Programme Title: BA in Philosophy Part-time (Evening)

Awarding Institution: The University of Reading
Teaching Institution: The University of Reading
Relevant QAA subject benchmarking group(s):   Philosophy
Faculty of Arts and Humanities   Programme length: 5-7 years
For students entering Part 1 in 2004   Date of specification: August 2004
Programme Director: David Oderberg
Programme Adviser: Elaine Beadle
Board of Studies: Philosophy
Accreditation: University of Reading

Summary of programme aims

The BA Philosophy Programme 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

Part-time degree programmes, like full-time programmes, are made up of study elements called *modules*. The size of a module is measured in terms of *credits:* a credit entails a notional 10 hours of study. For a full-time programme, each year contains modules totalling 120 credits. Most modules are 20 credits in size but some are 10 credits and others are multiples of 20 credits (for example dissertations are often 40 credits in size).

Modules are offered at one of three levels. In ascending order these are:

    Certificate (C) level

    Intermediate (I) level

    Honours (H) level

All part-time degree programmes entail study of modules totalling a minimum of 360 credits.

Students must take the compulsory and optional modules required for their degree programme, the following minimum number of credits being required at the levels indicated:

Certificate level (C)   100 credits minimum

Intermediate level (I) 100 credits minimum

Honours level (H)   100 credits minimum

Part-time programmes are divided into two sections:

Part 1 involves studying modules totalling at least 80 credits and no more than 120 Certificate level credits (120 credits are equivalent to one year of full-time study), then passing the Part 1 Examination in order to progress to the remainder of the degree.

Post-Part I, where students take the remaining modules needed to complete their degree programme. All modules above level C can be taken either as level I or level H modules. Students taking a module as level I will be expected by the end of the module to show a basic knowledge and understanding of the material commensurate with the amount of philosophy they have already studied, and to submit an essay of 2,000 words for assessment. Students taking a module as level H will be expected by the end of the module to show a more advanced knowledge and understanding of the material commensurate with the amount of philosophy they have already studied, and to submit an essay of 3,000 words for assessment.

Students must take at C level those modules required for progression to one or more degree subjects, but may take individual modules from any available programme to make up the necessary minimum total of 100 credits at C level.

Students must complete at least 80 credits at I level before they can proceed to study any H level modules.

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.

The content of this particular degree programme is as follows:

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. Level I 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). Level H 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.

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.

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

Level C

Mod Code	Module Title	Credits	Level
PP1MWE	Mind & World	20	C
PP1VVE	Values & Virtues	20	C
PP1MRE	Metaphysics & Religion	20	C

Levels I and H

Single Honours Philosophy students must acquire 240 credits from the list below by taking any eight 20 credit modules and their associated 10 credit essay modules. This will usually be a combination of four 20 +10 credit modules with codes beginning PP2, and four 20+10 credit modules with codes beginning PP3. As an alternative at H Level, students may take a 40 credit Dissertation.

Students must acquire at least 100 credits at level I, and 100 credits at level H. Other credits may be acquired from modules outside the Philosophy Programme.

Modules will be available in the evenings on a rotating cycle. In a usual year, one 20 credit module plus 10 credit essay module with code beginning PP2 will be taught, and one with code beginning PP3.

Mod Code	Module Title	Credits	Level
PP2/3PE1	Plato & Aristotle	20	I/H
PP2/3PE2	Plato & Aristotle Essay Module	10	I/H
PP2/3EE1	Early Modern Philosophy	20	I/H
PP2/3EE2	Early Modern Philosophy Essay Module	10	I/H
PP2/3RE1	Moral Philosophy	20	I/H
PP2/3RE2	Moral Philosophy Essay Module	10	I/H
PP2/3TE1	Theory of Knowledge	20	I/H
PP2/3TE2	Theory of Knowledge Essay Module	10	I/H
PP2/3LE1	Language and Reality	20	I/H
PP2/3LE2	Language and Reality Essay Module	10	I/H
PP2/3ME1	Philosophy of Mind	20	I/H
PP2/3ME2	Philosophy of Mind Essay Module	10	I/H
PP2/3AE1	Aesthetics	20	I/H
PP2/3AE2	Aesthetics Essay Module	10	I/H
PP2/3CE1	Contemporary Moral Theory	20	I/H
PP2/3CE2	Contemporary Moral Theory Essay Module	10	I/H
PP2/3IE1	International Ethics	20	I/H
PP2/3IE2	International Ethics Essay Module	10	I/H
PP2/3YE1	Metaphysics	20	I/H
PP2/3YE2	Metaphysics Essay Module	10	I/H

