



PHIX1032

Happiness, Goodness and Justice

Session 2, Online-flexible 2026

School of Humanities

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General Information

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Credit points

10

Prerequisites

Corequisites

Co-badged status

Unit description

This unit provides an introduction to major topics in ethics, moral theory and contemporary political philosophy. The first section focuses on the nature of happiness. Is pleasure essential to happiness? Or does the pursuit of pleasure harm our chances of lasting fulfilment? Must we be virtuous in order to be happy? What is the relationship between happiness and duty? The second section explores the nature of moral goodness. Is morality based ultimately in self-interest? What is the relationship between morality and religion? Are there moral principles that everyone is bound by reason to recognise? Or is the validity of moral standards relative to specific societies and cultures? In the third section we turn to questions of applied political philosophy, focusing on questions such as: What principles should govern the distribution of economic and social resources within a society? What are the obligations of wealthy nations to those less fortunate, including immigrants and refugees? And what issues of justice are raised by climate change? All enrolment queries should be directed to Open Universities Australia (OUA): see www.open.edu.au

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 elementary understanding of key moral and political theories.

ULO2: Evaluate, in an elementary way, contemporary social issues that concern happiness, goodness, and justice, using philosophical ideas and methods.

ULO3: Summarise and explain a philosophical text and its key features at an elementary level.

ULO4: Reflect critically on philosophical theories and arguments at an elementary level.

ULO5: Formulate and defend your own ideas with clarity and rigour, in a logical, structured argument, at an elementary level.

ULO6: Engage constructively and respectfully with the views of others, even if you disagree with them.

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. Assessment forums for each assessment will be available on the unit iLearn – if you have an assessment question please check the assessment information and the relevant assessment forum to see if your question has already been answered. If not,

please post your question on the assessment forum where it will be answered within 1-2 days (weekdays). Please do not email your tutor unless you have tried all the above sources and cannot find an answer to your question.

Special Consideration

Requests for extensions must be submitted via a [Special Consideration](#) request. 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 Penalty

*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.

GenAI/ChatGPT

In this unit, unless notified otherwise in writing by the Unit Convenor, it is expected that the work

you submit demonstrates your own understanding, analysis, research, reflection, critical thinking, and writing, and you will be marked on the basis of your demonstrated understanding of and engagement with the unit content and activities. This applies to all assessments, including online forums. If your teachers have concerns about whether a submission is your own work in a meaningful sense, you may be required to attend an interview with the Unit Convenor or other academic staff to discuss your work and demonstrate your attainment of unit and task learning outcomes. Further information and advice about policies and expectations around the use of Generative AI will be given in iLearn.

Assessment Tasks

Name	Weighting	Hurdle	Due	Groupwork/Individual	Short Extension	AI Approach
Media Presentation	30%	No	30/08/2026	Individual	Yes	Open
Essay outline	25%	No	11/10/2026	Individual	Yes	Open
Essay	45%	No	08/11/2026	Individual	Yes	Open

Media Presentation

Assessment Type [1](#): Presentation task

Indicative Time on Task [2](#): 15 hours

Due: **30/08/2026**

Weighting: **30%**

Groupwork/Individual: Individual

Short extension [3](#): Yes

AI Approach: Open

Recorded presentation reflecting on unit content

On successful completion you will be able to:

- Evaluate, in an elementary way, contemporary social issues that concern happiness, goodness, and justice, using philosophical ideas and methods.
- Reflect critically on philosophical theories and arguments at an elementary level.
- Engage constructively and respectfully with the views of others, even if you disagree with them.

Essay outline

Assessment Type [1](#): Problem-based task

Indicative Time on Task [2](#): 20 hours

Due: **11/10/2026**

Weighting: **25%**

Groupwork/Individual: Individual

Short extension ³: Yes

AI Approach: Open

Essay planning task

On successful completion you will be able to:

- Demonstrate elementary understanding of key moral and political theories.
- Evaluate, in an elementary way, contemporary social issues that concern happiness, goodness, and justice, using philosophical ideas and methods.
- Summarise and explain a philosophical text and its key features at an elementary level.
- Reflect critically on philosophical theories and arguments at an elementary level.

