Type [1]: Debate
Indicative Time on Task [2]: 35 hours
Due: **Video due week 9, 11:55PM, Friday 03/05/24**
Weighting: **40%**

Students will participate in a panel debate, which will focus on a topic specified in class. Students will submit a short video presentation articulating a position and then participate in a randomly assigned panel to discuss this in class. The panels will take place during class hours (tutorials) 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 and/or media practices 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 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 13, 11:55PM 02/06/24**
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 and/or media practices 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 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.

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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

Unit Delivery:

- Lectures: lectures will take place in person and be streamed via echo. Please check

ilearn for the schedule. **Lectures start in week one.**

- Tutorials: tutorials will be offered both in-person and via zoom. It is strongly recommended that students attend all tutorials in order to engage with unit concepts, discuss upcoming assessments and share questions. **Tutorials start in week one.**

Unit Resources:

- Readings: students are required to complete the weekly readings. The readings will be available via Leganto links in ilearn.
- Assessments: students will be required to complete assessments using their own equipment (including phones and/or computers).

Policies and Procedures

Macquarie University policies and procedures are accessible from Policy Central (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). 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 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.

Unit information based on version 2024.01R of the Handbook