

Philosophy, Politics and Economics BA
For students entering Part 1 in 2013/4

UCAS code: LV12

Awarding Institution:	University of Reading
Teaching Institution:	University of Reading
Relevant QAA subject Benchmarking group(s):	Philosophy, Politics and Economics
Faculty:	Arts, Humanities and Social Science Faculty
Programme length:	3 years
Date of specification:	20/Jun/2014
Programme Director:	Dr Severin Schroeder
Programme Advisor:	Prof Geoff Meen
Board of Studies:	Philosophy
Accreditation:	

Summary of programme aims

All three Departments share the aims and objectives laid down for the Reading graduate in the University's Strategy for Teaching and Learning. The overall aim of the programme is not only to provide a grounding in the subjects covered, but to give students the opportunity to connect the knowledge obtained in the different subjects to enrich their understanding of each.

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 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. The Economics strand aims to give students an understanding of key economic principles and tools of analysis at parts 1 and 2. At Part 2 this begins to broaden out to a consideration of policy issues, and a further choice of applied or statistical study. Part 3 provides a wide range of options. Students taking the degree will be expected to acquire a good knowledge and appreciation of the fundamental elements of economic theory and its applications, and the ability to apply their skills beyond the areas of specific study.

Three bridge modules (Contemporary Political Philosophy, International Ethics, Dissertation) offer students an opportunity to draw together knowledge and skills from at least two of the subjects covered.

The programme 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.

In addition, the programme encourages business awareness, and an understanding of important features of decision making, such as uncertainty, constraints and opportunity cost.

Programme content

Students are required to take a total of 120 credits in each Part. Where the compulsory modules in a Part total less than 120 credits, students are required to select options containing sufficient credits to make up the shortfall. Any such options selected must be drawn from the options provided at Parts 2 and 3, except that for the three Bipartite pathways students may substitute one Part 2 optional module for a module outside the programmes, e.g. a 20 credit (IWLP) language module.. Students will receive guidance on module choice from their personal tutors.

Part 1 (three terms)

Compulsory modules

In all pathways students take 40 credits in each of the three subjects

Mod Code	Module Title	Credits	Level
<i>Philosophy</i>			
PP1RA	Reason and Argument	20	4
<i>Politics</i>			
PO1IPI	Introduction to Political Ideas	20	4
<i>And either</i>			
PO1IRS	International Relations and Strategic Studies	20	4
<i>or</i>			
PO1ICD	Introduction to Contemporary Democracy	20	4
<i>Economics</i>			
EC117	Introductory Economics	20	4
EC107	Introduction to Economic Institutions and Policy	10	4
<i>And Either</i>			
EC108	Mathematics for Economics: Introductory Techniques for BA	10	4
<i>Or</i>			
EC109	Mathematics for Economics: Introductory Techniques for BSc	10	4

N.B. Students will also be required to select a minimum of 20 credits in Philosophy from a list provided in the Department.

Part 2 (three terms)

Compulsory modules

Tripartite pathway

Mod Code	Module Title	Credits	Level
<i>Economics</i>			
EC219	Economic Analysis	20	5
EC238	Economics of Social Policy	20	5
<i>Philosophy</i>			
PP2CPP	Contemporary Political Philosophy	20	5
<i>Politics</i>			
<i>Two of -</i>			
PO2CGP	Comparative Government and Politics	20	5
PO2MIR	Modern International Relations	20	5
PO2PHC	Political Classics	20	5

Students must take an additional 20 credits of optional modules in Philosophy

Bipartite pathway (Politics and Economics)

Mod Code	Module Title	Credits	Level
<i>Economics</i>			
EC219	Economic Analysis	20	5
EC238	Economics of Social Policy	20	5
<i>Either</i>			
EC242	Economics of Environment and Energy	20	5
<i>Or</i>			
EC243	Economic History	20	5
<i>Politics</i>			
PO2SOP	Study of Politics	20	5
<i>One of</i>			
PO2CGP	Comparative Government and Politics	20	5
PO2MIR	Modern International Relations	20	5
PO2PHC	Political Classics	20	5

In addition to compulsory modules, students must take a further 20 credits from available options in Politics.

Bipartite pathway (Philosophy and Politics)

Mod Code	Module Title	Credits	Level
<i>Philosophy</i>			
PP2CPP	Contemporary Political Philosophy	20	5

Politics

PO2PHC	Political Classics	20	5
PO2SOP	Study of Politics	20	5

In addition to the compulsory modules Students must take a further 40 credits in Philosophy and 20 credits in Politics from the list of optional modules available.

Bipartite pathway (Philosophy and Economics)

<i>Mod Code</i>	<i>Module Title</i>	<i>Credits</i>	<i>Level</i>
<i>Economics</i>			
EC219	Economic Analysis	20	5
EC238	Economics of Social Policy	20	5
<i>Either</i>			
EC242	Economics of the Environment and Energy	20	5
<i>Or</i>			
EC243	Economic History	20	5
<i>Philosophy</i>			
PP2CPP	Contemporary Political Philosophy	20	5

In addition to the compulsory modules, students must take a further 40 credits in Philosophy, and 20 credits in Economics from the optional modules available.

