

## Unit Guide

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# ATS3869 Political philosophy

## Semester 2, 2017

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Handbook link:

<http://monash.edu.au/pubs/2017handbooks/units/ATS3869.html>

The information contained in this unit guide is correct at time of publication. The University has the right to change any of the elements contained in this document at any time.

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# Unit handbook information

## Synopsis

The overarching aim of this unit is to give students a strong foundation in political philosophy. The unit focuses on three principal questions: How are political institutions justified? How should wealth and income be distributed in the just state? And when is it justified to punish someone for violating a state's laws? Students will be introduced to central attempts to answer these questions, using both classical and contemporary authors.

## Mode of delivery

Clayton (Day)  
Clayton (Flexible)

## Workload requirements

Minimum total expected workload to achieve the learning outcomes for this unit is 144 hours per semester typically comprising a mixture of scheduled learning activities and independent study. A unit requires on average three/four hours of scheduled activities per week. Scheduled activities may include a combination of teacher directed learning, peer directed learning and online engagement.

## Additional workload requirements

In the campus mode of delivery, the expected workload requirement is attending lectures (1 hour per week) and the tutorial (1 hour per week), as well as reading and reflecting on the material (5 hours a week), and weekly assignments (1-3 hours per week).

In Flexible delivery mode, the expected workload requirement is entirely comprised of independent study. There are a number of components to this independent study: listening to recorded lectures (1 hour per week); completing assigned reading (3 hours per week); working through materials on Moodle (3 hours per week); writing and reflection (5 hours per week).

## Unit relationships

### Prerequisites

A cornerstone unit in Philosophy.

### Prohibitions

ATS2869, AZA2869, AZA3869

### Co-requisites

None

## Chief Examiner(s)

[Dr John Thrasher](#)

## Unit Coordinator(s)

Name: Dr John Thrasher  
Campus: Clayton  
Phone: +61 3 990 20016  
Email: [John.Thrasher@monash.edu](mailto:John.Thrasher@monash.edu)  
Consultation hours: by appointment

## Tutor(s)

Name: Mrs Lucy Mayne  
Campus: Clayton  
Phone:  
Email: [Lucy.Mayne@monash.edu](mailto:Lucy.Mayne@monash.edu)  
Consultation hours: TBA

If no tutors are listed please refer to this unit's Moodle site.

## Academic overview

### Learning outcomes

On successful completion of the unit, students will have:

1. mastered fundamental concepts in political philosophy;
2. acquired familiarity the methodology of political philosophy and how political philosophy relates to other branches of philosophy;
3. be able to identify relevant literature for the purposes of scholarly work on political philosophy;
4. improved written and oral communication skills;
5. undertaken independent research and reading in completing the assignments.

### Teaching and learning approach

#### Lecture and tutorials or problem classes

This teaching and learning approach provides facilitated learning, peer learning, and writing.

### Assessment summary

Within semester assessment: 100%

Assessment task	Value	Due date
Essay Plan	10%, Hurdle	Week 8 - 5pm Friday September 15th
Tutorial Assignments	40%	Weekly, due before the tutorial
Final essay	50%	Week 12 - 5pm Friday October 20th

## Hurdle requirements

Completing assessments satisfactorily. Specifically, the satisfactory completion of an essay plan and its approval by the Unit Coordinator is a hurdle for submitting a final essay.

## Assessment, Exams and Results Policies and Procedures

The assessment detailed here expands on the broad outline provided in the Handbook and students will be assessed according to the information in the Unit Guide for this semester and year. Students who have concerns or questions about the assessment regime should contact the Unit Coordinator. For all policies and procedures go to: <http://artsonline.monash.edu/policy-bank/>

## Assessment requirements

### Attendance and participation

The Faculty of Arts *Teaching activity attendance procedures* can be found at: <http://artsonline.monash.edu.au/policy-bank/teaching-activity-attendance/>

Only those who attend the tutorial will have their tutorial assignments marked.