Essay

Assessment Type ¹: Written Submission

Indicative Time on Task ²: 35 hours

Due: **08/11/2026**

Weighting: **45%**

Groupwork/Individual: Individual

Short extension ³: Yes

AI Approach: Open

A critical discussion of a set question where you demonstrate the critical questioning and philosophical knowledge that you have learned over the unit.

On successful completion you will be able to:

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- Evaluate, in an elementary way, contemporary social issues that concern happiness, goodness, and justice, using philosophical ideas and methods.
- Summarise and explain a philosophical text and its key features at an elementary level.
- Reflect critically on philosophical theories and arguments at an elementary level.
- Formulate and defend your own ideas with clarity and rigour, in a logical, structured argument, at an elementary level.
- Engage constructively and respectfully with the views of others, even if you disagree with them.

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

- [Academic Success](#) 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.

³ An automatic short extension is available for some assessments. Apply through the [Service Connect Portal](#).

Delivery and Resources

Required and recommended texts and/or materials

All required readings are available in Leganto on the unit iLearn site. Supplementary reading is required for Essays and assessment tasks. Some suggestions for Supplementary Reading will be provided in lectures and on iLearn. Students are also encouraged to search for additional literature using the library's multisearch system and/or other scholarly databases such as PhilPapers and Philosophers Index.

Lectures

Lectures will be in-person (on-campus) and available online (live and/or on-demand) at the Echo360 block on the unit iLearn site. On-campus students are strongly encouraged to attend lectures in person, so that you can be well prepared for your tutorial discussions.

Tutorials are either on campus or online forums (for external/online students). Tutorials **commence in Week 1**.

Online students do not attend tutorials in person; instead you will participate and interact in weekly online forum discussions. Online forums **commence in Week 1**.

Unit Webpages and E-Resources

Much of this unit (lectures, assessment instructions, additional reading material, 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.

Unit Schedule

PHIL1032 Unit Schedule

Part 1 - Happiness and the Good Life - Views of the Ancient Greeks

Week 1 (lecture July 27): Intro to unit: What is moral philosophy? What is practical philosophy? **[RS]**

Week 2 (lecture August 3): Ancient Greek Philosophy I – Aristotelian Ethics **[RS]**

Week 3 (lecture August 10): Ancient Greek Philosophy II - Stoic Ethics **[RS]**

Part 2 - Goodness and Morality - Modern Moral Theories

Week 4 (beginning Aug 17): Morality, God and Religion (Euthyphro dilemma) **[KH]**

Week 5 (beginning Aug 24): The Challenge of Moral Relativism **[KH]**

Week 6 (beginning Aug 31): The Greatest Good for the Greatest Number! Utilitarian Ethics **[ML]**

Week 7 (beginning Sep 7): Morality is Universal! Kantian Ethics **[ML]**

Week 8 (beginning Sep 14): Egoism, Self-Interest, and Social Contract Foundations for Morality **[KH]**

Mid-Semester Break (Sept 21– October 4)

Part 3: Morality, Justice, and Contemporary Ethical Problems

Week 9 (beginning Oct 5; *Monday Public Holiday): Writing week **[KH]**

Week 10 (beginning Oct 12): Gender, Morality, Justice and Feminist Ethics of Care **[KH]**

Week 11 (beginning Oct 19): Justice and inequality / Rawls: Who gets how much, and is it fair? **[PF]**

Week 12 (beginning Oct 26): Immigration and refugees: Who gets to come? Who gets to stay? **[PF]**

Week 13 (beginning Nov 2): Climate justice **[PF]**

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.

- [Ask a Study Coach](#)
- [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 <https://students.mq.edu.au/support/technology/service-desk>.

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.

Changes since First Published

Date	Description
19/07/2026	Order of topics for Weeks 6 and 7 switched around so that Week 6 is on Utilitarianism and Week 7 on Kantian ethics.

Unit information based on version 2026.04 of the [Handbook](#)