

PHILOSOPHY AND POLITICS

Awarding Institution:
Teaching Institution:
Relevant QAA subject benchmarking group(s):
Faculty of Arts and Humanities
For students entering Part 1 in 2002
Programme Director: Prof. B. Hooker
Programme Advisor: Prof. P. Woodward
Board of Studies: Philosophy and Politics
Accreditation: not appropriate

UCAS code: LV25

The University of Reading
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Philosophy, Politics
Programme length: 3 years
Date of specification: July 2002

Summary of programme aims

Both Departments share the aims and objectives laid down for the Reading graduate in the University's Strategy for Teaching and Learning. The Philosophy strand of the programme specifically aims to provide a grounding in the subject, enabling students to examine critically fundamental beliefs about truth and reality, right and wrong, to comprehend concepts essential for philosophical investigation, to develop an understanding of central philosophical problems, texts and figures, to develop an aptitude and enthusiasm for the subject, to engender a sense of belonging to a community of enquiry, and to prepare where appropriate for postgraduate study. The programme provides a supportive learning environment with full access to welfare, pastoral and careers support.

The Politics strand aims to give students an appreciation of the normative, methodological and institutional issues involved in the study of politics in relation to the study of politics in relation to one of the three main subfields of the discipline: political philosophy, comparative government and international relations. Students focus on compulsory modules in international relations and associated optional modules. The strand also provides 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 strand 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 strand also encourages the ability to handle abstract ideas and utilise problem-solving skills.

The Politics strand lends itself to critical judgement and problem-solving, both through personal engagement with issues and through dialogue and group discussion. Students are encouraged to defend and to challenge established positions through the collection, collation and analysis of substantial quantities of material, the rigour of argument, and effective communication and

presentation. The disciplines also prompt an awareness of numeracy through chronology, periodisation, and basic quantification. The strand develops students' familiarity with information technology in the production and presentation of their work and develops their skills in using computers for the location and retrieval of bibliographic and source material, accessing sophisticated databases and exploiting the internet.

Programme content

Part 1 (three terms) Certificate Level

In Philosophy students must acquire a minimum of 40, or a maximum of 60 credits, from the Philosophy modules below.

<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

In Politics students must acquire a minimum of 40, or a maximum of 60 credits, from the Politics modules below.

PO1IR	Politics I, International Relations	20	C
PO1GOV	Politics II, Comparative Government	20	C
PO1THE	Politics III, Political Theory	20	C

Part 2 (three terms) Intermediate Level

In Philosophy (60 credits)

Three from the following:

<i>Mod Code</i>	<i>Module Title</i>	<i>Credits</i>	<i>Level</i>
PP2PA	Plato and 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
PP2L	Logical and Critical Thinking	20	I

In Politics

Compulsory module

PO2SOP	Study of Politics	10	I
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Either

PO2CGP	Comparative Government (Established States)	20	I
PO2CGC	Comparative Government (New States)	10	I

Or

PO2PHC	Political Classics	20	I
PO2PHI	Political Philosophy	10	I

Optional modules

PO2AFG	African Government and Politics	20	I
PO2AMG	American Government and Politics	20	I
PO2BGP	British Government and Politics	20	I
PO2EPI	European Political Integration	20	I
PO2RGP	Russian Government and Politics	20	I

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

In Part 2, up to 20 credits can be taken from modules available elsewhere in the University.

Part 3 (three terms) Honours Level

A dissertation of 40 credits is compulsory and may be taken in either Philosophy or Politics. In addition students must choose modules totalling 40 credits in both Philosophy and Politics.

