PHILOSOPHY AND POLITICS   **UCAS code: LV25**
For students entering Part 1 in 2004

Awarding Institution: The University of Reading
Teaching Institution: The University of Reading
Relevant QAA subject benchmarking group(s):   Philosophy, Politics
Faculty of Arts and Humanities   Programme length: 3 years
Date of specification: April 2005
Programme Director: Prof. B. Hooker
Programme Advisor:
Board of Studies: Philosophy and Politics
Accreditation: not appropriate

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.

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

In Politics and International Relations (40 credits)
Compulsory modules

PO1IRS	*Politics I, International Relations and Strategic Studies*	20	C
PO1MOP	*Politics II, Modern Politics*	20	C

Part 2 (three terms) Intermediate Level

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

Two modules, PP2TK 'Theory of Knowledge' and PP2MP 'Moral Philosophy' are compulsory. In addition students should take at least one other module from the combined list of Core and Option modules. (Not every Option module will be available in every year.)

Compulsory Modules

Mod Code	Module Title	Credits	Level
PP2TK	Theory of Knowledge	20	I
PP2MP	Moral Philosophy	20	I

Core Modules

PP2EMP	Early Modern Philosophy	20	I
PP2LCT	Logic and Critical Thinking	20	I
PP2PA	Plato & Aristotle	20	I
PP2MIN	Philosophy of Mind	20	I

Option Modules

PP2LR	Language and Reality	20	I
PP2ANW	The Philosophy of Whitehead	20	I
PP2MPT	Modern Philosophical Texts	20	I
PP2AES	Aesthetics	20	I

In Politics (60 Credits)
Compulsory modules

PO2SOP	*Study of Politics*	20	I

Either:

PO2CGP	*Comparative Government and Politics*	20	I

Or:

PO2PHC	*Political Classics*	20	I

*Optional modules (one of)***:**
Government

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

Theory

PO2THI	*Political Thinking*	20	I

International Relations

PO2COS	*Contemporary Strategy*	20	I
PO2SNA	*Strategy in the Nuclear Age*	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

Or

PO3DIS	Dissertation in Politics	40	H

In the Philosophy Department : *(40 credits from the following optional modules)*
Optional modules: (Not all optional modules will necessarily be available in any year. Admission to optional modules will be at the discretion of the Programme Director.)

Mod Code	Module Title	Credits	Level
PP3LAN	Philosophy of Language	20	H
PP3MBC	Metaphysics: Basic Concepts	20	H
PP3LWE	The Earlier Philosophy of Wittgenstein	20	H
PP3LWL	The Later Philosophy of Wittgenstein	20	H
PP3SNS	Schopenhauer, Nietzche, Sartre	20	H
PP3RL1	Philosophy of Religion 1	20	H
PP3RL2	Philosophy of Religion 2	20	H
PP3FL	Further Logic	20	H
PP3LAW	Philosophy of Law	20	H
PP3CAP	Philosophy of Crime and Punishment	20	H
PP3NS	Philosophy of Natural Science	20	H
PP3SS	Philosophy of Social Science	20	H
PP3INE	International Ethics	20	H
PP3EIN	Ethical Intuitionism	20	H
PP3CMT	Contemporary Ethical Theory	20	H
PP3PIS	Personal Identity and the Self	20	H
PP3EAN	Ethics and Animals	20	H
PP3EE	Environmental Ethics	20	H

In Politics (40 Credits)

Students choose two 20 credit modules from the following lists.
If PO2PHC is taken in Part Two at least one must be from List A unless a government option has been taken in Part 2.
If PO2CGP is taken in Part Two at least one must be from List B unless a theory option has been taken in Part 2.

List A

PO3AFG	*African Government and Politics*	20	H
PO3POC	*Policing Citizens*	20	H
PO3MEA	*Politics and International Relations of the Middle 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
PO3USF	*US Foreign Policy since 1950*	20	H

List B

PO3FEM	*Feminism and Political Theory*	20	H
PO3MID	*Modern Ideologies*	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, students must obtain at least 35% in each Politics and International Relations module taken, achieve not less than 30% in any other module, and obtain an overall average of at least 40%. .
(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

Teaching within the Philosophy programme combines lectures, small group seminars and essay supervisions, with appropriate visual aides and course materials being provided throughout. The final assessment for all Philosophy modules in all Parts (bar the Dissertation in Part 3) is by a combination of assessed coursework and unseen examination.

In Politics, Part 1 modules contain both lectures and seminars. Compulsory Part 2 modules in Politics involve both lectures and seminars. 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:

Mark	Interpretation
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: 300 points from three subjects, and 320 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

A. **Knowledge and understanding of:**	**Teaching methods and strategies**
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 philosophy 5. A range of selected specialized subjects within the fields of Political Theory, Comparative Government and International Relations.	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 lecturers 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. *Assessment* Most knowledge is tested through a combination of coursework and formal examination. Dissertations and oral contributions also contribute

Skills and other attributes

B. Intellectual skills – able to:	**Teaching methods and strategies**
1. think logically about Philosophical and Political arguments and issues 2. produce and defend positions in response to critical pressure 3. organise tasks into a structured form 4. transfer appropriate knowledge from one area to another 5. react productively to the growth of knowledge Optional: 6. plan, conduct and write a longish independent dissertation on an appropriate topic	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. *Assessment* 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.

C. Practical skills – able to:	**Teaching/learning methods and strategies**
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.	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.