

Programme Specification

Philosophy (2020-21)

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 s/he takes full advantage of the learning opportunities that are provided.

Awarding Institution	University of Southampton
Teaching Institution	University of Southampton
Mode of Study	Full-time
Duration in years	3
Accreditation details	None
Final award	Bachelor of Arts with Honours (BA (Hons))
Name of award	Philosophy
Interim Exit awards	Certificate of Higher Education (CertHE) Diploma of Higher Education (DipHE)
FHEQ level of final award	Level 6
UCAS code	V500
Programme code	4097
QAA Subject Benchmark or other external reference	Philosophy 2007
Programme Lead	Conor McHugh

Programme Overview

Brief outline of the programme

The programme can be studied Part Time (4098).

A Philosophy degree at Southampton provides you with an excellent and rigorous education exploring fundamental and far-reaching issues. You will engage with questions that have puzzled great thinkers for millennia but are still relevant today: What can I really know? Is there a God? Is my mind something distinct and separable from my body? Can there be objective facts in ethics and politics?

You will explore these fundamental questions using the philosophical method of reasoned argument and critical scrutiny. This will give you an unparalleled opportunity to develop your ability to think clearly, critically and imaginatively, to understand varying points of view, to organise and develop ideas and to work independently. The flexible curriculum will enable you to balance your choice of modules according to your own interests, while also ensuring that you graduate with skills essential to a successful career or further study.

Your contact hours will vary depending on your module/option choices. Full information about contact hours is provided in individual module profiles.

Learning and teaching

Our teaching draws upon the cutting-edge research of Southampton's philosophers, all of whom are actively engaged in presenting and publishing their work to international audiences.

We place special emphasis on small group teaching. Alongside lectures, you will participate from your first part of study in tutorials and seminars in which you will explore and develop your own ideas in discussion with fellow students and staff.

Each student is assigned a personal academic tutor, a leading academic who provides help and support at every part of study.

Throughout the degree, we impart advanced skills in reasoning, research, communication, and analysis, skills which, alongside the support offered by the University's career service, will prepare you for further study or a future career.

Assessment

You will be assessed by more than just essays and exams. Depending on the modules you choose, you will work in teams, give presentations, submit group projects, engage in debates, and manage larger research projects such as dissertations. The nature of the assessment task is appropriate to the issues you are studying and the range of tasks allows you to develop the skills you need for further study or the world of work.

Special Features of the programme

Please note: As a research-led University, we undertake a continuous review of our programmes to ensure quality enhancement and to manage our resources. As a result, this programme may be revised during a student's period of registration; however, any revision will be balanced against the requirement that the student should receive the educational service expected. Please read our [Disclaimer](#) to see why, when and how changes may be made to a student's programme.

Programmes and major changes to programmes are approved through the University's [programme validation process](#) which is described in the University's [Quality handbook](#).

Educational Aims of the Programme

The aims of the programme are to: The aims of the programme are to:

- provide you with an understanding of the main views, arguments and positions of major philosophers in the Western tradition.
- introduce you to some of the central theories, problems and arguments concerning topics within core areas of general philosophy (for example, meaning, mind, value, truth, knowledge, existence).
- enable you to engage with issues and ideas at the cutting-edge of contemporary philosophical research.
- encourage you to think critically, develop the ability to learn independently and remain receptive to fresh ideas and approaches.
- ensure that you develop the skills and abilities required for further study and/or your future career path.

Programme Learning Outcomes

Having successfully completed this programme you will be able to demonstrate knowledge and understanding of:

Knowledge and Understanding

On successful completion of this programme you will have knowledge and understanding of:

- A1. the views and arguments advanced and explored in the work of key thinkers within Western Philosophy, and the relevance of those views and arguments to contemporary philosophy.
- A2. the wide range of techniques of reasoning philosophers employ in analysing, exploring and evaluating ideas and arguments.
- A3. the defining problems of central areas of philosophy and prominent attempts to resolve those problems.
- A4. ideas at the forefront of current philosophical thinking and scholarship.

Teaching and Learning Methods

Philosophy employs a wide variety of teaching methods and provides a range of opportunities for learning, so as to facilitate a progressively deeper understanding of the subject and foster independent learning. We recognise that arriving students are often unfamiliar with the subject or have had only limited experience of it, and we arrange our teaching provision in that light. Methods include:

- Lectures

This is an effective way of conveying information concerning the above topics and explaining ideas to students. As your study progresses, the lectures explore the relevant issues in greater depth to reflect and further the development of your knowledge and understanding.