# Assessment tasks

**Assessment task title:** Essay Plan

**Due date:** Week 8 - 5pm Friday September 15th

**Details of task:** The essay plan will be constructed based on a template that will be provided. The aim is to help the student think about the structure and substance of their essay well in advance of the due date. The essay plan is also combined with a consultation about the essay plan with the lecturer. Information about scheduling a consultation will be available on moodle.

**Release dates:** N/A

**Word limit:** N/A

**Value:** 10%, Hurdle

**Presentation requirements:** Work handed in

**Estimated return date:** N/A

**Hurdle requirements:** This must be completed in advance of the final paper. Failure to complete the essay plan and have it approved will result in an automatic 20% reduction in the final unit grade.

**Individual assessment in group tasks:** N/A

**Criteria for marking:**

	Inadequate	Adequate	Good	Very good
Evidence of understanding (including conceptual mastery, insight, clarity of exposition)	0-4	5-6	7-8	9-10
Quality of argument (depth of research, originality)	0-4	5-6	7-8	9-10
Quality of writing (including punctuation, spelling, paragraph structure, correct use of referencing conventions)	0-4	5-6	7-8	9-10

**Referencing requirements:** For referencing and citation rules go to: <http://artsonline.monash.edu.au/philosophy/resources-for-undergraduate-students/>

To build your skills in citing and referencing, and using different referencing styles, see the online tutorial Academic Integrity: Demystifying Citing and Referencing at <http://www.lib.monash.edu/tutorials/citing/>

**Additional information:** N/A

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**Assessment task title:** Tutorial Assignments

**Due date:** Weekly, due before the tutorial

**Details of task:** Tutorial assignments will be due prior to the beginning of the tutorial. The assignments will be available and should be completed on Moodle. There will be 8 assignments total but only the 6 best scores will count to the overall grade.

**Release dates:** N/A

**Word limit:** 300 words

**Value:** 40%

**Presentation requirements:** Work handed in

**Estimated return date:** Same week

**Hurdle requirements:** N/A

**Individual assessment in group tasks:** N/A

**Criteria for marking:**

	Inadequate	Adequate	Good	Very good
Evidence of understanding (including conceptual mastery, insight, clarity of exposition)	0-4	5-6	7-8	9-10
Quality of argument (depth of research, originality)	0-4	5-6	7-8	9-10



Quality of writing (including punctuation, spelling, paragraph structure, correct use of referencing conventions)

**Referencing requirements:** For referencing and citation rules go to: <http://artsonline.monash.edu.au/philosophy/resources-for-undergraduate-students/>

To build your skills in citing and referencing, and using different referencing styles, see the online tutorial Academic Integrity: Demystifying Citing and Referencing at <http://www.lib.monash.edu/tutorials/citing/>

**Additional information:** Additional information will be available on the unit moodle site.

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**Assessment task title:** Final essay

**Due date:** Week 12 - 5pm Friday October 20th

**Details of task:** This essay should be based on the approved essay plan. The essay will be evaluated on the basis of three criteria:

1. understanding of the source material,
2. level of philosophical argumentation, and
3. quality and clarity of writing.

More detailed instructions and suggestions will be posted on Moodle.

**Release dates:** Topics will be released by Week 6

**Word limit:** 2000 words

**Value:** 50%

**Presentation requirements:** Work handed in.

**Estimated return date:** See essay instructions on moodle

**Hurdle requirements:** Essay Plan

**Individual assessment in group tasks:** N/A

**Criteria for marking:**

	Inadequate	Adequate	Good	Very good
Evidence of understanding (including conceptual mastery, insight, clarity of exposition)	0-4	5-6	7-8	9-10
Quality of argument (depth of research, originality)	0-4	5-6	7-8	9-10
Quality of writing (including punctuation, spelling, paragraph structure, correct use of referencing conventions)	0-4	5-6	7-8	9-10

**Referencing requirements:** For referencing and citation rules go to: <http://artsonline.monash.edu.au/philosophy/resources-for-undergraduate-students/>

To build your skills in citing and referencing, and using different referencing styles, see the online tutorial Academic Integrity: Demystifying Citing and Referencing at <http://www.lib.monash.edu/tutorials/citing/>

**Additional information:** N/A

# Submission requirements

## Coversheets

It is a University requirement (<http://www.policy.monash.edu/policy-bank/academic/education/conduct/student-academic-integrity-managing-plagiarism-collusion-procedures.html>) for students to submit an assignment coversheet for each assessment item.

