



PHIL3041

Philosophy and Ethics of Sex, "Race", and the Body

Session 1, In person-scheduled-weekday, North Ryde 2025

School of Humanities

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General Information

Unit convenor and teaching staff

Convenor and Lecturer

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Lecturer

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Credit points

10

Prerequisites

130cp at 1000 level or above

Corequisites

Co-badged status

Unit description

This unit offers a philosophical exploration of complex and often controversial topics related to sex, relationships, 'race', and the body and the way in which we encounter and grapple with these concepts and experiences across the human life span. Students will engage with pressing issues in reproductive ethics, consent, abortion, and the philosophy of the family, as well as cultural appropriation and the nature and reality of 'race' and whether our practices of racial classification are justified. Further bioethical questions will be explored surrounding the use of human subjects in research, the commodification of the body, organ donation, and voluntary assisted dying. Through close engagement with philosophical texts as well as contemporary case studies, and developing the skills of rigorous philosophical analysis and discussion, students will achieve a deeper understanding of the complex issues and challenges we face as individuals, communities, and societies trying to live well alongside each other.

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:** Outline key issues in the examined social and organisational contexts
- ULO2:** Deploy ethical concepts and theories to relevant contexts and case studies
- ULO3:** Critically evaluate the ethical arguments relating to key social and ethical issues
- ULO4:** Formulate and defend your own ideas with clarity and rigour
- ULO5:** Appeal to relevant concepts to clearly communicate arguments

General Assessment Information

GEN AI/ChatGPT POLICY IN PHILOSOPHY

In this Unit, and unless notified otherwise *in writing* by the Unit Convenor, substantive assessment content that has been generated by AI will be regarded as not the student's own work and potentially in breach of Academic Integrity standards. This applies to all assessments, including online forums. In submitting assessments all students will be required to confirm their agreement with the following:

In submitting this assessment, I certify that this submission is my own work and demonstrates my own understanding, analysis, research, reflection, critical thinking, and writing. I am not submitting anything that I cannot myself fully explain and defend, if called upon to do so. I understand that if my teachers have concerns about whether this submission is my own work or an AI-generated output, I may be required to attend an interview with the Unit Convenor/Integrity Officer/academic staff to verify my research methods, my understanding of the content, and my close familiarity with all sources I have cited. If I am found to have submitted work that is not my own, my work will be further investigated, and I may be found to be in breach of the MQ Academic Integrity Policy.

LATE SUBMISSIONS 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 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.

WORD COUNTS

Unless otherwise specified, word counts include:

- Headings
- In-text citations

- Direct quotations
- Any footnotes (if used at all)

... but do NOT INCLUDE:

- Title and administrative descriptors (such as word count, student number).
- Reference list.

Assessment Tasks

Name	Weighting	Hurdle	Due
'Pitch to the minister'	40%	No	06/04/2025
Reflective Portfolio	20%	No	03/06/2025
Position Paper	40%	No	18/05/2025

'Pitch to the minister'

Assessment Type ¹: Media presentation

Indicative Time on Task ²: 30 hours

Due: **06/04/2025**

Weighting: **40%**

Students make a case for taking a philosophical approach to a policy issue. This will be a recording of a powerpoint presentation.

On successful completion you will be able to:

- Outline key issues in the examined social and organisational contexts
- Deploy ethical concepts and theories to relevant contexts and case studies
- Critically evaluate the ethical arguments relating to key social and ethical issues
- Formulate and defend your own ideas with clarity and rigour
- Appeal to relevant concepts to clearly communicate arguments

Reflective Portfolio

Assessment Type ¹: Portfolio

Indicative Time on Task ²: 20 hours

Due: **03/06/2025**

Weighting: **20%**

A set of reflections on learning in the unit

On successful completion you will be able to:

- Outline key issues in the examined social and organisational contexts
- Deploy ethical concepts and theories to relevant contexts and case studies
- Critically evaluate the ethical arguments relating to key social and ethical issues
- Formulate and defend your own ideas with clarity and rigour
- Appeal to relevant concepts to clearly communicate arguments

Position Paper

Assessment Type ¹: Essay

Indicative Time on Task ²: 30 hours

Due: **18/05/2025**

Weighting: **40%**

Students will write a philosophically-based argument for or against a particular policy change

On successful completion you will be able to:

- Outline key issues in the examined social and organisational contexts
- Deploy ethical concepts and theories to relevant contexts and case studies
- Critically evaluate the ethical arguments relating to key social and ethical issues
- Formulate and defend your own ideas with clarity and rigour
- Appeal to relevant concepts to clearly communicate arguments

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

TECHNOLOGY

You will require access to a computer and a good internet connection in order to participate in

the unit effectively. The unit has an iLearn site where activities are set and unit materials distributed. Written tasks will be submitted via the plagiarism detection software turnitin.

READINGS

Required readings are available for download from the library via Leganto. As well as the required reading, recommended additional readings for each topic might be listed on iLearn. You do not need to read these each week but they are highly recommended for a better understanding of the topics.

LECTURES

Lectures will be held from 11am-1pm on Wednesdays. They will be held in person and recorded.

Lecture slides will be available as a PDF by 9am on the day of the lecture.

TUTORIALS

For face-to-face students, tutorials will be held from 1-2pm on Wednesdays.

The lecture and tutorial are on the same day, so:

1. all readings will need to be read before the lecture and tutorial and
2. you will need to attend the lecture in order to be able to participate meaningfully in the tutorial.

Readings will be accessible at least one week before the relevant lecture and tutorial.

Tutorials will run from Weeks 2-12 inclusive.

ONLINE FORUMS

Online discussions will be held each week from Weeks 2-12 inclusive.

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 2025.04 of the [Handbook](#)