Compulsory module

Either

PP3DIS	Dissertation in Philosophy	40	H
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Or

PO3DIS	Dissertation in Politics	40	H
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In Philosophy:

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

Two from

PP3A1	Aesthetics 1	20	H
PP3A2	Aesthetics 2	20	H
PP3CM1	Contemporary Moral Theory 1	20	H
PP3CM2	Contemporary Moral 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	Earlier Philosophy of Wittgenstein	20	H
PP3W2	Later Philosophy of Wittgenstein	20	H
PP3COG	The Philosophy of Cognition	20	H
PP3KAN	The Philosophy of Kant	20	H

In Politics:

If Political Theory is taken in Part 2, students must choose two 20 credit modules, totalling 40 credits, from the following list:

PO3MID	Modern Ideologies	20	H
PO3POC	Policing Citizens	20	H
PO3MEA	Politics and International Relations of the M East	20	H
PO3POP	Politics of Protest	20	H
PO3UKP	United Kingdom Politics since 1960	20	H
PO3WEG	West European Government and Politics	20	H
PO3USV	(The) United States and the Vietnam War	20	H

If Comparative Politics is taken in Part Two, students must include one of the following:

PO3CDT	Citizenship and Democratic Theory	20	H
PO3CPT	Contemporary Political Theory	20	H
PO3WPE	War, Peace and International Ethics	20	H

Progression requirements

a) to proceed from Part 1 to Part 2 students should obtain 40% in one 20-credit Philosophy module and 40% in each compulsory Politics module, and obtain an average of 40% in the Part 1 examinations as a whole.

(b) to proceed from Part 2 to Part 3 a student should achieve an average of 40% in their Philosophy modules and an average of 40% in their Politics modules.

(c) achieve not less than 30% in any module except that a mark of less than 30% in a total of 20 credits may be condoned, provided that the candidate has pursued the courses for the module(s) with reasonable diligence and has not been absent from the examination without reasonable cause.

Summary of teaching and assessment

Part 1 modules contain both lectures and seminars. Compulsory Part 2 modules in Politics involve both lectures and seminars. Part 2 and Part 3 modules in Philosophy also involve supervisions. Part 2 Philosophy modules are assessed by examination only. Some Part 3 modules in Philosophy are assessed entirely by examination, others by a combination of assessed coursework and examination. Formative assessment, for guidance purposes, also includes essays, oral presentations, and performance in seminars and supervisions. All Politics modules other than Study of Politics and the Dissertation are assessed by a mixture of coursework (25%) and examination (75%). Weighting between Part 2 and Part 3 for classification purposes is 33% and 67%.

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

Admissions Requirements

Entrants to this programme are normally required to have obtained:

Grade C or better in English in GCSE; and achieved

UCAS Tariff: 260 points from three subjects, and 280 from 3 A level and 1 AS level

International Baccalaureat: 30 points

Irish Leaving Certificate: BBBCC 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 an 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 Tutors: Dr. P. Stratton-Lake (Philosophy), Dr J.S.Golub (Politics)

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.

Within the Philosophy Department, information and guidance is offered through the Part 1 Handbook, and the B.A Course Handbook (covering Parts 2 and 3). There are 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.

From the Politics Department, students are provided with Departmental Handbooks that outline the programme, provide guidance on study skills, and contain information on staff, facilities and specialised sources of help within the University. Additional support is given in the study of Politics module in Part 2. 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.

Career prospects

This degree can lead to a wide range of jobs, such as the public services (civil service, local government, public corporations, hospital management, etc), the social services (child care, youth employment, probation, etc), advertising, journalism, radio and television, management traineeships in industry, professions such as accountancy and law (barristers and solicitors alike), banking and insurance, and various research agencies. There is some evidence that IT firms appreciate the logical and analytic skills of developed especially in Philosophy's Logic module.

Opportunities for study abroad or for placements

Students may choose to spend part of their second year studying at a University in another European country, via the Socrates programme. Subject to the availability of places, there may also be the opportunity to study for a semester in the United States under the American Studies programme. While such exchanges may involve some additional financial expenditures and some adjustments to coursework at Reading, the Department believes these exchanges offer an excellent opportunity to broaden educational and life experience. In the first instance, interested students see their personal tutor.

