

BA Philosophy and Politics
For students entering Part 1 in 2008/9

UCAS code: LV25

Awarding Institution:	University of Reading
Teaching Institution:	University of Reading
Relevant QAA subject Benchmarking group(s):	Philosophy, Politics.
Faculty:	Faculty of Arts and Humanities
Programme length:	3 years
Date of specification:	13/Aug/2009
Programme Director:	Dr John Preston
Programme Advisor:	Dr Jeremy Lester Mrs Patricia Hicks
Board of Studies:	Philosophy
Accreditation:	

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.

Three bridge modules (Contemporary Political Philosophy, International Ethics, Dissertation) offer students an opportunity to reflect on philosophical issues in Politics.

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 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

During the course of their studies at Reading, all students will be expected to enhance their academic and personal transferable skills in line with the University's Strategy for Learning and Teaching. In following this programme, students will have had the opportunity to develop such skills, in particular relating to communication, interpersonal skills, learning skills, numeracy, self-management, use of IT and problem-solving, and will have been encouraged to further develop and enhance the full set of skills through a variety of opportunities available outside their curriculum.

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)

Compulsory modules

PO1IPI	Introduction to Political Ideas	20	C
PO1IRS	Politics: International Relations and Strategic Studies	20	C
PO1MOG	Modern Government	20	C

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

PP1HN	Human Nature	20	C
PP1VV	Values & Virtues	20	C
PP1MR	Metaphysics & Religion	20	C

Part 2 (three terms)

Compulsory modules

<i>Mod Code</i>	<i>Module Title</i>	<i>Credits</i>	<i>Level</i>
PO2SOP	The Study of Politics	20	I
PP2TK	Theory of Knowledge	20	I
PP2MP	Moral Philosophy	20	I
PP2CMS	Career Management Skills	5	I
PO2PHC	Political Classics	20	I

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.)

PP2CMS, 'Career Management Skills', which is also compulsory, and is taken under the auspices of the Department of Philosophy, contributes 5 credits worth of marks to the average for Part 2.

Core Modules

PP2EM1	Early Modern Philosophy I	20	I
PP2EM2	Early Modern Philosophy 2	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
PP2AES	Aesthetics	20	I
PP2CPP	Contemporary Political Philosophy	20	I

In Politics (60 Credits)

Compulsory modules

PO2SOP	Study of Politics	20	I
PO2PHC	Political Classics	20	I

Optional modules (one of):

Government

PO2AMG	American Government and Politics	20	I
PO2BGP	British Government and Politics	20	I
PO2CGP	Comparative Government and Politics	20	I
PO2EPI	European Political Integration	20	I
PO2RGP	Russian Government and Politics	20	I
PO2THI	Political Thinking	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)

Compulsory modules

A dissertation of 40 credits is compulsory and may be taken in either Philosophy (PP3DIS) or Politics (PO3DIS).

In addition, students must choose modules totalling 40 credits in both Philosophy and Politics.

In the Department of Philosophy, students must acquire

40 credits from the list of optional modules in the BA Handbook.

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

In Politics (40 Credits)

Students choose two 20 credit modules from the following lists, one must be from List A unless a government option has been taken in Part 2 and at least one must be from List B.

List A

PO3AFG	African Government and Politics	20	H
PO3BFD	British Foreign and Defence Policy since 1945	20	H
PO3MEA	Politics and International Relations of the Middle East	20	H
PO3UKP	United Kingdom Politics since 1960	20	H
PO3USF	US Foreign Policy since 1950	20	H

List B

PO3DDP	Democracy and Democracy Promotion	20	H
PO3FEM	Feminism and Political Theory	20	H
PO3MID	Modern Ideologies	20	H
PO3PIE	Politics of the International Economy	20	H
PO3WPE	War, Peace and International Ethics	20	H

Progression requirements

To progress from Part 1 to Part 2, students must achieve

1. an overall average of at least 40% across the 120 credits in Part 1;
2. a mark of at least 30% in individual modules amounting to not less than 100 credits taken in Part 1;
3. an average of at least 40% in the Philosophy modules taken;
4. a mark of at least 40% in individual Philosophy modules amounting to not less than 40 credits in Part 1;
5. a mark of at least 40% in each compulsory Politics module at Part 1.

To progress from Part 2 to Part 3, students must achieve

1. an overall average of at least 40% across the 120 credits in Part 2;
2. a mark of at least 30% in individual modules amounting to not less than 100 credits taken in Part 2;
3. an average of at least 40% in the Philosophy modules taken;
4. a mark of at least 40% in individual Philosophy modules amounting to not less than 40 credits in Part 2;
5. a mark of at least 35% in each Politics module at Part 2.

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 and Part 2 modules involve both lectures and seminars. Part 3 optional modules are usually taught by seminars. All modules at Parts 2 and 3 other than the Study of Politics module and the Dissertation are assessed by a mixture of course work (25%) and examination (75%). Modules at Part 1 are assessed at 40% and 60% respectively.

Admission 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 Tutor: Prof. B. Hooker (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, School Senior Tutors, the Students' Union, the Medical Practice and the Student Services Centre. The Student Services Centre is housed in the Carrington Building and includes the Careers Advisory Service, the Disability Advisory Service, Accommodation Advisory Team, Student Financial Support, Counselling and Study Advisors. Student Services has a Helpdesk available for enquiries made in person or online, or by calling the central enquiry number on (0118) 378 5555. Students can get key information and guidance from the team of Helpdesk Advisers, or make an appointment with a specialist adviser; Student Services also offer drop-in sessions on everything from accommodation to finance. The Carrington Building is open between 8:30 and 17:30 Monday to Thursday (17:00 Friday and during vacation periods). Further information can be found in the Student Diary (given to students at enrolment) or on the Student website.

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

Programme Outcomes

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

A. Knowledge and understanding of:

Fundamental concepts of Philosophy and of Political Theory and major texts from the Greeks to the present time.

The comparative analysis of government institutions, political movement and the social bases of politics.

The various approaches and the study of Modern International Relations.

Some current research in philosophy

A range of selected specialized subjects within the fields of Political Theory, Comparative Government and International Relations.

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.

Knowledge and Understanding

A. Knowledge and understanding of:

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.

Teaching/learning 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.

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*:

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

Teaching/learning methods and strategies

Teaching methods and strategies
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*:

1. gather, organise and deploy evidence, data and information from a variety of primary and secondary

Teaching/learning methods and strategies

- 1 is taught through lectures and seminars.
- 2 asc(160) and 3 are acquired through seminar

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.

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.

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.

Teaching/learning methods and strategies

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 be expected 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 the module description and in the programme handbook. The University reserves the right to modify this specification in unforeseen circumstances, or where the process of academic development and feedback from students, quality assurance process or external sources, such as professional bodies, requires a change to be made. In such circumstances, a revised specification will be issued.