

BA PHILOSOPHY

UCAS code: READG R12

Awarding Institution:
Teaching Institution:
Relevant QAA subject benchmarking group(s):
Faculty of Arts & Humanities
For students entering Part 1 in 2002
Programme Director: Dr. Simon Glendinning
Board of Studies: Philosophy
Accreditation: Not Appropriate

The University of Reading
The University of Reading
Philosophy
Programme length: 3 years
Date of specification: Oct. 2001

Summary of programme aims

The BA Philosophy Course aims to give students an understanding of central philosophical principles, concepts, problems, texts and figures, and to provide a programme of study which introduces progressive intellectual challenges and consolidates previous experience at each new level. To allow students to study in depth some aspects of Philosophy in which they have greater interest and to develop students' aptitude for Philosophy, engender a sense of belonging to a community of inquiry, and encourage intellectual development. Also to prepare students, where appropriate, for possible postgraduate study and provide a supportive learning environment with full access to welfare, pastoral and careers support

Transferable skills

The University's Strategy for Teaching and Learning has identified a number of generic transferable skills which all students are expected to have developed by the end of their degree programme. In following this programme, students will have had the opportunity to enhance their skills relating to career management, communication (both written and oral), information handling, numeracy, problem-solving, team working and use of information technology. The Philosophy degree will help students develop skills such as: presenting a coherent talk delivered from notes, producing concise and accurate written reports, the ability to critically discuss particular issues and arguments, and to engage in discussion of each other's responses as well as articulate the student's own views. The Philosophy degree also encourages the ability to handle abstract ideas and utilise problem-solving skills.

Programme content

The following profile states which modules must be taken (the compulsory part), together with lists of modules in any Part from which students must make a selection (the option modules). Students must choose such additional modules as they wish, in consultation with their programme adviser, to make 120 credits in each Part.

Part 1 introduces some major figures from the history of philosophy and introduces students to philosophical examinations of our most fundamental beliefs, for instance about truth and reality, or right and wrong. Part 2 provides students with the opportunity to explore the ideas and approaches emerging in Part 1 in greater depth, including a range of primarily historical courses (e.g. studying Classical Greek thought or the ideas of the British Empiricists) and more topic driven courses (e.g. studying theories of knowledge, or critical thinking and logic). Part 3 encourages increasing specialisation in the subject, allowing students to choose more advanced courses from an extremely wide range of options. Independent research is also encouraged through the provision of a dissertation option at this level.

Each programme comprises 120 credits. In Part 1 the remaining credits can be made up from any optional modules and/or from modules elsewhere in the University. In Parts 2 and 3, up to 20 credits can be taken from modules available elsewhere in the University.

Part 1 (three terms)

Since most of our students will not have pursued the study of Philosophy before, the Part 1 course has a distinctive set of aims, including: to introduce students to terms and concepts essential for philosophical investigation, to expose students to the distinctive nature of philosophical inquiry and to develop a basic understanding of, and interest in, some central philosophical problems.

Single honours Philosophy students must acquire a minimum of 40 credits, or a maximum of 60 credits, from any below.

Joint honours Philosophy students must acquire a minimum of 20, or a maximum of 60 credits, from any below.

Other credits to be acquired from modules outside the Philosophy programme.

<i>Mod Code</i>	<i>Module Title</i>	<i>Credits</i>	<i>Level</i>
PP1MW	Mind & World	20	C
PP1VV	Values & Virtues	20	C
PP1MR	Metaphysics & Religion	20	C

Part 2 (three terms)

Single Honours Philosophy students must acquire 100 credits from below (i.e. take at least 5 modules). The remaining 20 credits may be acquired from modules outside the Philosophy programme.

Joint Honours Philosophy students must acquire a minimum of 60 credits from below (i.e. take at least 3 modules).

Of the 120 credits in Part 2, 5 are taken up by Career Management Skills.

<i>Mod Code</i>	<i>Module Title</i>	<i>Credits</i>	<i>Level</i>
PP2L	Logic and Critical Thinking	20	I
PP2PA	Plato & Aristotle	20	I
PP2EMP	Early Modern Philosophy	20	I
PP2MP	Moral Philosophy	20	I
PP2TK	Theory of Knowledge	20	I
PP2MIN	Philosophy of Mind	20	I

Part 3 (three terms)

Single honours Philosophy students must acquire a minimum of 100 credits from any below.

Joint Honours Philosophy students must acquire a minimum of 40 credits from any below.

Other credits may be acquired from modules outside the Philosophy Programme.

Not all optional modules will necessarily be available in any year. Admission to optional modules will be at the discretion of the Programme Director.