- In class discussion

This provides an opportunity for students to engage in discussion with peers and to raise questions concerning the material covered in lectures. Sometimes discussion is initiated by student presentations.

- Tutorials

These sessions, involving small groups of students (4-6) in their first part of study, offer students a chance to engage in debate (facilitated by the tutor) concerning the issues raised in lectures. But their primary purpose is to assist students in their early attempts to read, write about and understand philosophical issues. The starting-point for discussion is often the topic of a short essay, which students revise in light of that discussion and individual meetings with the tutor.

- Seminars

In the second part, students participate in weekly seminars involving 8-12 students. Individual presentations, focused on extracts from key historical texts, initiate student-led discussion of the issues the extracts raise.

- Consultation with academic staff

All academic staff hold 'office hours' during which you can drop in for individual discussion of the ideas and arguments encountered in lectures and your reading, or which you have arrived at yourself.

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- Research supervision

In the final part, you will undertake a dissertation (an extended research project), supervised by a member of academic staff with expertise in the area of philosophy it concerns. In preparing the dissertation, you will have the opportunity to meet regularly with the supervisor to explore the issues it concerns, to receive guidance on your research and reading, and to receive feedback on the work as it progresses.

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- Independent study

Given the nature of the subject, independent study forms an essential part in the development of your knowledge and understanding. This will involve careful reading of central texts, thoughtful reflection on philosophical issues raised in those texts or in class, and arriving at your own considered opinions on the topics you are studying.

Assessment Methods

Philosophy employs a wide variety of tasks which enable you, and staff, to assess your knowledge and understanding of the ideas and arguments which the philosophers you are studying advance, as well as your grasp of the techniques for analysing and evaluating those ideas and arguments. Some tasks contribute to the grade you receive and all allow you to be sure that you are working effectively. Written or verbal feedback is available to students on all assessment tasks.

Methods of assessment may include:

- Essay
- Exam
- Textual commentaries
- Research proposal
- Individual presentation
- Group research project
- Dissertation
- Annotated bibliography
- Reflective statement and peer evaluation
- Essay plan
- Reading tests and exercises
- Debates

Particular assessment tasks are appropriate to the area of study, and the exact nature of the task is determined by the part at which you are studying. For example, an exam in your first part might involve several questions while an exam in your final part might involve one question, inviting you to examine a single issue in depth and detail. Likewise, with each part of study, you can expect the assessment task to call for more independent study and thinking. For example, in your final part you complete a dissertation, an extended piece of writing on a topic of your choice, which is the product of your own research (guided by a supervisor).

Subject Specific Intellectual and Research Skills

On successful completion of this programme you will be able to:

- B1. interpret complex philosophical texts, including historical texts from a variety of traditions.
- B2. identify, evaluate and analyse philosophical problems, positions and arguments.
- B3. present and debate philosophical ideas, orally and in writing, in an open-minded, clear and rigorous way.
- B4. formulate your own views with respect to various philosophical issues and defend those views with arguments.

Teaching and Learning Methods

Activities designed to enhance the above skills are integrated into all aspects of teaching in Philosophy at Southampton (see above). Activities particularly important for the enhancement of your skills in philosophical thinking and research include:

- First part tutorials, which help students to develop their skills in extracting ideas and arguments from philosophical texts, and presenting and assessing those arguments in writing.
- Second part seminars, in which students give individual presentations, presenting orally philosophical views and reasoning.
- a compulsory first part course in reason and argument, which introduces students to the formal and informal techniques philosophers use in presenting and assessing arguments (see below).
- in-class discussion which provides students with the opportunity to express their own views with respect to the issues they are studying, and debate those views with peers.

Assessment Methods

All assessment tasks for Philosophy are designed to encourage the above skills and give students a chance to demonstrate them (see above). Methods particularly important for the assessment of these skills include:

- essays, which demonstrate your ability to interpret and engage critically with philosophical texts, to construct and develop arguments, and to show your command of the vocabulary philosophers use.
- presentations, which show your ability to express verbally philosophical ideas and positions, including your own.
- the dissertation, in which you develop a sustained line of argument of your own and examine philosophical ideas in considerable depth and detail.

Transferable and Generic Skills

On successful completion of this programme you will be able to:

- C1. analyse and present ideas and positions, both orally and in writing.
- C2. undertake, with appropriate supervision, independent work.
- C3. work effectively to deadlines.
- C4. argue effectively and dispassionately.
- C5. manage, plan and execute projects.
- C6. understand and extract relevant information from complex texts.