- **Assignments using Turnitin:** logon to Moodle, navigate to the Moodle submission statement and tick the checkbox to signal that you have read and agreed with the statement. If you also need to submit a hardcopy for marking and feedback purposes, you will need to print a coversheet from your My Monash portal and attach it to your assignment.
- **For all other online assignment submissions:** The coversheet is accessible via the Monash portal page located at <http://my.monash.edu.au> under the My Units banner. A link to an assignment coversheet will appear under the heading Learning and Teaching Tools. For online submission, copy and paste the coversheet as the first page the assignment and complete the details; you should type your name at the signature prompt. Alternatively, if your Unit Coordinator has enabled the Moodle submission statement, you can tick the checkbox to signal that you have read and agreed with the statement.
- **For hardcopy submission:** The coversheet is accessible via the Monash portal page located at <http://my.monash.edu.au> under the My Units banner. A link to an assignment coversheet will appear under the heading Learning and Teaching Tools. Print, complete all the details, sign and staple the coversheet to the front of the assignment.
- **For Honours thesis submission:** Download and complete the thesis assessment coversheet from the Arts Policy Bank - Honours procedures page at <http://artsonline.monash.edu.au/policy-bank/honours-procedures/>. Lodge this with your thesis as per the instructions below. Note: do not bind it into your thesis.
- **For Graduate Coursework research thesis and research project submission:** Download and complete the thesis assessment coversheet from the Arts Policy Bank – Graduate coursework degrees procedures page at <http://artsonline.monash.edu.au/policy-bank/research-in-graduate-coursework-degrees-procedures/>. Lodge this with your thesis as per the instructions below. Note: do not bind it into your thesis.

## Assignment submission

### How to submit assignments for this unit

#### Online submission

Submit your assignment via [Moodle](#) by the due date and time. Do not submit files attached to email. Once you submit an assignment you are taken back to the assignment page where the page shows, in the 'Submission' box, what you have submitted. It is a good idea to save a screenshot for your records.

Assignments are to be submitted and will be returned via Moodle.

## Extensions and penalties

It is important to note that an assessment item, other than time-sensitive assessment, that is submitted after the due date and without an agreed extension, will attract a penalty of 5 per cent of the maximum possible mark for the assessment item, per calendar day overdue. No assessment item can be accepted if it is more than ten calendar days overdue, except in exceptional circumstances and in consultation with the unit coordinator.

To understand what constitutes a time-sensitive assessment and see further information about this procedure, please review the Faculty of Arts *Assessment extension and late assessment submission procedures* at: <http://artsonline.monash.edu.au/policy-bank/extension-and-late-assessment-submission-procedures/>

## Resubmission of assignments

The Faculty of Arts policy governing review and remarking of assessment can be found at <http://artsonline.monash.edu.au/policy-bank/assessment-review-and-remarking-procedures/>. Please note that as per that policy, certain assessment items, including honours and graduate coursework theses and projects are not eligible for review or remark.