<i>Mod Code</i>	<i>Module Title</i>	<i>Credits</i>	<i>Level</i>
PP3A1	Aesthetics 1	20	H
PP3A2	Aesthetics 2	20	H
PP3CM1	Contemporary Moral Theory 1	20	H
PP3CM2	Contemporary Moral Theory 2	20	H
PP3CP1	Contemporary Political Theory 1	20	H
PP3CP2	Contemporary Political Theory 2	20	H
PP3M1	Metaphysics 1	20	H

PP3M2	Metaphysics 2	20	H
PP3ME1	Modern European Philosophy 1	20	H
PP3ME2	Modern European Philosophy 2	20	H
PP3LN1	Philosophy of Language 1	20	H
PP3LN2	Philosophy of Language 2	20	H
PP3LW1	Philosophy of Law 1	20	H
PP3LW2	Philosophy of Law 2	20	H
PP3R1	Philosophy of Religion 1	20	H
PP3R2	Philosophy of Religion 2	20	H
PP3NS	Philosophy of Natural Science	20	H
PP3SS	Philosophy of Social Science	20	H
PP3W1	The Earlier Philosophy of Wittgenstein	20	H
PP3W2	The Later Philosophy of Wittgenstein	20	H
PP3COG	The Philosophy of Cognition	20	H
PP3KAN	The Philosophy of Kant	20	H
PP3DIS	Dissertation Option	40	H
PP3SOC	Socrates/Erasmus Study Abroad Programme	60	H

Progression requirements

Whether a student can progress to Philosophy modules at Part 2 or 3 from an earlier stage depends primarily on their performance in the Philosophy module examinations in the previous Part. A student must:

- Obtain an overall average of at least 40% in the Philosophy modules examined.
- Achieve not less than 30% in any modules except that marks of less than 30% in a total of 20 credits may be condoned, provided that the candidate has pursued the course for the module(s) with reasonable diligence and has not been absent from the examination without reasonable cause.

Summary of teaching and assessment

Teaching within this programme combines lectures, small group seminars and supervisions, with appropriate visual aides and course materials being provided throughout. The final assessment for all Philosophy modules in Part 1 and Part 2 is by unseen examination. In Part 3, final assessment for some modules is by a combination of assessed coursework and unseen examination; while for others it is by unseen examination only (see BA Course Handbook for further information on which modules fall into which category). Formative assessment, for guidance purposes, also includes written work (essays of 1,500 word length in Part 1, essays of 2,000 word length in Parts 2 and 3), oral presentations and performance in small group seminars.

Weighted Finals:

To reflect the notion of progression through the programme, Part 3 examinations will have a greater impact on a students Final Degree Classification, with Part 2 examinations contributing 33% of the Final grade and Part 3 examinations contributing 67%. The conventions for classification are included in the Programme Handbook

The University's honours classification is as follows:

<u>Mark:</u>	<u>Interpretation</u>
70%-100%	First class
60%-69%	Upper Second class
50%-59%	Lower Second class
40%-49%	Third class
35%-39%	Below Honours standard
0%-34%	Fail

Admission requirements

Entrants to this programme are normally required to have obtained:
Grade C or better in Maths in GCSE; and achieved
UCAS Tariff: 24 points or equivalent (260 under the new tariff)
International Baccalaureate: 30 to include 5 points in Maths
Irish Leaving Certificate: BBCC in 5 Higher Level subjects
Two AS grades are accepted in place of one A-Level

Mature Students: Applications from mature students are welcomed. A mature applicant is more likely to receive an offer of a place if he or she has undertaken recent study, for example 2 or more A levels or an Access course, but each case is assessed on its relative merits. We recommend you contact the admissions tutor as soon as possible to discuss your individual circumstances.

International Students: Applications from international candidates are welcomed. If you are not offering A levels we advise you to contact either the EU or the international admissions tutor before applying in order to discuss the acceptability of your qualifications.

Admissions Tutor: Dr. P. Stratton-Lake

Support for students and their learning

University support for students and their learning falls into two categories. Learning support includes IT Services, which has several hundred computers and the University Library, which across its three sites holds over a million volumes, subscribes to around 4,000 current periodicals, has a range of electronic sources of information and houses the Student Access to Independent Learning (S@IL) computer-based teaching and learning facilities. There are language laboratory facilities both for those students studying on a language degree and for those taking modules offered by the Institution-wide Language Programme. Student guidance and welfare support is provided by Personal Tutors, the Careers Advisory Service, the University's Special Needs Advisor, Study Advisors, Hall Wardens and the Students' Union.

Support for students in their studies is provided through the University's Personal Academic Record (PAR) scheme, in which students meet their personal tutors regularly to review their progress.

Within the Department, information and guidance is offered through the Part 1 Handbook, and the B.A Course Handbook (covering Parts 2 and 3). There is also a Part 1 co-ordinator and an Honours Course co-ordinator who can be consulted on module choices within each part of the programme. Finally, the Part-time Programme co-ordinator is available to assist with all issues relating to the Part-time course.