Teaching and Learning Methods

The above skills are imparted in all aspects of teaching and learning in Philosophy at Southampton. Methods particularly important for developing transferable skills include:

- a compulsory first part course in reason and argument, which develops skills in critical thinking.
- library skills sessions, which take place during new students' induction, as well as when embarking on the dissertation, which help students learn how to identify and make use of resources, including online resources.
- seminars, in which students present their own views and those of others verbally.
- tutorials, in which students develop their skills in clearly presenting ideas and arguments in writing
- in-class discussion, in which students advance and defend their own positions.

Assessment Methods

All assessment tasks are designed in part to encourage and assess the above skills. Methods particularly important for developing transferable skills include:

- group research projects and presentations, which require students to work together effectively, to delegate responsibilities, and to manage time.
- dissertations, which require independent study, research skills, time management, and the ability to present complex ideas in writing.
- essays, in which students demonstrate their ability to interpret complex texts, to present their views and those of others in writing, to argue for and against various positions, and to work to a deadline.
- exams, which test your ability to present and debate ideas in writing and to communicate effectively under strict time constraints.
- textual commentaries, which demonstrate your ability to extract key information from difficult texts.
- presentations, which require you to articulate ideas and arguments verbally and in an engaging fashion.

Programme Structure

The programme structure table is below:

Information about pre and co-requisites is included in individual module profiles.

Where optional modules have been specified, the following is an indicative list of available optional modules, which are subject to change each academic year. Please note in some instances modules have limited spaces available.

Part I

Programme details:

The programme is normally studied over three years full-time, but may also be taken on a part-time basis for a period of not less than four and not more than eight academic years. Study is undertaken at three parts (each corresponding to one year of full-time study). There are 30 study weeks in each year.

The programme is divided into modules. Full-time students take 120 credits (CATS) at each part, normally 60 in each semester. Single modules have a credit value of 15, while double modules have a credit value of 30. Some modules are compulsory, though most are optional.

Students may take up to 30 credits per part outside of Philosophy.

The programme is designed to ensure that your learning is progressive. The first part is foundational. You will take compulsory modules which provide you with crucial skills in reason and argument and introduce you to core areas of philosophy and to the contributions major figures have made to those areas. In addition, you will take optional modules concerning other core areas of philosophy and key moments in the history of philosophy.

This grounding is extended in the second part by a further compulsory module in the history of philosophy, in addition to which you will take seven optional modules investigating the theories, views and arguments advanced and explored in central areas of philosophy, such as moral philosophy, aesthetics, epistemology, philosophy of religion, philosophy of mind, philosophy of language and logic. This flexibility allows you to build the course around your developing interests.

The final parts involves a dissertation on a topic of your choosing, in addition to which you will choose six optional modules from a wide range of choices. Third part modules typically concern topics on which academic staff are actively researching and will introduce you to the cutting-edge of philosophical thinking and scholarship.

The modules offered by Philosophy can vary from year to year but the following is a list of those which are typically available. Further information about many of the modules can be found here:

http://www.southampton.ac.uk/humanities/undergraduate/courses/philosophy/v500_ba_philosophy.page

Assessment:

Formative assessment tasks (e.g. essay drafts or plans) will enable you to receive feedback to guide you in your work for summative assessments. In some modules these formative assessment tasks may be mandatory and non-submission or fail may incur a penalty to your mark for the module.

Opportunity to Study a Minor Subject

The structure of your degree programme allows you to choose up to 30 credits of non-Philosophy modules in each part. If you wish, you may choose modules that build into a minor pathway, the title of which will be mentioned in your degree transcript. Details of the minors available and the modules that are included can be found at www.southampton.ac.uk/cip.

Exit Award: Certificate of Higher Education

Part I Compulsory

Code	Module Title	ECTS	Type
PHIL1005	Ethics	7.5	Compulsory

PHIL1002	Knowledge and Mind	7.5	Compulsory
PHIL1016	Reason and Argument	7.5	Compulsory

Part I Optional

Code	Module Title	ECTS	Type
PHIL1003	Ancient Greek Philosophy	7.5	Optional
PHIL1026	Applied Ethics	7.5	Optional
PHIL1021	Existentialism and its Origins	7.5	Optional
PHIL1020	Faith and Reason	7.5	Optional
PHIL1027	Freedom and Responsibility	7.5	Optional
HUMA2013	How the Arts Work: a practical introduction to cultural economics	7.5	Optional
PHIL1019	Puzzles about Art and Literature	7.5	Optional