Part 3 (three terms)

Compulsory modules

Tripartite pathway

Students must take 80 credits in optional modules, which must include a minimum of 20 credits in each subject, in addition to a dissertation module, which is worth 40 credits

<i>Mod Code</i>	<i>Module Title</i>	<i>Credits</i>	<i>Level</i>
<i>Either</i>			
PP3DIS	Dissertation in Philosophy	40	6
<i>or</i>			
PO3DIS	Dissertation in Politics	40	6
<i>or</i>			
EC3DSI	Dissertation in Economics	40	6
<i>or</i>			
PP3XXX	PPE Dissertation	40	6

Bipartite pathway (Politics and Economics)

Students must take 40 credits in Politics and 40 credits in Economics, in addition to a dissertation module, which is worth 40 credits.

<i>Mod Code</i>	<i>Module Title</i>	<i>Credits</i>	<i>Level</i>
<i>Either</i>			
PO3DIS	Politics dissertation	40	6
<i>or</i>			
EC3DSI	Economics dissertation	40	6
<i>or</i>			
PP3XXX	PPE Dissertation	40	6

Bipartite pathway (Philosophy and Politics)

Students must take 40 credits in Philosophy and 40 credits in Politics, in addition to a dissertation module, which is worth 40 credits.

<i>Mod Code</i>	<i>Module Title</i>	<i>Credits</i>	<i>Level</i>
<i>Either</i>			
PO3DIS	Politics dissertation	40	6
<i>or</i>			
PP3DIS	Philosophy dissertation	40	6
<i>or</i>			

PP3XXX	PPE Dissertation	40	6
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Bipartite pathway (Philosophy and Economics)

Students must take 40 credits in Philosophy and 40 credits in Economics, in addition to a dissertation module, which is worth 40 credits.

<i>Mod Code</i>	<i>Module Title</i>	<i>Credits</i>	<i>Level</i>
<i>Either</i>			
PP3DIS	Philosophy dissertation	40	6
<i>or</i>			
EC3DSI	Economics dissertation	40	6
<i>or</i>			
PP3XXX	PPE Dissertation	40	6

Progression requirements

In order to progress from Part 1 to Part 2 a student must achieve:

- (i) a weighted average of 40% over 120 credits taken at Part 1, where all the credits are at level 4 or above; and
- (ii) marks of at least 30% in individual modules amounting to not less than 100 credits taken in Part 1; and
- (iii) at least 40% in all compulsory Part 1 modules.

In order to progress from Part 2 to Part 3 a student must achieve the University-wide threshold performance.

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.

The conventions for classification are included in the Programme Handbook but it should be noted that 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

Assessment and classification

Teaching is organised in modules. The delivery of material varies among modules, especially in the proportions of time allocated to lectures, and to classes and seminars. All modules involve coursework, which takes a variety of forms. Final assessment normally involves a written examination, and may also incorporate coursework marks; the maximum proportion of a final module mark allocated to coursework is 25%, other than in special cases.

The conventions for classification are included in the Programme Handbook but it should be noted that 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 Maths in GCSE; and achieved:

- AAB at A Level
- International Baccalaureate: 6, 5, 5
- Irish Leaving Certificate: BBBB

Mature applicants Applications from mature candidates 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 individual merits.

International applicants Applications from international candidates are welcomed. If you are not offering A levels we advise you to contact either the EU or international admissions tutor before applying in order to discuss the acceptability of your qualifications.

Admissions Tutor: Prof David Owens.

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-session 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

Career learning

Career prospects

PPE might be useful for people interested in market research or the finance divisions of major firms or social science research units such as the Institute for Public-Policy Research, Policy Studies Institute or Chatham House. A combined degree with a national curriculum subject is useful for students wishing to teach in schools and colleges or extra-mural departments and the WEA.

Opportunities for study abroad

Students can undertake a study abroad placement at one of our partner universities in Europe, USA, Canada and Australia

Placement opportunities

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:

Tripartite pathway

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.
6. The fundamental concepts at the core of economic knowledge comprising microeconomics

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

Courses are assessed through a combination of coursework and unseen examinations. Feedback is provided on assessed work.

and macroeconomics.

7. Empirical studies in economics, using statistical and other methods.

8. How to integrate and apply economic concepts to real world problems and issues.

Bipartite pathways

Philosophy and Politics

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.

Politics and Economics

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

2. The various approaches and the study of Modern International Relations.

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

4. The fundamental concepts at the core of economic knowledge comprising microeconomics and macroeconomics.

5. Empirical studies in economics, using statistical and other methods.

6. How to integrate and apply economic concepts to real world problems and issues.

Philosophy and Economics

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

2. Some current research in philosophy

3. The fundamental concepts at the core of economic knowledge comprising microeconomics and macroeconomics.

4. Empirical studies in economics, using statistical and other methods.

5. How to integrate and apply economic concepts to real world problems and issues.

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

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

5. react productively to the growth of knowledge
- Optional:
6. plan, conduct and write a longish independent dissertation on an appropriate topic
 7. Structure, analyse and solve problems.
 8. Think laterally and explore alternative solutions.
 9. Comprehend the evolving state of knowledge in the degree subject areas.
 10. Suggest, organise, collect relevant data and compile a report on an economic issue.

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 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.

also to use knowledge from modules in the dissertation.

Assessment

Skills are assessed through examination questions, essays, project work and problem sets.

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

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

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 Critical Thinking module 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.