



PHIL7000

Research Topics in Philosophy I

Session 1, Online-scheduled-weekday 2024

Department of Philosophy

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General Information

Unit convenor and teaching staff

Convenor, Seminar facilitator 1

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By appointment

Seminar facilitator 2

Katrina Hutchison

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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 II. 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

ULO2: analyse philosophical arguments

ULO3: evaluate philosophical arguments

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

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.

Special Consideration Requests for extensions must 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 will need to be accompanied by appropriate supporting 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 Policy 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 non-timed sensitive assessment (incl essays, reports, posters, portfolios, journals, recordings etc). Late submission of time sensitive tasks (such as tests/exams, performance assessments/presentations, scheduled practical assessments/labs etc) will only be addressed by the unit convenor in a Special consideration application. Special Consideration outcome may result in a new question or topic.

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.

AI/ChatGPT Policy in PHIL7000: In this unit, assessment content that has been generated by AI will be regarded as not being a student's own work. Students who submit AI-generated outputs for their assessments – even if they are paraphrased and adapted – will be regarded as being in breach of Academic Integrity. This applies to all assessments, including quizzes. In submitting their written assessments all students confirm their agreement with the following:

This assessment has not been written in part or full by AI and is not an AI-generated output. It is based on my own research and my own thinking. I understand that if I am suspected of submitting AI-generated work, I may be found to be in breach of the MQ Academic Integrity Policy and may be required to attend a live interview with the Unit Convenor/lecturers/Integrity Officer to verify my own deep understanding of the content of my assessment, my research methods, and all sources I have quoted.

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.

DETAILED ASSESSMENT INFORMATION

Note that for this unit you will be required to select one part (of the two parts) of the unit to be your '**minor**' topic of focus, and the other part to be your '**major**' topic of focus. The following 'rules' then apply:

- Your essay Literature review, Plan, and the Essay itself must be on your designated 'major' topic;
- Your Recorded Presentation must be on your designated 'minor' topic;
- Your (two) Reading Presentations must be on at least one reading from your designated 'minor' topic, though you can do both of your Reading Presentations from your 'minor' topic if you wish.

Assessment Tasks

Name	Weighting	Hurdle	Due
Presentation	20%	No	To be scheduled with Convenor by end Week 2.
Essay literature review and essay plan	20%	No	11.55pm Sunday 12/05/2024

Name	Weighting	Hurdle	Due
Essay	40%	No	11:55pm Sunday 02/06/2024
Participation and reading presentations	20%	No	Continuous plus scheduled

Presentation

Assessment Type ¹: Media presentation

Indicative Time on Task ²: 16 hours

Due: **To be scheduled with Convenor by end Week 2.**

Weighting: **20%**

Recorded and Powerpoint presentation on minor topic

On successful completion you will be able to:

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

Essay literature review and essay plan

Assessment Type ¹: Plan

Indicative Time on Task ²: 15 hours

Due: **11.55pm Sunday 12/05/2024**

Weighting: **20%**

Literature review and essay plan on major topic

On successful completion you will be able to:

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

unit

Essay

Assessment Type ¹: Essay

Indicative Time on Task ²: 30 hours

Due: **11:55pm Sunday 02/06/2024**

Weighting: **40%**

Research essay on major topic

On successful completion you will be able to:

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

Participation and reading presentations

Assessment Type ¹: Participatory task

Indicative Time on Task ²: 15 hours

Due: **Continuous plus scheduled**

Weighting: **20%**

Participation in discussion and associated activities

On successful completion you will be able to:

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

Readings All required readings are available in Leganto on the unit iLearn site.

Additional reading will be required and expected for all assessments. Some suggestions for Supplementary Reading will be provided in seminars, iLearn, and Leganto, but these are suggestions only, and you are expected to use your research skills to identify some literature yourself for your written assessments.

Seminars Unless notified otherwise, seminars in 2024 will be in-person (on-campus) and available online at the Echo360 block on the unit iLearn site. Seminars will be participatory and interactive, rather than lecture-style. At 8000-level all students are expected to have read the assigned readings for every seminar, and to come prepared to contribute to all discussions.

There are no tutorials, only the weekly 2hr seminar to attend.

Unit Schedule

PART ONE: PHILOSOPHY OF PROCREATION (A/Prof Mianna Lotz)

Week 1 (week beginning 19 Feb): The nature of the child

Week 2 (week beginning 26 Feb): The value of childhood (**NB: Zoom-only seminar this week.** Please use the zoom link under 'Week 2' in the unit iLearn.)

Week 3 (week beginning 4 March): Parents, the State, and the child's 'right to an open future'

Week 4 (week beginning 11 March): The alleged goods of parenthood (and ought we even to have children?)

Week 5 (week beginning 18 March): Ethics of Assisted Reproduction I: Rights, autonomy, and justice in uterus transplantation

Week 6 (week beginning 25 March): Ethics of Assisted Reproduction II: Can ART be a tool for women's liberation?

PART TWO: PHILOSOPHY OF SURGERY (Dr Katrina Hutchison)

Week 7 (week beginning 1 April): Innovative surgery and the philosophy of definitions

Week 8 (week beginning 8 April): Justice and innovative surgery - who wins, who loses, and who pays?

MID-SESSION BREAK (APRIL 15–26)

Week 9 (week beginning 29 April): Surgical devices and the ethics of complex technologies

Week 10 (week beginning 6 May): Surgery, knowledge and power I - surgeons in clinical hierarchies

Week 11 (week beginning 13 May): Surgery, knowledge and power II - prejudice and pay gaps in Australia's highest paid profession

Week 12 (week beginning 20 May): Doing interdisciplinary and applied philosophy - lessons from philosophy of surgery

Week 13 (week beginning 27 May): **Writing Week – no seminar**

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](#)