



PHIX2010

Ethics, Business and Work

Session 1, Online-flexible 2025

School of Humanities

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General Information

Unit convenor and teaching staff

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Lecturer

Robert Sinnerbrink

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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

Late submissions 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.

GenAI/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.*

Assessment Tasks

Name	Weighting	Hurdle	Due
<u>Test</u>	40%	No	13/04/2025
<u>Case Study</u>	40%	No	08/06/2025
<u>Reflective portfolio</u>	20%	No	01/06/2025

Test

Assessment Type ¹: Quiz/Test

Indicative Time on Task ²: 20 hours

Due: **13/04/2025**

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: **08/06/2025**

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.

Reflective portfolio

Assessment Type ¹: Portfolio

Indicative Time on Task ²: 15 hours

Due: **01/06/2025**

Weighting: **20%**

A set of reflections on learning in the unit

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 delivered in-person and accessible through Echo 360 block. There will be two one-hour lectures for each of the 12 topics. You should watch these videos before attending the weekly tutorial.

Tutorials

For "on campus" students, tutorials in this unit will be held in-person each week of semester for one hour.

"Online flexible" students participate in assessed discussions.

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

- Week 1: Introduction
- Week 2: What is work and why does it matter?
- Week 3: Work and freedom
- Week 4: The goods of work
- Week 5: Work in a just society
- Week 6: The end of work?
- Week 7: Business ethics: narrow and broad
- Week 8: Equality and freedom in the workplace
- Week 9: Sweatshops and globalisation
- Week 10: Discrimination, bias & stereotypes at work
- Week 11: Factoring animals into business ethics
- Week 12: Business and the environment

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/>

Academic Success

[Academic Success](#) 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 2025.03 of the [Handbook](#)