## Returning assignments

### Assignments returned electronically

All assignments will be returned and marked on moodle

## Feedback to you

- Graded assignments with comments  
Final papers will be graded with comments.
- Essay Consultation

# Unit schedule

Week	Activities	Assessment
0		No formal assessment in Week 0
1	Introduction to Political Philosophy	
2	Efficiency	Tutorial Assignment 1
3	Harm	Tutorial Assignment 2
4	Freedom	Tutorial Assignment 3
5	Rights	Tutorial Assignment 4
6	Distributive Justice	Tutorial Assignment 5
7	Feminist Responses to Rawls	Tutorial Assignment 6
8	Political Liberalism and Public Reason	Essay Plan Due
9	Equality	Tutorial Assignment 7
10	Reading Week	No Assignments Due
11	Desert	Tutorial Assignment 8
12	Punishment	Final essays Due
	SWOT VAC	No formal assessment is undertaken SWOT VAC
	Examination period	LINK to Assessment Policy: <a href="http://policy.monash.edu.au/policy-bank/academic/education/assessment/assessment-in-coursework-policy.html">http://policy.monash.edu.au/policy-bank/academic/education/assessment/assessment-in-coursework-policy.html</a>

## Resources

### Learning resources

Monash Library Unit Reading List (if applicable to the unit):  
<http://readinglists.lib.monash.edu/index.html>

### Prescribed text(s) and readings

All the prescribed readings for the semester are contained on the Moodle site.

Additional resources will also be posted on Moodle.

## Required resources

Students generally must be able to complete the requirements of their course without the imposition of fees that are additional to the student contribution amount or tuition fees. However, students may be charged certain incidental fees or be expected to make certain purchases to support their study. For more information about this, refer to the Higher Education Administrative Information for Providers, Chapter 18, Incidental Fees at <http://education.gov.au/help-resources-providers>

## Technological requirements

Students must check Moodle regularly.

## Moodle

All unit and lecture materials, plus other information of importance to students, are available through the Moodle site. You can access Moodle via the My.Monash Portal: <http://my.monash.edu>

Information on how to use Moodle can be obtained from the following site <http://guides.lib.monash.edu/moodle>

For assistance, you can contact the eSolutions Desk by:

Service Desk Online: <http://servicedeskonline.monash.edu>

Phone: (+61 3) 990 32777

## Other information

### Your feedback to us

One of the formal ways students have to provide feedback on teaching and their learning experience is through the Student Evaluation of Teaching and Units (SETU) survey. The feedback is anonymous and provides the Faculty with evidence of aspects that students are satisfied with and areas for improvement.

#### Previous student evaluations of this unit

In response to previous SETU results of this unit, the following changes have been made:

- SETU feedback has, in the past, led to changes in the tutorial assignments and in the structure of the essay plans.

If you wish to view how previous students rated this unit, please go to:  
<https://unitevaluations.connect.monash.edu.au/unitevaluations/index.jsp>

## Policies

Monash has educational policies, procedures and guidelines, which are designed to ensure that staff and students are aware of the University's academic standards, and to provide advice on how they might uphold them. You can find Monash's Education Policies at:  
<http://www.policy.monash.edu/policy-bank/academic/education/index.html>

## Graduate Attributes Policy

<http://www.monash.edu/policy-bank/academic/education/course-governance-and-design/course-design-policy>

## Student Charter

<http://www.monash.edu/students/policies/student-charter.html>

## Student Services

The University provides many different kinds of services to help you gain the most from your studies. Contact your tutor if you need advice and see the range of services available at:  
<http://www.monash.edu/students>

## Monash University Library

The Monash University Library provides a range of services, resources and programs that enable you to save time and be more effective in your learning and research.

Go to <http://www.monash.edu/library> or the library tab in <http://my.monash.edu> portal for more information.

## Disability Support Services

Students who have a disability, ongoing medical or mental health condition are welcome to contact Disability Support Services.

Disability Support Services also support students who are carers of a person who is aged and frail or has a disability, medical condition or mental health condition.

Disability Advisers visit all Victorian campuses on a regular basis.

- Website: <http://monash.edu/disability>
- Telephone: 03 9905 5704 to book an appointment with an Adviser;
- Email: [disabilitysupportservices@monash.edu](mailto:disabilitysupportservices@monash.edu)
- Drop In: Level 1, Western Annexe, 21 Chancellors Walk (Campus Centre) Clayton Campus

# Faculty Support Programs

## Special Consideration in the Faculty of Arts

If your work during the teaching period has been affected by acute illness or other exceptional causes beyond your control, or you are unable to complete your examination due to acute illness or other exceptional causes beyond your control, you may be eligible to apply for Special Consideration. If approved, Special Consideration allows you to receive an extension on your assignment or the rescheduling of a test/exam.

