



PHIL3051

Great Texts in Philosophy and Ethics

Session 2, Online-flexible 2024

Department of Philosophy

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General Information

Unit convenor and teaching staff

Convenor

Paul-Mikhail Catapang Podosky

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Lecturer

Katrina Hutchison

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Credit points

10

Prerequisites

130cp at 1000 level or above

Corequisites

Co-badged status

Unit description

Some problems in philosophy and ethics are central to our understanding of ourselves and the world: What is virtue? What is it to lead a good life? What can we know about the world? What is it to be free? What is it to be human? In this unit, we'll trace some of these key questions back to their origins in classic philosophical texts, giving you a chance to engage deeply with the ideas of central thinkers in the history of philosophy. The unit will involve a close reading of one or more pivotal philosophical texts, which may include such foundational works as Aristotle's *Nicomachean Ethics*, Kant's *Critique of Pure Reason*, Hegel's *Philosophy of Right*, Hume's *Enquiry Concerning Human Understanding*. Specific texts will vary from year to year. Information about current and upcoming texts will be available on the Philosophy Department's website.

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: explain some classic debates and topics in Philosophy and Ethics

ULO2: analyse arguments in the relevant literature

ULO3: critically evaluate relevant theories and arguments

ULO4: communicate clearly your own perspective on the views and arguments presented in the unit

General Assessment Information

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
Participation	25%	No	On-going (Weekly)
Philosophical Essay	50%	No	2024-11-03
Research presentation/defence	25%	No	Week 7

Participation

Assessment Type ¹: Participatory task

Indicative Time on Task ²: 15 hours

Due: **On-going (Weekly)**

Weighting: **25%**

Active engagement in discussion and related activities. Students are expected to be well-prepared and make a constructive contribution.

On successful completion you will be able to:

- explain some classic debates and topics in Philosophy and Ethics
- analyse arguments in the relevant literature
- critically evaluate relevant theories and arguments
- communicate clearly your own perspective on the views and arguments presented in the unit

Philosophical Essay

Assessment Type ¹: Essay

Indicative Time on Task ²: 35 hours

Due: **2024-11-03**

Weighting: **50%**

In-depth analysis of a key question using the authors and arguments studied throughout the unit

On successful completion you will be able to:

- explain some classic debates and topics in Philosophy and Ethics
- analyse arguments in the relevant literature
- critically evaluate relevant theories and arguments
- communicate clearly your own perspective on the views and arguments presented in the unit

Research presentation/defence

Assessment Type ¹: Viva/oral examination

Indicative Time on Task ²: 25 hours

Due: **Week 7**

Weighting: **25%**

Oral presentation and defence of research towards Essay, and submission of plan

On successful completion you will be able to:

- explain some classic debates and topics in Philosophy and Ethics
- analyse arguments in the relevant literature
- critically evaluate relevant theories and arguments
- communicate clearly your own perspective on the views and arguments presented in the unit

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 delivered in-person and will be made available online. You must attend these lectures before participating in the weekly tutorial.

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

This course will focus on great texts in modern moral psychology with a focus on the Kohlberg vs Gilligan debate of the 1970s. Specifically, we will look at Carol Gilligan's book *In a Different Voice*, which is a significant text for moral psychology, feminist theory, and ethics of care.

In addition to reading *In a Different Voice*, we will explore papers by Laurence Kohlberg, whose model of moral development was the inspiration and foil for Gilligan's work. We will also read excerpts of texts

- By thinkers who inspired Kohlberg and Gilligan, including: Immanuel Kant and Virginia Wolf
- By thinkers inspired by Kohlberg and Gilligan, including: Virginia Held, Nel Noddings, Joan Tronto, Paul Formosa, Catriona Mackenzie, Stephanie Collins.

The course will provide an opportunity to reflect on:

- The origins of key ideas in contemporary moral psychology
- The origins of ethics of care, and how this has influenced current work in ethical theory
- The role of empirical research in philosophy
- The connections between psychology and philosophy
- How the status and position of people in oppressed groups influences the history of ideas (e.g. *in a different voice* is an example of what happens when a women has a space to work and an opportunity to lead a research project in a field dominated by men).

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.

Unit information based on version 2024.04 of the [Handbook](#)