BA Philosophy and International Relations   **UCAS code: VL52**
For students entering Part 1 in 2012/3

Awarding Institution: University of Reading
Teaching Institution: University of Reading
Relevant QAA subject Benchmarking group(s):   Philosophy, Politics
Faculty: Arts, Humanities and Social Science Faculty
Programme length: 3 years
Date of specification: 24/Jul/2014
Programme Director: Dr Severin Schroeder
Programme Advisor: Dr Emma Mayhew
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.
Bridge modules such as Contemporary Political Philosophy, International Ethics, Fairness, and the Dissertation module offer students an opportunity to reflect on philosophical issues in International Relations. (Not all these modules may run in any one year).
The International Relations strand aims to give students an appreciation of the normative, methodological and institutional issues involved in the study of politics in relation to the subfield of 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 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 International Relations 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

The programme which follows states which modules must be taken (the compulsory part), together with one or more lists of modules from which the student must make a selection (the 'selected' modules). Students must choose such additional modules as they wish, in consultation with their programme adviser, to make 120 credits in each Part. The number of credits in each module is shown in column after its title, and the credit requirements in Philosophy and International Relations are indicated for each Part.

Part 1 (three terms)
Compulsory modules

PP1RA	Reason and Argument	20	4
PO1IRS	Politics: International Relations and Strategic Studies	20	4
PO1IPI	Introduction to Political Ideas	20	4
PO1MOG	Modern Government	20	4

In Philosophy students must take PP1RA, and must also acquire a minimum of 20, or a maximum of 40 credits, from the Philosophy modules below.

PP1MW	Mind & World	20	4
PP1HN	Human Nature	20	4
PP1VV	Values & Virtues	20	4

Optional module:

PO1BRI	British Society	20	4
PO1FRE	Freedom	20	4

Part 2 (three terms)
Compulsory modules

Mod Code	Module Title	Credits	Level
PO2MIR	Modern International Relations	20	5
PO2SOP	The Study of Politics	20	5

Students must acquire 60 credits from the list of options in Philosophy available from the Philosophy BA Programme Coordinator. A list of current options can also be found in the BA Programme Handbook. Part 2 optional modules include Philosophy of Mind, Logic and modules in the history of Philosophy

In Politics and International Relations, optional modules (one of):

PO2AMG	American Government and Politics	20	5
PO2BGP	British Government and Politics	20	5
PO2EPI	European Political Integration	20	5
PO2MIR	Modern International Relations	20	5
PO2MUN	Model United Nations	20	5
PO2THI	Political Thinking (Spring term only)	20	5

Students can choose to take a module outside their programme. One of the above modules may be replaced with a 20 credit module in another department or with a work placement.

PLEASE NOTE: It is the student's responsibility to seek approval from the department concerned.

	A 20 credit module in another department	20	
PO2WPP	Work Placement & Project. For more details see Dr Jonathon Boyd	20	

Part 3 (three terms)
Compulsory modules

Compulsory module:

Either

PP3DIS	Dissertation in Philosophy or	40	6
or			
PO3DIS	Dissertation in International Relations	40	6

In Philosophy

In the Philosophy Department students must chose modules totalling 40 credits from the list of optional Part 3 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.

Optional modules:
In Politics and International Relations (40 Credits)
Students choose two 20 credit modules from the following, one from each list.

List A

PO3CPP	Contemporary Power Politics	20	6
PO3CSS	Introduction to Critical Security Studies	20	6
PO3DPP	Democracy and Democracy Promotion	20	6
PO3GST	Grand Strategy from Classical Rome to Modern China	20	6
PO3INT	Intelligence, War and International Relations (Autumn term only)	20	6
PO3ITE	International Terrorism	20	6
PO3MEA	Politics & International Relations of the Middle East	20	6
PO3PIE	Politics of the International Economy	20	6
PO3STH	Strategic Theory	20	6
PO3SWW	Strategy in the Two World Wars (Autumn term only)	20	6
PO3UNI	UN and International Order	20	6

List B

PO3BFD	British Foreign and Defence Policy since 1945	20	6
PO3CAP	Crime and Punishment: Theoretical Approaches (Spring term only)	20	6
PO3UKP	UK Politics since 1960	20	6
PO3MEA	Politics and International Relations of the Middle East	20	6
PO3NAT	Nationalism (Autumn term only)	20	6
PO3TOL	Toleration: Theory and Practice (Spring term only)	20	6
PO3USF	United States Foreign Policy since 1950	20	6
PO3WPE	War, peace and International Relations	20	6

Students can choose to take a module outside their programme. One of the above modules may be replaced with a 20 credit module in another department - or with a work placement if not taken previously.