To apply for Special Consideration,

- For assignments or class tests - submit the application and supporting documentation online at <http://intranet.monash.edu.au/students/special-consideration/> or lodge a hardcopy application at the Arts Student Services counter on your home campus: <http://monash.edu/arts/contact>
- For examinations - submit the application and supporting documentation online at <https://special-consideration.monash.edu.au/>

**Applications must be submitted within 2 working days of the due date/scheduled date of the assessment/test/examination.**

For further information about Special Consideration, visit:

<http://www.monash.edu.au/exams/special-consideration.html>

## Arts Academic and Professional Writing Unit

The Arts Academic and Professional Writing Unit coordinates and teaches a number of elective units designed to develop students' academic and professional capacities in English, writing and independent learning. These units include first year level units, as well as second and third year units (all 6 points) and are open to any student who can take an Arts elective. We also offer information about other support for your development of Academic Writing, English and study.

See our website for full details and contacts: <http://artsonline.monash.edu.au/apw/>

## Peer Ambassador Leaders (PAL Program)

The PAL Program is a Faculty initiative which provides first year Arts students the opportunity to be peer mentored. Second, third and fourth year Arts students join as Ambassadors or Leaders, and mentor transitioning students into university life or life in the Arts Faculty.

PAL aims to connect students more widely with the university community in ways that will benefit themselves and others through social and development opportunities. Inspirational and engaging, the program offers professional training in peer support, teamwork and leadership. You'll learn new skills and discover how they can be applied to everyday situations, why employers value them and how they can be used to make a difference. For further information and contact details see our website <http://artsonline.monash.edu.au/transition/>

## First in the Family



This program offers social and academic networking opportunities for students who are in the first generation of their family to attend university. Participants are matched with both a student and academic mentor, and are invited to social and academic events.

See our website for full details and contacts: <http://artsonline.monash.edu.au/transition/>

## Malaysia Campus Information

### Extensions and Penalties

Faculty of Arts policies can be found at: <http://artsonline.monash.edu.au/policy-bank/extension-and-late-assessment-submission-procedures/>

If you require an extension, you must send an email to the lecturer **before the due date**. In exceptional circumstances two day extensions may be granted at the discretion of the lecturer. Three days or more requires a **Special Consideration** form to be submitted (available here: <http://www.monash.edu/exams/changes/special-consideration>). Please lodge the application form to the Course Management Office (Arts) located at Building 2, Level 6, Room 2647 **within 2 working days** of the due date of the assessment/examination.

### Student Services

- The University provides many different kinds of services to help you gain the most from your studies. See the range of services available at <http://www.monash.edu.my/Student-services/>
- The **Monash University Library** provides a range of services and resources that enable you to save time and be more effective in your learning and research. Go to <http://www.lib.monash.edu.my/> or the library tab in my.monash portal: <http://my.monash.edu.au/> for more information.
- **Learning Skills** offers academic language and learning support for all students of Monash University Malaysia. These are aimed at helping students develop their academic literacy skills, improve their academic language proficiency, acquire independent learning abilities, develop some key graduate attributes and enhance their learning experience. Go to <http://www.monash.edu.my/ceo/education/learning-skills/program> for more information.
- All unit and lecture materials are available via the **Moodle site**. This can be accessed via the my.monash portal: <http://my.monash.edu>. Help for students using Moodle is available here: <http://www.vle.monash.edu/moodlesupportforstudents.html>
- Students who have a disability or medical condition are welcome to contact the **Student Wellbeing and Activities Office** to get advice on the support services that are available on campus. Go to <http://www.monash.edu.my/Student-services/homepage/current-students/wellbeing-and-activities/disability-support> for more information.

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