Part II

Exit Award: Diploma of Higher Education

Part II Compulsory

Code	Module Title	ECTS	Type
PHIL2028	Appearance and Reality	7.5	Compulsory

Part II Optional

Code	Module Title	ECTS	Type
PHIL2001	Aesthetics	7.5	Optional
PHIL2021	Epistemology	7.5	Optional
PHIL2039	Ethics of Global Poverty	7.5	Optional
HUMA2013	How the Arts Work: a practical introduction to cultural economics	7.5	Optional
PHIL2027	Kant	7.5	Optional
PHIL2014	Logic	7.5	Optional
PHIL2040	Metaethics	7.5	Optional
PHIL2032	Metaphysics	7.5	Optional
PHIL2012	Moral Philosophy	7.5	Optional
PHIL2010	Philosophy of Language	7.5	Optional
PHIL2009	Philosophy of Mind	7.5	Optional
PHIL2037	Philosophy of Religion	7.5	Optional

Part III

Exit Award: Conferment of award/graduation

Part III Compulsory

Code	Module Title	ECTS	Type
PHIL3013	Philosophy Dissertation	15	Compulsory

Part III Optional

Code	Module Title	ECTS	Type
PHIL3035	Action, Reason and Ethics	7.5	Optional
PHIL3055	Classical Indian Philosophy	7.5	Optional
PHIL3042	Fiction and Fictionalism	7.5	Optional
PHIL3041	Happiness and Wellbeing	7.5	Optional
PHIL3009	Heidegger	7.5	Optional
HUMA2013	How the Arts Work: a practical introduction to cultural economics	7.5	Optional
HUMA3009	Humanities Undergraduate Ambassador Scheme Yr 3	7.5	Optional
PHIL3007	Nietzsche	7.5	Optional
PHIL3051	Other Minds	7.5	Optional
PHIL3054	Philosophical Logic	7.5	Optional
PHIL3034	Philosophy of Sex	7.5	Optional
PHIL3049	Puzzles and Paradoxes	7.5	Optional
PHIL3036	Self-Knowledge	7.5	Optional
PHIL3038	The Ethics of Belief	7.5	Optional
PHIL3037	Wittgenstein's Later Philosophy	7.5	Optional

Progression Requirements

The programme follows the University's regulations for [*Progression, Determination and Classification of Results : Undergraduate and Integrated Masters Programmes*](#) and [*Progression, Determination and Classification of Results: Postgraduate Master's Programmes*](#) Any exemptions or variations to the University regulations, approved by AQSC are located in [*section VI of the University Calendar*](#).

Support for student learning

There are facilities and services to support your learning some of which are accessible to students across the University and some of which will be geared more particularly to students in your particular Faculty or discipline area.

The University provides:

- library resources, including e-books, on-line journals and databases, which are comprehensive and up-to-date; together with assistance from Library staff to enable you to make the best use of these resources
- high speed access to online electronic learning resources on the Internet from dedicated PC Workstations onsite and from your own devices; laptops, smartphones and tablet PCs via the Eduroam wireless network. There is a wide range of application software available from the Student Public Workstations.

- computer accounts which will connect you to a number of learning technologies for example, the Blackboard virtual learning environment (which facilitates online learning and access to specific learning resources)
- standard ICT tools such as Email, secure filestore and calendars.
- access to key information through the MySouthampton Student Mobile Portal which delivers timetables, Module information, Locations, Tutor details, Library account, bus timetables etc. while you are on the move.
- IT support through a comprehensive website, telephone and online ticketed support and a dedicated helpdesk in the Hartley Library.
- Enabling Services offering support services and resources via a triage model to access crisis management, mental health support and counselling. Support includes daily Drop In at Highfield campus at 13.00 – 15.00 (Monday, Wednesday and Friday out of term-time) or via on-line chat on weekdays from 14.00 – 16.00. Arrangements can also be made for meetings via Skype.
- assessment and support (including specialist IT support) facilities if you have a disability, long term health problem or Specific Learning Difficulty (e.g. dyslexia).
- the Student Services Centre (SSC) to assist you with a range of general enquiries including financial matters, accommodation, exams, graduation, student visas, ID cards
- Career and Employability services, advising on job search, applications, interviews, paid work, volunteering and internship opportunities and getting the most out of your extra-curricular activities alongside your degree programme when writing your CV
- Other support that includes health services (GPs), chaplaincy (for all faiths) and 'out of hours' support for students in Halls and in the local community, (18.00-08.00)
- A Centre for Language Study, providing assistance in the development of English language and study skills for non-native speakers.

