PHIL201
Business and Professional Ethics
S3 Day 2017
Dept of Philosophy

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## General Information

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Unit convenor and teaching staff</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Unit Convenor</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Matthew Millar</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><a href="mailto:matthew.millar@mq.edu.au">matthew.millar@mq.edu.au</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Contact via <a href="mailto:matthew.millar@mq.edu.au">matthew.millar@mq.edu.au</a></td>
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<tr>
<td>By appointment</td>
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| Matthew Millar                   |
| matthew.millar@mq.edu.au         |

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Credit points</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
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<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Prerequisites</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>(12cp at 100 level or above) or admission to GDipArts</td>
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<table>
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<tr>
<th>Corequisites</th>
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<table>
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<tr>
<th>Co-badged status</th>
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<table>
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<tr>
<th>Unit description</th>
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This unit provides students with an introduction to some of the main ethical issues raised by the activities of businesses and corporations in contemporary society and introduces some central topics in professional ethics. The first part of the unit examines the roles and responsibilities of businesses and corporations in relation to individuals and society. We ask whether corporations have moral responsibilities to stakeholders other than shareholders and examine competing accounts of economic justice related to this question. Other topics in this section include the ethics of discrimination and affirmative action and the influence of business on government. The second part of the unit begins with an examination of the responsibilities of business in relation to the environment. Other topics in this section include justice and globalization, conflicts of interest in medicine, the ethics of advertising, and whistleblowing. This unit is relevant to students in accounting and business studies as well as those in the humanities and social sciences.

## 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

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 view or perspective, through consideration and analysis of views and arguments presented in the unit
Develop your skills in clarity of thought, clarity of verbal and written expression, and written argumentation

General Assessment Information

Assignment submission

Written work must be submitted via the PHIL 201 iLearn homepage. A Turnitin link will be made available for each assignment.
Details will be provided with the assignment instructions. Marked work will be returned to students online.

Extensions and disruption to studies

Please note that any requests for extensions must be made in writing (by email) before the due date. Assessment submitted after the due date, or after the extension date, will lose 1 mark per day, including weekends. (Please also note that work due concurrently in other subjects is not a legitimate reason for an extension)

Disruption to Studies Policy

http://students.mq.edu.au/student_admin/exams/disruption_to_studies/

Disruption to studies is intended for a student who is prevented by serious and unavoidable disruption from completing any unit requirements in accordance with their ability.

The University defines serious and unavoidable disruption to studies as resulting from an event or set of circumstances that:

• could not have reasonably been anticipated, avoided or guarded against by the student; and
• was beyond the student's control; and
• caused substantial disruption to the student's capacity for effective study and/or completion of required work; and
Assessment Tasks

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Weighting</th>
<th>Hurdle</th>
<th>Due</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Attendance &amp; Participation</td>
<td>15%</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>Ongoing</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Reading Assignment 1</td>
<td>20%</td>
<td>No</td>
<td>17/12/17</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Reading Assignment 2</td>
<td>25%</td>
<td>No</td>
<td>15/01/18</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Essay</td>
<td>40%</td>
<td>No</td>
<td>26/01/18</td>
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**Attendance & Participation**

**Due:** Ongoing  
**Weighting:** 15%

This is a hurdle assessment task (see assessment policy for more information on hurdle assessment tasks)

Contributions to seminar discussions are an important part of this unit. This means doing assigned readings, coming with questions, and engaging constructively with peers. Students must attend and participate in at least 80% of seminars to pass the unit. This task will be assessed by the following criteria: demonstration of familiarity with and understanding of the relevant readings and topics; quality of contribution to class discussion and group work. A marking rubric and detailed task outline for this task will be supplied on iLearn.

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
- Relate ethical concepts and theories to relevant case studies and current events
- Develop your own view or perspective, through consideration and analysis of views and

Applying for Disruption to Studies

The Disruption to Studies Notification must be completed and submitted online through www.ask.mq.edu.au within five (5) working days of the commencement of the disruption.
arguments presented in the unit

• Develop your skills in clarity of thought, clarity of verbal and written expression, and written argumentation

Reading Assignment 1

Due: 17/12/17
Weighting: 20%

All students will be expected to complete an initial assignment of 700 words. This assignment provides an opportunity for you to relate the theoretical and conceptual issues discussed in classes and readings to relevant current events or issues. This task will be assessed by the following criteria: content, structure, argument and critical analysis, written expression and referencing. A marking rubric and detailed task outline for this task will be supplied on iLearn.

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 view or perspective, through consideration and analysis of views and arguments presented in the unit
• Develop your skills in clarity of thought, clarity of verbal and written expression, and written argumentation

Reading Assignment 2

Due: 15/01/18
Weighting: 25%

All students will be expected to complete a second assignment of 800 words. This assignment provides an opportunity for you to relate the theoretical and conceptual issues discussed in classes and readings to relevant case studies. This task will be assessed by the following criteria: content, structure, argument and critical analysis, written expression and referencing. A marking rubric and detailed task outline for this task will be supplied on iLearn.
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
- Develop your skills in clarity of thought, clarity of verbal and written expression, and written argumentation

**Essay**

*Due: 26/01/18*

*Weighting: 40%*

All students must complete an essay of **1800 words**. Essays develop your ability to engage with a topic in detail and to express, analyse and organise key ideas clearly and systematically. This task will be assessed by the following criteria: content, structure, argument and critical analysis, written expression and referencing. A marking rubric and detailed task outline for this task will be supplied on iLearn.

