BA PHILOSOPHY   **UCAS code: READG R12**
For students entering Part 1 in 2006

Awarding Institution: The University of Reading
Teaching Institution: The University of Reading
Relevant QAA subject benchmarking group(s):   Philosophy
Faculty of Arts & Humanities   Programme length: 3 years
Date of specification: July 2007
Programme Director: Dr. J.M. Preston
Board of Studies: Philosophy
Accreditation: Not Appropriate

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 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 module options on primarily historical modules (e.g. studying Classical Greek thought or the ideas of the British Empiricists) and more topic driven modules (e.g. studying philosophy of mind, or logic). Part 3 encourages increasing specialisation in the subject, allowing students to choose more advanced modules from an extensive range of options. Independent research is also encouraged through the provision of a dissertation option at this level.

Each part 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 the list below. Other credits to be acquired from modules outside the Philosophy programme.

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

Part 2 (three terms)

Compulsory Modules

Mod Code	Module Title	Credits	Level
PP2TK	Theory of Knowledge	20	I
PP2MP	Moral Philosophy	20	I
PP2CMS	Career Management Skills	5	I

In addition, single honours Philosophy students must take at least two of the core modules below, and up to two option modules in Philosophy from the list available from the Philosophy BA Programme Coordinator. A list of current options can also be found in the BA Programme Handbook. PS2N45 (History and Philosophy of Science) is also a permissible option. The total credits in Philosophy including compulsory, core and option modules must make up at least 100 credits, excluding Career Management Skills. Up to 20 credits may be acquired from modules outside the Philosophy programme.

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

Part 3 (three terms)

Single Honours Philosophy students must acquire a minimum of 100 credits from the list of options in Philosophy available from the Philosophy BA Programme Coordinator or the modules listed below. A list of current options can also be found in the BA Programme Handbook. A wide variety of part 3 options will be available each year, reflecting the research interests of teaching staff. Other credits may be acquired from modules outside the Philosophy Programme.

Mod Code	Module Title	Credits	Level
PP3DIS	Dissertation	40	H
PP3SOC	Socrates/Erasmus Study Abroad Programme	60	H

Progression requirements
To progress from Part 1 to Part 2, students must achieve each of the following:
(a) an overall average of at least 40% across the 120 credits in Part 1;
(b) a mark of at least 30% in individual modules amounting to not less than 100 credits taken in Part 1;
(c) an average of at least 40% in the Philosophy modules taken;
(d) a mark of at least 40% in individual Philosophy modules amounting to not less than 40 credits in Part 1.

To progress from Part 2 to Part 3, students must achieve each of the following:
(a) an overall average of at least 40% across the 120 credits in Part 2;
(b) a mark of at least 30% in individual modules amounting to not less than 100 credits taken in Part 2;
(c) an average of at least 40% in the Philosophy modules taken;
(d) a mark of at least 40% in individual Philosophy modules amounting to not less than 100 credits in Part 2.

Summary of teaching and assessment
Teaching within this programme combines lectures and small group seminars, with appropriate visual aides and course materials being provided throughout. The final assessment for the majority of Philosophy modules in all Parts is by a combination of assessed coursework and unseen examination. See the Philosophy BA handbook for further details.

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:
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
Entrants to this programme are normally required to have obtained:

Grade C or better in Maths in GCSE and
UCAS Tariff: Either: 320 points from 3 A levels and 1 AS level, or: 300 points from 3 A levels.
International Baccalaureate: complete diploma with a minimum score of 6,6,5 in at least three Higher Level subjects.
Advanced GNVQ: either B in one A-Level plus GNVQ (Advanced) in twelve modules passed with distinction, or GNVQ (Advanced) Distinction plus pass in four additional modules
Scottish Highers: BBBB or above
Irish Leaving Certificate: at least BBBBB in five higher-level subjects

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 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

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:

- 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

Teaching/learning methods and strategies
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.