Educational aims of the programme

The central aim of the **Philosophy** component is to cultivate the ability to do, and not just to read, Philosophy. It introduces students to terms and concepts essential for philosophical investigation, exposes them to the distinctive nature of philosophical inquiry, develops a basic understanding of some central philosophical problems, and introduces some major figures from the history of philosophy. A programme of study is provided which introduces progressive intellectual challenges at each new level and requires students to study in more depth some aspects of Philosophy in which they have a greater interest.

The **Politics** component aims to provide a thorough degree level education in Politics. It aims to produce graduates who have experience of the main sub-fields of the discipline and have acquired appropriate study skills.

Programme Outcomes

The programme provides opportunities for students to develop and demonstrate knowledge and understanding, skills, qualities and other attributes in the following areas:

Knowledge and Understanding

<p>A. Knowledge and understanding of:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Fundamental concepts of Philosophy and of Political Theory and major texts from the Greeks to the present time.2. The comparative analysis of government institutions, political movement and the social bases of politics.3. The various approaches and the study of Modern International Relations.4. Some current research in philosophy5. A range of selected specialized subjects within the fields of Political Theory, Comparative Government and International Relations.	<p>Teaching methods and strategies Lectures, seminar discussions, and individual essay feedback, prescribed and recommended reading, and the writing of essays and a dissertation. In Part 1 and Part 2 students attend both lectures and seminars, which in Part 3 most teaching is through seminars. Part 1 modules introduce 1, 2 and 3 . Part 2 modules deepen and develop students' understanding of these areas. The optional modules in 4 & 5 build on modules in 1,2 and 3.</p> <p><i>Assessment</i></p> <p>Most knowledge is tested through a combination of coursework and formal examination. Dissertations and oral contributions also contribute</p>
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Skills and other attributes

<p>B. Intellectual skills – able to:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none">1. think logically about Philosophical and Political arguments and issues2. produce and defend positions in response to critical pressure3. organise tasks into a structured form4. transfer appropriate knowledge from one area to another5. react productively to the growth of knowledge <p>Optional:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none">6. plan, conduct and write a longish independent dissertation on an appropriate topic	<p>Teaching methods and strategies</p> <p>As above plus teaching focuses on the quality of argumentation and on the carefulness with which positions are thought out. These are qualities sought in the reading material and prized in the students' written work and oral presentations. Students are encouraged to link core and optional modules and also to use knowledge from modules in the dissertation.</p> <p><i>Assessment</i></p> <p>Guidance on student progress is given by feedback on coursework essays and on seminar presentations. The module grade is determined by the results of written unseen exams, or by coursework essays and exams.</p>
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C. Practical skills – able to:

1. gather, organise and deploy evidence, data and information from a variety of primary and secondary sources.
2. identify, investigate, analyse and formulate problems and defend solutions
3. engage in discussion of each other's responses
4. reflect on their own learning and seek and make use of feedback
5. manage their own learning self-critically.

Teaching/learning methods and strategies

1 is taught through lectures and seminars. 2 and 3 are acquired through seminar discussions, written work and oral presentations. 3 and 4 are developed through more independent learning, especially the dissertation

Assessment

1 and 2 are tested formatively and summatively in examinations. 3 is assessed formatively in seminars. 4 is assessed through examination of student progress. 5 is assessed particularly through the dissertation.

D. Transferable skills – able to:

1. communicate effectively in speech and writing
2. use communication and I.T. for the retrieval and communication of information
3. work independently, demonstrating initiative, organisation and time management
4. collaborate with others to achieve common goals
5. plan their career.

Teaching/learning methods and strategies

1 is embedded in all modules. 2 is demonstrated by the use of I.T. based exercises. 3 is an essential requirement for the timely and effective completion of the programme. 4 is developed through active participation in seminars. 5 is developed by the study in Careers Management Skills in Part 2.

Assessment

1, 2 and 3 are assessed through coursework and examinations. 4 is assessed through seminar participation.

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.