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
- Develop your own view or perspective, through consideration and analysis of views and arguments presented in the unit
- Develop your skills in clarity of thought, clarity of verbal and written expression, and written argumentation
Delivery and Resources

CLASSES
For lecture times and classrooms please consult the MQ Timetable website:
http://www.timetables.mq.edu.au. This website will display up-to-date information on your
classes and classroom locations.

Seminars: Monday, Wednesday and Friday 2pm-4pm.
Room: E3B 212 (8SCOA)

REQUIRED AND RECOMMENDED TEXTS AND/OR MATERIALS
All required readings and most supplementary readings are available from eReserve. Consult the
Unit Schedule for a week by-week outline of required readings and supplementary readings.

UNIT WEBPAGE AND TECHNOLOGY USED AND REQUIRED
The unit uses the following technology: iLearn, ilecture, web discussion board
Online units can be accessed at: http://ilearn.mq.edu.au

CHANGES MADE TO PREVIOUS OFFERINGS OF THE UNIT
We have adapted the assessment pattern to reflect new weightings for assessment items and
have changed the readings requirements for some topics.
Unit Schedule
Monday

Introduction to Business and Professional Ethics

Introductory Readings:


Wednesday

Ultimate Values and Business Ethics

Essential Reading:


Friday

The Nature of Ethics and Morality

Essential Reading:


Further Reading:


Monday

The Nature of Moral Reasoning

Essential Reading:


Wednesday

The Social Responsibility of Business: The Narrow View

Essential Readings:


Further Reading:

Friday
The Social Responsibility of Business: Broader Views and Stakeholder Theory

Essential Readings:


Further Reading:


Wednesday
Justice, Markets and Equality

Essential Reading:


Further Reading:


Friday
Discrimination and Affirmative Action

Essential Readings:


Further Reading:


Monday
Corporate Influence on Government

Essential Readings:


Further Readings:
Sally Young and Joo-Cheong Tham, ‘Private Funding of Political Parties’, Ch. 2 in Political Finance in Australia: a skewed and secret system?, 2006, available at:
http://democraticaudit.org.au/?page_id=15

(Scroll down list of discussion papers until you find the relevant pdf.)

Wednesday
Business and the Environment

Essential Reading:


Further Reading:

Friday
Ethical Issues in Advertising

Essential Reading:


Further Reading:

Monday
Justice, Globalization and Sweatshops

Essential Reading:


Further Reading:


Wednesday
Industry Relations with the Professions: Conflicts of Interest

Essential Reading:
Further Reading:


Friday

Ethical Business Models and Moral Managers

Essential Reading:


Further Reading:


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 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.

Student Support

Macquarie University provides a range of support services for students. For details, visit http://students.mq.edu.au/support/

Learning Skills

Learning Skills (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

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/.

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

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

• 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 view or perspective, through consideration and analysis of views and arguments presented in the unit
• Develop your skills in clarity of thought, clarity of verbal and written expression, and written argumentation

Assessment tasks

• Attendance & Participation
• Reading Assignment 1
• Reading Assignment 2
• 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

• 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 view or perspective, through consideration and analysis of views and arguments presented in the unit
• Develop your skills in clarity of thought, clarity of verbal and written expression, and written argumentation

Assessment tasks

• Attendance & Participation
• Reading Assignment 1
• 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**

- 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 skills in clarity of thought, clarity of verbal and written expression, and written argumentation

**Assessment tasks**

- Attendance & Participation
- Reading Assignment 1
- Reading Assignment 2
- 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**

- Develop your own view or perspective, through consideration and analysis of views and arguments presented in the unit

**Assessment tasks**

- Attendance & Participation
- Reading Assignment 1
- Essay

**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

• Develop your own view or perspective, through consideration and analysis of views and arguments presented in the unit

Assessment tasks

• Attendance & Participation
• Reading Assignment 1
• Reading Assignment 2

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 outcome

• Develop your own view or perspective, through consideration and analysis of views and arguments presented in the unit

Assessment tasks

• Attendance & Participation
• Reading Assignment 1

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 outcomes

• Relate ethical concepts and theories to relevant case studies and current events
• Develop your own view or perspective, through consideration and analysis of views and arguments presented in the unit
• Develop your skills in clarity of thought, clarity of verbal and written expression, and written argumentation
Assessment tasks
• Attendance & Participation
• Reading Assignment 1

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
• 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

Assessment tasks
• Attendance & Participation
• Reading Assignment 1
• Reading Assignment 2
• 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 systematically 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
• 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 view or perspective, through consideration and analysis of views and arguments presented in the unit
• Develop your skills in clarity of thought, clarity of verbal and written expression, and written argumentation

**Assessment tasks**

• Attendance & Participation
• Reading Assignment 1
• Reading Assignment 2
• Essay