PP2/3OE1	Modern European Philosophy	20	I/H
PP2/3OE2	Modern European Philosophy Essay Module	10	I/H
PP2/3HE1	Philosophy of Language	20	I/H
PP2/3HE2	Philosophy of Language Essay Module	10	I/H
PP2/3JE1	Philosophy of Law	20	I/H
PP2/3JE2	Philosophy of Law Essay Module	10	I/H
PP2/3GE1	Philosophy of Religion	20	I/H
PP2/3GE2	Philosophy of Religion Essay Module	10	I/H
PP2/3SE1	Philosophy of Science	20	I/H
PPS2/3E2	Philosophy of Science Essay Module	10	I/H
PP2/3WE1	The Philosophy of Wittgenstein	20	I/H
PP2/3WE2	The Philosophy of Wittgenstein Essay Module	10	I/H
PP2/3VE1	Environmental Ethics	20	I/H
PP2/3VE2	Environmental Ethics Essay Module	10	I/H
PP2/3KE1	The Philosophy of Kant	20	I/H
PP2/3KE2	The Philosophy of Kant Essay Module	10	I/H
PP3DSE	Dissertation Option	40	H

Progression requirements

The structure of part-time degrees is that students first of all take the degree subject(s) they want to study at Certificate level. The subject(s) form Part 1 of the programme. Part 1 must contain at least 80 credits, so that, if the modules for a student's chosen subject (s) add up to less than 80 credits, an additional module or two will need to be taken to achieve that total.

There is a Part 1 Examination in May or June, which students have to pass in order to go on to their degree choice at Intermediate and Honours levels.

To proceed from Part 1 students must have passed modules totalling at least 80 credits at Certificate level and must also have passed those modules required for progression to their chosen degree, with a minimum mark of 40%. To pass the Part 1 Examination a student must have a minimum average of 40% in at least 80 credits and not less than 30% in any individual module. Students who do not qualify to proceed from Part 1 at the first attempt may re-sit the required modules in a re-examination held in September.

Students must complete at least 80 credits at I level before they can proceed to any module at level H.

Re-examinations for C, I and H level modules are held annually in September.

Students who do not qualify for a degree will be entitled to the following qualification provided they have obtained the minimum number of credits indicated:

Certificate of Higher Education	100 credits at levels C and 20 credits at any level.
Diploma of Higher Education	240 credits, with at least 100 credits at I level or above.

The specific progression requirements for this programme are as follows:

To progress from Part 1 to the single honours programme, students must obtain a minimum of 40 and maximum of 60 credits from the Level C modules in Philosophy, with a minimum of 40% average over the modules taken.

Summary of teaching and assessment

Teaching within this programme combines lectures and seminars, with appropriate visual aids and course materials being provided throughout. The final assessment for all Philosophy modules is by unseen examination, with additional assessed coursework at levels I and H. At level I, students must write two x 2,000-word essays for each 10 credit Essay Module associated with a 20 credit module, of which the essay with the better mark will count towards 33% of the final mark for the subject for which the 20 + 10 credit modules are taught. At level H, the same requirements apply except that the student must write essays of 3,000 words, demonstrating a more advanced philosophical knowledge commensurate with the amount of philosophy the student has already studied.

Weighted Finals:

To reflect the notion of progression through the programme, examinations taken at Level I will be weighted 33% of the final degree classification, at examinations at Level H will be weighted at 67% of the final degree classification. The conventions for classification are included in the Programme Handbook.

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

Admission requirements

The Department views the evening part-time degree in terms of widening access, so there are no formal requirements for entrance. All applications are considered on their individual merits, and if necessary applicants will be interviewed by the Admissions Tutor.

Admissions Tutor: Prof. David Oderberg

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 Department, information and guidance is offered through departmental handbooks as well as consultation with the Part-Time Degree Co-ordinator. Help is offered with such things as note-taking and essay writing, and feedback on written work and oral presentations is given on a one-to-one basis and in small groups. There is also a Faculty Co-ordinator for Part-Time Degrees to provide help and information on administrative matters concerning the part-time degree.

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

Not applicable

Educational aims of the programme

The aims and learning outcomes 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 *outcome* of the BA Philosophy course is 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

A. Knowledge and understanding of:	**Teaching/learning methods and strategies**
• 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.	Lectures; supervisor-led small group discussions; seminar groups with facilitator. *Assessment* 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.

Skills and other attributes

B. Intellectual skills – able to:	**Teaching/learning methods and strategies**
• 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	As above, plus: self-directed learning facilitated through the use of research-based teaching materials and methods, and logical exercises. *Assessment* 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.

C. Practical skills – able to:	**Teaching/learning methods and strategies**
• 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	Lectures; supervisor-led small group discussions; seminar groups with facilitator. *Assessment* 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.

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.