The Students' Union provides

- an academic student representation system, consisting of Course Representatives, Academic Presidents, Faculty Officers and the Vice-President Education; SUSU provides training and support for all these representatives, whose role is to represent students' views to the University.
- opportunities for extracurricular activities and volunteering
- an Advice Centre offering free and confidential advice including support if you need to make an academic appeal
- Support for student peer-to-peer groups, such as Nightline.

Associated with your programme you will be able to access:

- a personal academic tutor, i.e. a member of academic staff to provide personalised academic advice and support.
- a study abroad co-ordinator.
- a careers tutor.
- guidelines on assessment tasks.
- student mentors.
- a special considerations tutor.

Methods for evaluating the quality of teaching and learning

You will have the opportunity to have your say on the quality of the programme in the following ways:

- Completing student evaluation questionnaires for each module of the programme.
- Acting as a student representative on various committees, e.g. Staff/Student Liaison Committees, School Programmes Committee OR providing comments to your student representative to feedback on your behalf.
- Serving as a student representative on Faculty Scrutiny Groups for programme validation.
- Taking part in programme validation meetings by joining a panel of students to meet with the Faculty Scrutiny Group.

Further details on the University's quality assurance processes are given in the [Quality Handbook](#).

Career Opportunities

Our students have gone on to succeed in a dazzling range of careers, including business, law, medicine, journalism, teaching, IT, the civil service, advertising, film and television, and finance. The 2015/16 Destination of Leavers of Higher Education (DLHE) survey found that 97% of our Philosophy graduates were in work or study six months after finishing their degree, with 73% of our graduates in professional or managerial roles.

Career skills are embedded throughout every stage of our course and are developed at every moment of study. Certain modules offer specific teaching in reasoning and communications skills. In addition, there are work experience opportunities to help you understand how your transferable skills apply in the workplace. During your degree you will learn skills such as:

- Critical thinking
- Analysis
- Clear oral and written communication
- Mental agility
- The ability to appreciate different points of view
- Working in groups

In a survey of results in the American GRE tests (tests of verbal, quantitative and analytical skills), Philosophy graduates achieved better average scores than graduates of any other humanities or social science subject.

External Examiner(s) for the programme

Name: Anthony Booth - University of Sussex

Students must not contact External Examiner(s) directly, and external examiners have been advised to refer any such communications back to the University. Students should raise any general queries about the assessment and examination process for the programme with their Course Representative, for consideration through Staff: Student Liaison Committee in the first instance, and Student representatives on Staff: Student Liaison Committees will have the opportunity to consider external examiners' reports as part of the University's quality assurance process.

External examiners do not have a direct role in determining results for individual students, and students wishing to discuss their own performance in assessment should contact their Personal Academic Tutor in the first instance.

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 they take full advantage of the learning opportunities that are provided. More detailed information can be found in the programme handbook.

Appendix 1:

Students are responsible for meeting the cost of essential textbooks, and of producing such essays, assignments, laboratory reports and dissertations as are required to fulfil the academic requirements for each programme of study. In addition to this, students registered for this programme also have to pay for:

Additional Costs

Type	Details
Computer discs or USB drives	Students are expected to provide their own portable data storage device.
Hardware	It is advisable that students provide their own laptop or personal computer, although shared facilities are available across the University campus.
Placements (including Study Abroad Programmes)	Students on placement programmes can expect to cover costs for health and travel insurance, accommodation and living expenses; travel costs; visa costs. This will vary depending on which country you are travelling to. Specific details on what additional costs there will be are detailed in the individual module profiles which can be found under the modules tab of the programmes details of your programme.
Printing and Photocopying Costs	Where possible, coursework such as essays; projects; dissertations is likely to be submitted on line. However, there are some items where it is not possible to submit on line and students will be asked to provide a printed copy. A list of the University printing costs can be found here: http://www.southampton.ac.uk/isolutions/students/printing/
Software Licenses	All software is provided
Stationery	You will be expected to provide your own day-to-day stationary items, e.g. pens, pencils, notebooks, etc.). Any specialist stationery items will be specified under the Additional Costs tab of the relevant module profile.
Textbooks	Where a module specifies core texts these should generally be available on the reserve list in the library. However due to demand, students may prefer to buy their own copies. These can be purchased from any source. Some modules suggest reading texts as optional background reading. The library may hold copies of such texts, or alternatively you may wish to purchase your own copies. Although not essential reading, you may benefit from the additional reading materials for the module.

In some cases you'll be able to choose modules (which may have different costs associated with that module) which will change the overall cost of a programme to you. Details of such costs will be listed in the Module Profile. Please also ensure you read the section on additional costs in the University's Fees, Charges and Expenses Regulations in the University Calendar available at www.calendar.soton.ac.uk.