

Minor Specification

Academic Year 2019-20 Philosophy M018

This specification provides a concise summary of the main features of the minor 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
Name of minor	Philosophy
FHEQ level of final award	As for the Major programme
QAA Subject Benchmark or other external reference	This programme is designed in accordance with the QAA Philosophy Subject Benchmark.
Faculty that owns the minor	Arts and Humanities
Minor Leader	Dr Conor McHugh
Date specification was written	28-08-2013

Overview of Minor

1 Brief outline of the minor

A Minor in Philosophy enables you to:

- explore and try to resolve fundamental issues and profound questions which bear on any area of study, such as ‘How should we live?’, ‘Is knowledge possible?’, and ‘What is the mind?’
- develop advanced skills in reasoning, argument, and critical thinking, skills which are invaluable both within and beyond the university.
- engage with the ideas of some of the greatest minds in history, from the Ancient Greeks to the present day, and explore texts which laid the foundations for modern inquiry in the arts, sciences, and humanities

2 Learning and teaching

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 students joining the programme are often unfamiliar with the subject or have had only limited experience of it, and we arrange our teaching provision in that light. In addition to lectures, we offer small group tutorials and consultation with individual members of staff. Discussion and debate is an essential component of philosophical study and we provide opportunities for this in class, as well as in student-led

seminars. In addition, your own independent study will contribute to your understanding and appreciation of the philosophical ideas and arguments you encounter in modules.

3 Assessment

In Philosophy, we employ 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 ensure that you are working effectively. Written or verbal feedback is available to students on all assessment tasks. Methods of assessment might include:

- Essay
- Exam
- Textual commentaries
- Individual presentation
- Group presentation
- Group research project
- Reflective statement and peer evaluation
- Essay plan

Particular assessment tasks are appropriate to the area of study, and the exact nature of the task is determined by the level at which you are studying.

Educational Aims of the Minor

The aims of the minor are to:

- provide you with an understanding of some 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).
- introduce you to the philosophical study of particular areas of human practice and inquiry (for example, science, mathematics, religion, art, and politics).
- enable you to engage with issues and ideas at the cutting-edge of contemporary research in philosophy.
- allow you to appreciate the bearing of your studies in philosophy on the other subject(s) you are studying.
- 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.

Learning Outcomes for the Minor

Knowledge and Understanding

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

- some of the views, arguments and positions advanced and explored in the work of key thinkers within Western Philosophy, and the relevance of those views, arguments and positions to contemporary philosophy.
- techniques of reasoning philosophers employ in analysing, exploring and evaluating ideas and arguments.
- some of the defining problems of the main areas of philosophy and of the interconnections between them as well as of the prominent attempts to resolve those problems.
- the philosophical issues concerning particular areas of human practice and inquiry, such as science, mathematics, religion, art and politics.
- ideas at the forefront of current philosophical thinking and scholarship.
- the implications of the issues you have explored in philosophy for your other subject(s).

Teaching and Learning Methods

To ensure you achieve these learning outcomes, Philosophy employs a wide variety of teaching and learning methods. For example:

- Lectures
 - These are an effective way of conveying information concerning philosophical arguments and ideas. 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 you with an opportunity to engage in debate with peers and to raise questions concerning the material covered in lectures, which in turn will help you to ensure that you understand the issues and ideas you are studying.
- Tutorials and seminars
 - These small group activities offer further opportunities to engage in debate (facilitated by the tutor) concerning the issues raised in lectures. In addition, they aim to develop your skills in presenting and evaluating philosophy both in writing and orally.
- 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.
- Independent study
 - Given the nature of the subject, independent study forms an essential part in the development of your knowledge and understanding of Philosophy. This will involve careful reading of primary and secondary 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

A wide range of assessment methods are used to ensure that you attain the learning outcomes of this minor (see Overview above). Different assessment tasks allow you to develop and demonstrate different skills.

Subject Specific Intellectual and Research Skills

Having successfully completed this programme you will be able to:

- interpret complex philosophical texts, including historical texts from a variety of traditions.
- identify, evaluate and analyse philosophical problems, positions and arguments.
- present and debate philosophical ideas, orally and in writing, in an open-minded, clear and rigorous way.
- define and use appropriately the technical terminology employed in the areas of philosophy you study.
- 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:

- 1st year tutorials, which help students to develop their skills in extracting ideas and arguments from philosophical texts, and presenting and assessing those arguments in writing. Students submit essays to their tutors, receive feedback on those essays in individual meetings, and submit versions revised in light of that feedback.
- 2nd year seminars, in which students give individual presentations, presenting orally philosophical views and reasoning.
- in-class discussion, in which students 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 construct and develop arguments, and to show your command of the vocabulary philosophers use.
- presentations, which allow us to assess and provide feedback on your ability to express orally and using visual aids philosophical ideas and positions, including your own.
- textual commentaries, which show that you can interpret and extract information from philosophical texts from different traditions.

