Masters in Moral, Political and Legal Philosophy

Programme Requirements

The Department of Philosophy, in collaboration with the Department of Philosophy at the University of Stirling, offer the following postgraduate taught one-year programme in Moral, Political and Legal Philosophy. It is designed as a research training and preparation year for doctoral studies but may be followed as a self-standing course. The course leads to the following:-

**Taught Element:**

60 credits: PY5101, PY5102, PY5103

60 credits: PY5203, PY5204, PY5312, PY5315, PY5318, PY5319, PY5326 or other 5000-level Philosophy modules as approved by the MLitt Convenor.

**MLitt:**

120 credits as for Taught Element plus PY5099

**MPhil:**

120 credits as for Taught Element plus a thesis of not more than 40,000 words

**Compulsory modules - Semester 1:**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>PY5101 Current Issues in Philosophy 1</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>SCOTCAT Credits:</strong></td>
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</table>

**Planned timetable:**

11.00 am - 1.00 pm Mon (at the University of Stirling)

This module, together with PY5102 Current Issues 2 in semester 2, covers recent work in four central areas of philosophy, each of them in a section of 11 hours. The four areas are Epistemology, Ethics, Philosophy of Language and Philosophy of Mind.

Epistemology and Ethics will be covered in PY5101, Philosophy of Language and Philosophy Mind will be covered in PY5102.

The Epistemology section will include topics from among the following: definition of knowledge; tracking and reliability conditions for knowledge; modal requirements on knowledge (safety and sensitivity); scepticism, contextualism and closure; peer-disagreement.

The Ethics section will include topics from among the following: the relation between morality, human nature and the diversity of human practices and societies; what the concept of rights adds to a morality of duties, goals and reasons; double effect and the moral significance of intention; questions in meta-ethics about the supervenience of the normative on non-normative facts.

**Programme module type:**

Compulsory for Epistemology, Mind and Language, Logic and Metaphysics, History of Philosophy, Moral, Political and Legal Philosophy and Philosophy Postgraduate Programmes.

**Learning and teaching methods and delivery:**

**Weekly contact:** 2 hours.

**Assessment pattern:**

Coursework = 100%

**Module Co-ordinator:**

Dr R Cruft

**Lecturer(s)/Tutor(s):**

Dr S Roca Royes
Philosophy - Moral, Political and Legal Philosophy MLitt & MPhil - 2015/6 - November 2015

**PY5103 Research Methods**

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>SCOTCAT Credits:</th>
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<th>SCQF Level: 11</th>
<th>Semester:</th>
<th>1</th>
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**Planned timetable:**
3.00 pm - 4.30 pm Mon (at the University of Stirling)

The Research Methods module is a core module for all students taking the Graduate Diploma or MLitt programme. The module aims to foster the range of skills required for independent research in philosophy. These skills run from the most concretely practical, such as knowledge of the main research resources and how to access them, to the most abstract, such as the ability to uncover the background and context of a specific issue (how it originated, what framework is presumed in a particular author’s treatment of it, what other ways of thinking of the issue might be available, what literature is relevant to it, and so forth) in a way that allows one to develop an independent conception of how the issue is best addressed.

While these are general skills that will be important in your work in any branch of philosophy, they can be developed only in application to some substantive philosophical position or issues. For that reason, the module is run as a book seminar; weekly meetings will involve discussion introduced by student presentations on issues drawn from or connected with the chosen book.

**Programme module type:**
Compulsory for Epistemology, Mind and Language, Logic and Metaphysics, History of Philosophy, Moral, Political and Legal Philosophy and Philosophy Postgraduate Programmes.

**Learning and teaching methods and delivery:**
Weekly contact: 2 hours.

**Assessment pattern:**
Coursework = 100% (Research Proposal - 33%, 4,000 Word Essay - 67%)

**Module Co-ordinator:**
Dr P Ebert

**Lecturer(s)/Tutor(s):**
Dr J Harris, Dr C Johnston, Dr J Tomalty

**Compulsory module - Semester 2:**

**PY5102 Current Issues in Philosophy 2**

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<th>SCOTCAT Credits:</th>
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<th>SCQF Level: 11</th>
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<th>2</th>
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**Planned timetable:**
11.00 am - 1.00 pm Wed

This module continues the critical survey of recent work in philosophy begun in PY5101. PY5102 covers Philosophy of Mind and Philosophy of Language as main components.

The Philosophy of Mind section will include some of the following topics: the relation between the mental and the physical; mental causation; consciousness; rationalizing explanation; the normative dimension of mentality.

The Philosophy of Language section will include topics from among the following: how words come to have content, the relation between use, meaning and saying, the relation between meaning, truth, and reference.

**Programme module type:**
Compulsory for Epistemology, History of Philosophy, Logic and Metaphysics, Mind and Language, Moral, Political and Legal Philosophy and Philosophy Postgraduate Programmes.

**Learning and teaching methods and delivery:**
Weekly contact: 2 hours.

**Assessment pattern:**
Coursework = 100%

**Module Co-ordinator:**
Dr D Ball and Dr E Glick

**Lecturer(s)/Tutor(s):**
Dr D Ball and Dr E Glick

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### Compulsory module - Whole Year:

**PY5099 Dissertation for MLitt Programme**

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<th>SCOTCAT Credits:</th>
<th>60</th>
<th>SCQF Level 11</th>
<th>Semester:</th>
<th>Whole Year</th>
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**Planned timetable:** At times to be arranged with the supervisor.

Student dissertations will be supervised by members of the teaching staff who will advise on the choice of subject and provide guidance throughout the research process. The completed dissertation of not more than 15,000 words must be submitted by mid-August.

