

PIU44194 — The Ethics of Group Action

Module Information	
Module Code	PIU44194
Module Title	The Ethics of Group Action
Department	Philosophy
Year Group	Senior Sophister
Module Personnel	Rowan Mellor
Academic Year	2026-27
Credit Weighting	5 ECTS
Semester	2
Contact Hours	2 lectures per week

Module Content	
Module Description	Many of today's most pressing social problems are not the result of what any one person has done but are rather the product of many people acting together. In this course, we will study philosophical questions raised by the interconnectedness of contemporary life. These will be split into three themes. First, we will consider questions about the nature of group action, e.g., What it takes for several people to act together, rather than merely side-by-side? Can groups constitute agents in their own right? Second, we will examine the ethical questions posed by group action, e.g., What does it take for an individual to be complicit in a group wrong? Do I have a moral reason not to contribute to collectively caused harms, if the difference my action makes is negligible? Finally, we will consider questions surrounding the concept of solidarity, e.g., What does being in solidarity with others require of us? What, if anything, is morally good about solidarity? What role can the concept play in the analysis and delivery of social justice?
Learning Outcomes	At the end of this module students will: Have detailed knowledge of key contemporary texts in the philosophy of group agency, moral complicity, and solidarity.

Module Content

	• Be able to critically evaluate the arguments of these texts. • Be able to apply these ideas to contemporary social problems such as the climate crisis.
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Assessment

Assessment Components	Essay and exam.
Assessment Details	50% essay and 50% exam.

Additional Information

Prerequisites	None.
Co-requisites	None.