Transferable and Generic Skills

Having successfully completed this programme you will be able to:

- analyse and present ideas and positions, both orally and in writing.
- identify and use appropriate resources.
- work effectively to deadlines.
- argue effectively and dispassionately.
- manage, plan and execute projects.
- work effectively in a team.
- 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 (see above). Methods particularly important for developing transferable skills include:

- lectures, in which ideas and positions, as well as techniques for evaluating them, are explained.
- seminars, in which students present their own views and those of others orally.
- 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 projects, which require you to work with others effectively, to delegate responsibilities, and to manage time.
- essays, in which you 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 orally and in an engaging fashion.

Structure of Minor

1 Typical content

This broad and flexible programme will offer you the chance to explore some of the main views, arguments and positions of major philosophers in the Western tradition from the classical era to the present day, including Plato, Descartes, Kant, Nietzsche and Wittgenstein. The modules (or units of study) on offer explore core areas of philosophy, such as ethics (the study of right and wrong) and epistemology (the theory of knowledge), while others introduce you to the philosophical study of particular areas of human practice and enquiry, such as art, religion, mathematics, politics, or language. Some modules focus primarily on particular philosophers or philosophical traditions, such as existentialism, while others focus more on a range of issues and problems.

2 Special Features of the programme

N/A

3 Details of the minor

The Minor in Philosophy is undertaken at three levels (each corresponding to one year of full-time study, excluding study abroad). The programme is divided into modules. Each module has a credit value of 15 CATS points (or 7.5 ECTS points). Students must take one module at Level 1, two modules at Levels 2, and two modules at Level 3 (75 CATS points in total).

The programme is extremely flexible. All modules are optional for students on the Philosophy minor programme and the modules have no pre-requisites.

Our teaching is research-led at all levels. As a result, the modules on offer vary from year to year as staff research interests and priorities develop and change. The following is an indicative list of the modules on offer:

Year 1

PHIL1024 Knowledge and Mind
PHIL1020 Faith and Reason
PHIL1021 Existentialism and its Origins
PHIL1026 Applied Ethics
PHIL1027 Freedom and Responsibility

Year 2

PHIL2001 Aesthetics
PHIL2009 Philosophy of Mind
PHIL2010 Philosophy of Language
PHIL2012 Moral Philosophy
PHIL2021 Epistemology
PHIL2027 Kant
PHIL2028 Appearance and Reality
PHIL2032 Metaphysics

PHIL2014 Logic
PHIL2034 Philosophy of Science
PHIL2037 Philosophy of Religion
PHIL2039 Ethics of Global Poverty
PHIL2040 Metaethics

Year 3

PHIL3034 Philosophy of Sex
PHIL3007 Nietzsche
PHIL3009 Heidegger
PHIL3020 Philosophy of Mathematics
PHIL3037 Wittgenstein's Later Philosophy
PHIL3041 Happiness and Wellbeing
PHIL3035 Action, Reason and Ethics
PHIL3047 Schopenhauer
PHIL3049 Puzzles and Paradoxes
PHIL3050 Advanced Aesthetics
PHIL3051 Other Minds
PHIL3053 Islamic Philosophy
PHIL3055 Classical Indian Philosophy

4 Progression Requirements

The programme of which this minor comprises a part follows the University's regulations for Progression, Determination and Classification of Results: Undergraduate and Integrated Masters Programmes as set out in the University Calendar: <http://www.calendar.soton.ac.uk/>

In order to qualify for the minor, students must pass all modules that make up the minor. There is no provision for students to be referred in a minor module solely for the purpose of qualifying for the minor.

Please note: This specification provides a concise summary of the main features of the minor 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. More detailed information can be found on the minor website at [https://www.southampton.ac.uk/uni-life/learning-teaching/customise-your-degree/minors.page#what can i take a minor in%3F](https://www.southampton.ac.uk/uni-life/learning-teaching/customise-your-degree/minors.page#what%20can%20i%20take%20a%20minor%20in%3F)

Revision History

1. Written August 2013
2. Revised modules list – CQAFH - Nov 2015
3. Revised modules list- CQAFH- Oct 2016
4. Modules checked and updated March 2017
5. Modules checked and updated April 2018
6. Modules checked and updated April 2019