Contents

General Information .................................................. 2
Learning Outcomes .................................................... 2
General Assessment Information .................................... 3
Assessment Tasks ....................................................... 3
Delivery and Resources ............................................... 5
Unit Schedule .......................................................... 5
Policies and Procedures .............................................. 8
Graduate Capabilities .................................................. 10
## General Information

Unit convenor and teaching staff  
Senior Lecturer  
Dr Paul Formosa  
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Credit points  
3

Prerequisites  
39cp or admission to GDipArts

Corequisites

Co-badged status

Unit description  
What is justice? This unit explores this important question by examining a number of leading contemporary philosophical theories of justice, including John Rawls’s influential theory of justice, and assessing the capacity of these theories to respond to pressing social issues. To do this we look at issues of inequality and diversity in society by asking: what degree of inequality, if any, can be justified? We explore the different answers to this question proposed by liberals, libertarians, and Marxists. We shall also examine broader social questions around justice, such as: should we focus more on the well-being of communities and less on the rights of individuals? Is justice biased against women? Should minorities receive special protections and privileges? How can we justify punishing those who violate justice? What are the obligations of democratic citizenship? And what do we owe the poor in other countries?

## Important Academic Dates

Information about important academic dates including deadlines for withdrawing from units are available at [https://students.mq.edu.au/important-dates](https://students.mq.edu.au/important-dates)

## Learning Outcomes

1. A good general knowledge of some of the major theories and current debates in contemporary political philosophy
2. An ability to understand and analyse arguments in the relevant literatures.
3. An ability to evaluate these theories and arguments critically
4. The ability to develop your own view or perspective through consideration and analysis of the views and arguments presented in the unit.
5. Clarity of thought; clarity of verbal expression; clarity of written expression and exposition

**General Assessment Information**

All assessment is to be submitted on-line through iLearn.

**Assessment Tasks**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Weighting</th>
<th>Due</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Participation</td>
<td>15%</td>
<td>On-going</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Justice in the News</td>
<td>5%</td>
<td>18/03/2016</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Quizzes</td>
<td>15%</td>
<td>On-going</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Comparative Analysis</td>
<td>25%</td>
<td>29/04/2016</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Essay Plan</td>
<td>10%</td>
<td>20/05/2016</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Essay</td>
<td>30%</td>
<td>15/06/2016</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Participation**

Due: **On-going**

Weighting: **15%**

Internal students must attend at least 7 tutorials to be eligible for the participation mark. If you do not attend at least 7 tutorials you will receive 0 marks for participation. External students must participate in at least 7 different weekly tutorial discussion forums within 14 days of the relevant lecture (i.e. you should contribute something to the discussion forum on Rawls within 14 days of the lecture on Rawls). If you meet the relevant minimum requirement, then your mark will be awarded on the basis of the quality of your participation in the tutorials/forums.

This Assessment Task relates to the following Learning Outcomes:

- 3. An ability to evaluate these theories and arguments critically
- 4. The ability to develop your own view or perspective through consideration and analysis of the views and arguments presented in the unit.
- 5. Clarity of thought; clarity of verbal expression; clarity of written expression and exposition

**Justice in the News**

Due: **18/03/2016**

Weighting: **5%**
Find a news story which raises a justice issue that interests you. Analyse the article in 300 words. Note: an example response will be discussed in class.

This Assessment Task relates to the following Learning Outcomes:

- 2. An ability to understand and analyse arguments in the relevant literatures.
- 5. Clarity of thought; clarity of verbal expression; clarity of written expression and exposition

Quizzes
Due: On-going
Weighting: 15%

There will be 10 weekly on-line quizzes worth a total of 15% (or a maximum of 1.5% for each of the 10 quizzes). Quizzes start in Week 3 (Rawls) and run until Week 12 (Global justice).

This Assessment Task relates to the following Learning Outcomes:

- 1. A good general knowledge of some of the major theories and current debates in contemporary political philosophy

Comparative Analysis
Due: 29/04/2016
Weighting: 25%

The aim of the comparative analysis (1500 words) is to consolidate your understanding of the theories and issues discussed in the first half of the unit. You are required to critically analyse in comparative terms the central points of difference between two of the theories we discuss.