**Programme module type:** Compulsory for Epistemology, Mind and Language, Logic and Metaphysics, History of Philosophy, Moral, Political and Legal Philosophy and Philosophy Postgraduate Programmes.

**Learning and teaching methods and delivery:** Weekly contact: Individual supervision.

**Assessment pattern:** Coursework (Dissertation) = 100%

**Module Co-ordinator:** None - individual supervision

### Optional modules - Semester 1:

**PY5201 Classical Philosophy**

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**Planned timetable:** 11.00 am - 1.00 pm Tue

The module will address topics in ancient metaphysics and ethics concentrating on selected readings from the works of Plato or Aristotle. We shall engage with philosophical questions about love and friendship through lenses provided by the ancient and unrivalled discussions of Plato (dialogues Lysis, Symposium, and Phaedrus) and Aristotle (Nicomachean Ethics VIII and IX).

**Programme module type:** Optional for History of Philosophy, or Moral, Political & Legal Philosophy or Philosophy Postgraduate Programmes.

**Learning and teaching methods and delivery:** Weekly contact: 2 hours.

**Assessment pattern:** Coursework = 100%

**Module Co-ordinator:** Dr B Sattler

**Lecturer(s)/Tutor(s):** Dr B Sattler and Prof S Broadie
**PY5319 Topics in Recent Moral Theory**

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**Planned timetable:** 2.00 pm - 4.00 pm Thu

This module aims to provide in-depth critical discussion of selected work in ethics from the last five years or so. Topics will be chosen in consultation with students. The module may range into meta-ethics as well as normative moral theory and will take the form of seminars with detailed discussion of a selected book or series of papers.

**Programme module type:** Optional for Moral, Political and Legal Philosophy or Philosophy Postgraduate Programmes.

**Learning and teaching methods and delivery:** Weekly contact: 2 hours.

**Assessment pattern:** Coursework = 100%

**Module Co-ordinator:** Dr J Snedegar and Dr T Pummer

**Lecturer(s)/Tutor(s):** Dr J Snedegar and Dr T Pummer

### Optional modules - Semester 2:

**PY5203 Kant**

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<th>2</th>
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**Planned timetable:** 12.00 noon - 2.00 pm Thu

This module will be discussing selected topics from Kant’s Doctrine of Virtue, which forms part II of Kant’s late “Metaphysics of Morals”. Topics include duties to oneself, suicide, conscience, lying, animal ethics, the duty of beneficence, gratitude, sympathy, friendship and ethical methodology. The Cambridge translation (ed. M. Gregor) is recommended. Secondary reading: Timmermann, J., Sensen, O., & Trampota, A. (edd.). Kant’s “Tugendlehre”: A Commentary. Berlin: De Gruyter, 2013.

**Programme module type:** Optional for History of Philosophy, Moral, Political & Legal Philosophy and Philosophy Postgraduate Programmes.

**Learning and teaching methods and delivery:** Weekly contact: 2 hours.

**Assessment pattern:** Coursework = 100%

**Module Co-ordinator:** Dr J Timmermann

**Lecturer(s)/Tutor(s):** Dr J Timmermann
### PY5312 Aesthetics

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<tr>
<td>Planned timetable:</td>
<td>10.00 am - 12.00 noon Fri</td>
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This module will consider a number of philosophical questions that arise from reflection on the creation, understanding and evaluation of works of art. Topics to be covered may include the nature of art and the aesthetic, the logic of aesthetic judgement, aesthetic value, interpretation and appreciation.

- **Programme module type:** Optional for Moral, Political and Legal Philosophy or Philosophy Postgraduate Taught Programmes.
- **Learning and teaching methods and delivery:** Weekly contact: 2 hours.
- **Assessment pattern:** Coursework = 100%
- **Module Co-ordinator:** Prof B Gaut
- **Lecturer(s)/Tutor(s):** Prof B Gaut

### PY5315 Philosophy of Law

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<tr>
<td>Planned timetable:</td>
<td>11.00 am - 1.00 pm Tue</td>
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This module will feature multiple independent topics in the philosophy of law. One of them will be the scope of legal personhood. Other possible topics include the normativity of the law, the use of the law to enforce morality, and the use of law to deter coercion, exploitation and blackmail. Which of these further topics are actually covered will be determined by the preferences of those enrolled. No prior exposure to philosophy of law will be presumed.

- **Programme module type:** Optional for Moral, Political and Legal Philosophy or Philosophy Postgraduate Taught Programmes.
- **Learning and teaching methods and delivery:** Weekly contact: 2 hours.
- **Assessment pattern:** Coursework = 100%
- **Module Co-ordinator:** Dr B Sachs
- **Lecturer(s)/Tutor(s):** Dr B Sachs

### PY5318 Political Philosophy

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<tr>
<td>Planned timetable:</td>
<td>1.00 pm - 3.00 pm Tue</td>
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This module will focus on liberalism and its critics. We will examine liberalism's central features and explore the variety of liberal theories (from minimal-state 'classical liberalism' to 'welfare capitalism'). Criticisms of liberalism take many forms, and initially we shall investigate the contemporary communitarian critique of liberalism. If time permits we may also look at some feminist theories which are critical of both liberalism and communitarianism.

- **Programme module type:** Optional for History of Philosophy, Moral, Political and Legal Philosophy or Philosophy Postgraduate Programmes.
- **Learning and teaching methods and delivery:** Weekly contact: 2 hours.
- **Assessment pattern:** Coursework = 100%
- **Module Co-ordinator:** Dr E Ashford and Dr B Ho
- **Lecturer(s)/Tutor(s):** Dr E Ashford and Dr B Ho