PLEASE NOTE: It is the student's responsibility to seek approval from the department concerned.

| | A 20 credit module in another department | 20 | |
| PO2WPP (students take only take 20 credits at part 2 level) | Work Placement & Project. Student has to do placement in vacation before October of Part 3. Contact Vicky Wiles to register your interest (v.l.wiles@reading.ac.uk) | 20 | |

 Must total 120 credits

Progression requirements

To progress from Part 1 to Part 2, students must achieve each of the following:
(i) an overall average of at least 40% across the 120 credits in Part 1;
(ii) mark of at least 30% in individual modules amounting to not less than 100 credits taken in Part 1;
(iii) obtain marks of at least 40% in PP1RA and 20 more credits from PP1 modules
(iv) obtain a weighted average of at least 40% across the PP1 modules taken
(v) a mark of at least 40% in each compulsory International Relations module at Part 1.

To gain a threshold performance at Part 2, a student shall normally be required to achieve:

(i) a weighted average of 40% over 120 credits taken at Part 2;
(ii) marks of at least 40% in individual modules amounting to not less than 80 credits; and
(iii) marks of at least 30% in individual modules amounting to not less than 120 credits.
In order to progress from Part 2 to Part 3, a student must achieve a threshold performance

Assessment and classification

The University's honours classification scheme is:

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

For the University-wide framework for classification, which includes details of the classification method, please see: http://www.reading.ac.uk/internal/exams/Policies/exa-class.aspx.

The weighting of the Parts/Years in the calculation of the degree classification is

Three-year programmes
Part 2 one-third
Part 3 two-thirds

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.
All International Relations 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%.

Admission requirements
Entrants to this programme are normally required to have obtained:
Grade C or better in English in GCSE; and achieved
UCAS Tariff: ABB from three A levels.
International Baccalaureate: 6, 6, 5 from three higher-level subjects
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 D. Owens (Philosophy), Christina Hellmich (Politics)

Support for students and their learning
University support for students and their learning falls into two categories.   Learning support is provided by a wide array of services across the University, including: the University Library, the Careers, Placement and Experience Centre (CPEC), In-sessional English Support Programme, the Study Advice and Mathematics Support Centre teams, IT Services and 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 advisers in the Student Services Centre. The Student Services Centre is housed in the Carrington Building and offers advice on accommodation, careers, disability, finance, and wellbeing, academic issues (eg problems with module selection) and exam related queries. 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 and runs workshops and seminars on a range of topics. For more information see www.reading.ac.uk/student

Within the Philosophy strand, 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.

Within the International Relations strand, students are provided with Politics 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 modules.

Opportunities for study abroad or for placements

There are opportunities for Single and Joint Honours Philosophy students to undertake academic placements for credit in Part 3. Students will work with module convenors to identify issues from particular modules which can be well-studied in the workplace and to identify appropriate hosts for the placement (for instance, work with an MP, an NGO, a health authority, police, legal firm, voluntary sector, etc.). Students are then responsible for securing their own placement. Assessed work will take the form of a report on the placement and on the outcomes of the study. Students undertaking an academic placement will benefit both intellectually (from applying their studies to issues in the workplace and thus illuminating the connections between their degree and the world beyond the University) and from a career perspective (gaining relevant and valuable work experience).

Students have the opportunity to study abroad for a term, in either term of Part 2 or the Autumn term of Part 3, (Politics favour Spring term in Part 2 for Study Abroad placements) either within Europe via the ERASMUS programme, or at one of the University of Reading's non-European partner institutions. They will require the consent of the departmental study abroad coordinator in order to participate, permission to study abroad being at the discretion of the department. Full details of potential destinations can be found on the ERASMUS & Study Abroad website.

In International Relations students have the opportunity to complete a stand alone placement module PO2WPP-Work Placement and Project during any term of part 2. Students will receive 20 credits for 120 hours of work experience. The placement must be approved by the module convenor, in terms of academic suitability and the School Placement Officer, in terms of health and safety. Students can only pick this module once and the placement must be secured before they can register for the module. Students should contact the School Placement Officer, Vicky Wiles (v.l.wiles@reading.ac.uk) to find out more about the module, collect a placement pack and to register interest.

The Part 2 optional module British Government and Politics includes an academic placement, taking place over two weeks during the Easter vacation, through which students will be able to explore some aspect of British government and politics in detail.

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 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 the 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 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 the 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 an 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 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

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

use of feedback
5. manage their own learning self-critically.

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

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 through the provision of Critical Thinking in Part One.

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.