This Assessment Task relates to the following Learning Outcomes:

- 2. An ability to understand and analyse arguments in the relevant literatures.
- 3. An ability to evaluate these theories and arguments critically
- 5. Clarity of thought; clarity of verbal expression; clarity of written expression and exposition

Essay Plan
Due: 20/05/2016
Weighting: 10%

The essay plan will help you to properly structure your essay and integrate relevant research.

This Assessment Task relates to the following Learning Outcomes:
• 3. An ability to evaluate these theories and arguments critically
• 4. The ability to develop your own view or perspective through consideration and analysis of the views and arguments presented in the unit.

Essay
Due: 15/06/2016
Weighting: 30%

The essay (1800 words) is designed to extend your understanding of a specific topic and to test your ability to engage with that topic in depth. Essay writing tests your ability to synthesise material from a range of readings and to express, analyse and structure key ideas and arguments clearly, logically and systematically. It also tests your ability to develop your own view, and to argue for that view in a cogent and sustained way. You will be expected to read and incorporate into your essay extra secondary sources beyond the required readings.

This Assessment Task relates to the following Learning Outcomes:
• 2. An ability to understand and analyse arguments in the relevant literatures.
• 3. An ability to evaluate these theories and arguments critically
• 4. The ability to develop your own view or perspective through consideration and analysis of the views and arguments presented in the unit.
• 5. Clarity of thought; clarity of verbal expression; clarity of written expression and exposition

Delivery and Resources

Required Readings


Other Required readings: Other required readings are listed in the unit guide and available for download from eReserve. There is no printed unit reader.

You must read the required readings BEFORE the lecture and tutorial.

Additional readings: As well as the required reading, recommended additional readings for each topic are listed on iLearn. Kymlicka also provides suggestions for further reading at the end of each chapter and offers useful comments about what each text contains. You do NOT need to read these each week.

Unit Schedule

Section 1: Equality and Inequality

Week 1 (Wednesday 2 March)
Lecture 1: Introduction: Equality and Diversity

No tutorial

No required reading

Justice in the News assessment handed out

Week 2 (Wednesday 9 March)

Lecture 2: Utilitarianism

Tutorial 1

Required Reading:
1. Kymlicka, CPP, Ch. 2

Week 3 (Wednesday 16 March)

Lecture 3: Rawls

Tutorial 2

Required Reading:
1. John Rawls, A Theory of Justice (Harvard University Press, 1971), Ch. 1, Sections 1-6, Ch. 2, Sections 11-12, Ch. 3, Sections 24-26.
2. Kymlicka, CPP, Ch. 3, Sections 1-3 only.

Justice in the News assessment due Friday 18 March.

Week 4 (Wednesday March 23)

Lecture 4: Dworkin

Tutorial 3

Required Reading:
2. Kymlicka, CPP, Ch. 3, Sections 4-5.

Comparative Analysis assessment handed out

Week 5 (Thursday March 30)

Lecture 5: Nozick

Tutorial 4

Required Reading:
2. Kymlicka, CPP, Ch. 4
Week 6 (Wednesday 6 April)
Lecture 6: Analytical Marxism
Tutorial 5
Required Reading:
1. Kymlicka, CPP, Ch. 5

Holidays 11th April-25th April

Week 7 (Wednesday 27 April)
Lecture 7: Capabilities Approach, Communitarianism and Perfectionism
NO TUTORIAL THIS WEEK
Required reading:
2. Kymlicka, CPP, Ch 6.
Comparative Analysis assessment due: 29 April

Section 2: Diversity, Citizenship and Justice
Week 8 (Wednesday 4 May)
Lecture 8: Retributive Justice, Criminality and Punishment
Tutorial 6
Required Reading:
1. Rawls, A Theory of Justice, Section: The Rule of Law, section 38, pp. 206-213

Essay and essay plan assessments handed out

Week 9 (Wednesday 11 May)
Lecture 9: Feminism
Tutorial 7
Required Reading:

**Week 10 (Thursday 14 May)**

Lecture 10: Citizenship

Tutorial 8

Required reading:


**Essay Plan assessment due Friday 20 May**

**Week 11 (Wednesday 25 May)**

Lecture 11: Multiculturalism

Tutorial 9

Required reading

1. Kymlicka, CPP, Ch. 8

**Week 12 (Wednesday June 1)**

Lecture 12: Global Justice

Tutorial 10

Required Reading:

1. Brian Barry, ‘Humanity and Justice in Global Perspective’ in Goodin and Pettit (eds.), Contemporary Political Philosophy: An Anthology


**Week 13**

No lecture

No tutorial

**Final essay due Wednesday June 15**

**Policies and Procedures**

Macquarie University policies and procedures are accessible from Policy Central. Students
should be aware of the following policies in particular with regard to Learning and Teaching:


In addition, a number of other policies can be found in the [Learning and Teaching Category](http://www.mq.edu.au/policy) of Policy Central.

**Student Code of Conduct**

Macquarie University students have a responsibility to be familiar with the Student Code of Conduct: [https://students.mq.edu.au/support/student_conduct/](https://students.mq.edu.au/support/student_conduct/)

**Results**

Results shown in *iLearn*, 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](http://ask.mq.edu.au).

**Extensions and Penalties**

All work must be submitted on time unless an extension has been granted. Requests for extensions must be made in writing BEFORE the due date and will only be considered on serious grounds. Extensions will not be given unless good reasons and appropriate evidence (e.g., medical certificates, counsellor letters) are presented at the earliest opportunity. Please note that work due concurrently in other units is NOT an exceptional circumstance and does not constitute a legitimate reason for an extension. If the assessment is submitted after the due date and an extension has not been granted then the assessment will have 5% deducted from the grade for each day the assessment is late. For example, if work was graded as 70/100 and was handed in 2 days late, the work would receive a mark of 60/100. Weekends, but not public holidays, count in the calculation of late penalties.

To obtain an extension of less than 3 days, you should email the unit convenor. To obtain an extension of 3 days or more, you must submit a special consideration application.
Student Support
Macquarie University provides a range of support services for students. For details, visit [http://students.mq.edu.au/support/](http://students.mq.edu.au/support/)

**Learning Skills**
Learning Skills ([mq.edu.au/learningskills](http://mq.edu.au/learningskills)) provides academic writing resources and study strategies to improve your marks and take control of your study.

- Workshops
- StudyWise
- Academic Integrity Module for Students
- Ask a Learning Adviser

**Student Enquiry Service**
For all student enquiries, visit Student Connect at [ask.mq.edu.au](http://ask.mq.edu.au)

**Equity Support**
Students with a disability are encouraged to contact the Disability Service who can provide appropriate help with any issues that arise during their studies.

**IT Help**
For help with University computer systems and technology, visit [http://www.mq.edu.au/about_us/offices_and_units/information_technology/help/](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.

**Graduate Capabilities**

**Discipline Specific Knowledge and Skills**
Our graduates will take with them the intellectual development, depth and breadth of knowledge, scholarly understanding, and specific subject content in their chosen fields to make them competent and confident in their subject or profession. They will be able to demonstrate, where relevant, professional technical competence and meet professional standards. They will be able to articulate the structure of knowledge of their discipline, be able to adapt discipline-specific knowledge to novel situations, and be able to contribute from their discipline to inter-disciplinary solutions to problems.

This graduate capability is supported by:

**Learning outcomes**

- 1. A good general knowledge of some of the major theories and current debates in contemporary political philosophy
• 2. An ability to understand and analyse arguments in the relevant literatures.
• 3. An ability to evaluate these theories and arguments critically
• 4. The ability to develop your own view or perspective through consideration and analysis of the views and arguments presented in the unit.
• 5. Clarity of thought; clarity of verbal expression; clarity of written expression and exposition

Assessment tasks
• Participation
• Quizzes
• Comparative Analysis
• Essay Plan
• Essay

Critical, Analytical and Integrative Thinking
We want our graduates to be capable of reasoning, questioning and analysing, and to integrate and synthesise learning and knowledge from a range of sources and environments; to be able to critique constraints, assumptions and limitations; to be able to think independently and systemically in relation to scholarly activity, in the workplace, and in the world. We want them to have a level of scientific and information technology literacy.

This graduate capability is supported by:

Learning outcomes
• 2. An ability to understand and analyse arguments in the relevant literatures.
• 3. An ability to evaluate these theories and arguments critically
• 4. The ability to develop your own view or perspective through consideration and analysis of the views and arguments presented in the unit.