Career prospects

Over the years students who have followed this programme have gone into jobs in both the public and private sectors. In the public sector, jobs include academic and academic related jobs (e.g. lectureships, administrative posts on research boards), and the civil service. In the private sector, recent jobs include working for computer firms and large finance and insurance companies. In general, there is some evidence that IT firms appreciate the logical and analytic skills of the Philosophy graduate. Furthermore, a survey by the Royal Institute of Philosophy found that graduates with British Philosophy degrees consider their degree course to have been very relevant to their jobs, and report a very high level of job satisfaction

Opportunities for study abroad or for placements

Students may opt to participate in the Socrates/Erasmus Exchange Programme as one of their Part 3 modules (60 credits) in the Autumn Term of Year 3.

Educational aims of the programme

The aims and objectives for the programme are as follows:

- to give students an understanding of central philosophical principles, concepts, problems, texts and figures
- to enable Joint Honours students to study Philosophy alongside another discipline
- to provide a programme of study which introduces progressive intellectual challenges and consolidates previous experiences at each new level
- to require students to study in more depth some aspects of Philosophy in which they have a greater interest
- to develop students' aptitude for Philosophy, engender a sense of belonging to a community of enquiry, encourage intellectual development and prepare students, where appropriate, for possible postgraduate study
- to provide a supportive learning environment with full access to welfare, pastoral and careers support
- to broaden access by providing a part-time mode of study.

The central *objective* of the BA Philosophy course is to cultivate the ability to do, and not just to read, Philosophy.

Programme Outcomes

On successful completion of a BA course, students will have:

- gained a knowledge and understanding of the main areas of Philosophy and of the views of great figures in the history of Philosophy
- gained a deeper appreciation of particular issues in Philosophy, and at the forefront of philosophical debate, through studying a range of units informed by the research interests and professional activities of staff
- acquired the abilities to think clearly and reason logically, critically to evaluate arguments, and to question the assumptions of any given viewpoint
- acquired transferable skills of use in a wide variety of employment, thus enhancing their career opportunities
- developed the skills necessary to pursue academic research or further study.

Knowledge and Understanding

<p>A. Knowledge and understanding of:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Key historical aspects of Philosophy• An appreciation of philosophical ideas and approaches• Awareness of philosophical terms and concepts• Awareness of current research in the field and its direction.	<p>Teaching/learning methods and strategies Lectures; supervisor-led small group discussions; seminar groups with facilitator.</p> <p><i>Assessment</i> Guidance on student progress is given by feedback on coursework essays and seminar presentations; while the module grade is determined by the results of written unseen exams.</p>
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Skills and other attributes

<p>B. Intellectual skills – able to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• critically read, comprehend and evaluate a large range of philosophical texts• synthesise information from a range of sources, providing a coherent overview of positions in logical space• analyse the logical construction of arguments• produce and defend positions in response to critical pressure	<p>Teaching/learning methods and strategies As above, plus: self-directed learning facilitated through the use of research-based teaching materials and methods, and logical exercises.</p> <p><i>Assessment</i> Guidance on student progress is given by feedback on coursework essays and seminar presentations, plus discussion in supervisor-led small groups and seminars. Logical exercises will also be evaluated in the Logic & Critical Thinking module. The module grade is determined by the results of written unseen exams.</p>
<p>C. Practical skills – able to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• present a coherent talk delivered from notes• produce concise and accurate written reports• critically discuss particular issues and arguments, and to engage in discussion of each other's responses as well as articulate their own.• utilise problem-solving skills	<p>Teaching/learning methods and strategies Lectures; supervisor-led small group discussions; seminar groups with facilitator.</p> <p><i>Assessment</i> Guidance on student progress is given by feedback on coursework essays and seminar presentations; while the module grade is determined by the results of written unseen exams, or assessed coursework where relevant.</p>

D. Transferable skills – able to:

- manage time effectively and prioritise workloads
- communicate effectively with a wide range of individuals using a wide range of means
- evaluate his/her own performance, and recognise the steps required for improvement.
- Utilise problem-solving skills in a variety of theoretical and more practical situations.
- use some IT skills, e.g. word processing and e-mail

Teaching/learning methods and strategies

Lectures; supervisor-led small group discussions; seminar groups with facilitator.

Assessment

Coursework; written unseen exams; seminar presentations.

Please note: This specification provides a concise summary of the main features of the programme and the learning outcomes that a typical student might reasonably expect to achieve and demonstrate if he/she takes full advantage of the learning opportunities that are provided. More detailed information on the learning outcomes, content and teaching, learning and assessment methods of each module can be found in module and programme handbooks.