Assessment tasks
• Participation
• Justice in the News
• Comparative Analysis
• Essay Plan
• Essay

Problem Solving and Research Capability
Our graduates should be capable of researching; of analysing, and interpreting and assessing data and information in various forms; of drawing connections across fields of knowledge; and they should be able to relate their knowledge to complex situations at work or in the world, in
order to diagnose and solve problems. We want them to have the confidence to take the initiative in doing so, within an awareness of their own limitations.

This graduate capability is supported by:

**Learning outcomes**

- 2. An ability to understand and analyse arguments in the relevant literatures.
- 3. An ability to evaluate these theories and arguments critically
- 4. The ability to develop your own view or perspective through consideration and analysis of the views and arguments presented in the unit.

**Assessment tasks**

- Participation
- Justice in the News
- Comparative Analysis
- Essay Plan
- Essay

**Creative and Innovative**

Our graduates will also be capable of creative thinking and of creating knowledge. They will be imaginative and open to experience and capable of innovation at work and in the community. We want them to be engaged in applying their critical, creative thinking.

This graduate capability is supported by:

**Learning outcomes**

- 3. An ability to evaluate these theories and arguments critically
- 4. The ability to develop your own view or perspective through consideration and analysis of the views and arguments presented in the unit.

**Assessment tasks**

- Participation
- Comparative Analysis
- Essay

**Effective Communication**

We want to develop in our students the ability to communicate and convey their views in forms effective with different audiences. We want our graduates to take with them the capability to read, listen, question, gather and evaluate information resources in a variety of formats, assess, write clearly, speak effectively, and to use visual communication and communication technologies as appropriate.
This graduate capability is supported by:

**Learning outcomes**
- 3. An ability to evaluate these theories and arguments critically
- 5. Clarity of thought; clarity of verbal expression; clarity of written expression and exposition

**Assessment tasks**
- Participation
- Comparative Analysis
- Essay

**Engaged and Ethical Local and Global citizens**
As local citizens our graduates will be aware of indigenous perspectives and of the nation's historical context. They will be engaged with the challenges of contemporary society and with knowledge and ideas. We want our graduates to have respect for diversity, to be open-minded, sensitive to others and inclusive, and to be open to other cultures and perspectives: they should have a level of cultural literacy. Our graduates should be aware of disadvantage and social justice, and be willing to participate to help create a wiser and better society.

This graduate capability is supported by:

**Learning outcome**
- 1. A good general knowledge of some of the major theories and current debates in contemporary political philosophy

**Assessment task**
- Quizzes

**Socially and Environmentally Active and Responsible**
We want our graduates to be aware of and have respect for self and others; to be able to work with others as a leader and a team player; to have a sense of connectedness with others and country; and to have a sense of mutual obligation. Our graduates should be informed and active participants in moving society towards sustainability.

This graduate capability is supported by:

**Learning outcome**
- 1. A good general knowledge of some of the major theories and current debates in contemporary political philosophy

**Assessment tasks**
- Justice in the News
Commitment to Continuous Learning
Our graduates will have enquiring minds and a literate curiosity which will lead them to pursue knowledge for its own sake. They will continue to pursue learning in their careers and as they participate in the world. They will be capable of reflecting on their experiences and relationships with others and the environment, learning from them, and growing - personally, professionally and socially.

This graduate capability is supported by:

Learning outcomes

• 3. An ability to evaluate these theories and arguments critically
• 4. The ability to develop your own view or perspective through consideration and analysis of the views and arguments presented in the unit.

Assessment tasks

• Participation
• Justice in the News
• Comparative Analysis
• Essay

Capable of Professional and Personal Judgement and Initiative
We want our graduates to have emotional intelligence and sound interpersonal skills and to demonstrate discernment and common sense in their professional and personal judgement. They will exercise initiative as needed. They will be capable of risk assessment, and be able to handle ambiguity and complexity, enabling them to be adaptable in diverse and changing environments.

This graduate capability is supported by:

Learning outcome

• 4. The ability to develop your own view or perspective through consideration and analysis of the views and arguments presented in the unit.

Assessment tasks

• Participation
• Essay