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:

PY5101 Current Issues in Philosophy 1				
SCOTCAT Credits:	20	SCQF Level 11	**Semester:**	1
Planned timetable:	11.00 am - 1.00 pm Mon (at the University of Stirling)			

This module, together with PY5102 Current Issues II 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 S Hope
Lecturer(s)/Tutor(s):	Dr S Roca Royes

PY5103 Research Methods				
SCOTCAT Credits:	20	SCQF Level 11	**Semester:**	1
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 A Douglas, Dr K Hurtig, Dr C Johnston

Compulsory module - Semester 2:

PY5102 Current Issues in Philosophy 2				
SCOTCAT Credits:	20	SCQF Level 11	**Semester:**	2
Planned timetable:	To be arranged.			

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 S Prosser and Dr E Glick
Lecturer(s)/Tutor(s):	Dr S Prosser and Dr E Glick

Compulsory module - Whole Year:

PY5099 Dissertation for MLitt Programme				
SCOTCAT Credits:	60	SCQF Level 11	**Semester:**	Whole Year
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:

PY5203 Kant				
SCOTCAT Credits:	20	SCQF Level 11	**Semester:**	1
Planned timetable:	To be arranged.			
This module will focus on Kant's critical philosophy. The primary text will be one of his three Critiques, and it may include consideration of themes in Kant's political philosophy, philosophy of religion or philosophy of history. The Cambridge translations are recommended.				
Programme module type:	Optional for History of Philosophy, Moral, Political and Legal Philosophy, or Philosophy Postgraduate Programmes or other postgraduate programmes within the Department as approved by the MLitt Convenor.			
Learning and teaching methods and delivery:	**Weekly contact**: 2 hours.			
Assessment pattern:	Coursework = 100%			
Module Co-ordinator:	Prof J Timmermann			
Lecturer(s)/Tutor(s):	Prof J Timmermann			

PY5213 Texts in the History of Political Philosophy

SCOTCAT Credits:	20	SCQF Level 11	Semester:	2
Planned timetable:	To be arranged.			

In this module a classic text from the history of philosophy will be studied in detail. The goal will be to situate the text in its historical context, to understand it in its relation to other important works by the same author, and to consider the significance of objections to the text made by the author's contemporaries and by more recent political philosophers. Examples of texts that might be studied include, but are not limited to: Plato's Republic; Aristotle's Politics; Augustine's City of God; Hobbes's Leviathan; Locke's Two Treatises of Government; Rousseau's Social Contract; The Federalist Papers; Burke's Reflections on the Revolution in France; Kant's Doctrine of Right; Hegel's Philosophy of Right; Mill's On Liberty. The module will concentrate on identifying the author's intentions in the text in question, but not to the exclusion of the determining what resources the text offers to political philosophy today.

Programme module type:	Optional for History of Philosophy, or Moral, Political and Legal Philosophy, or Philosophy Postgraduate Programmes, or other postgraduate programmes within the Department as approved by the MLitt Convenor
Learning and teaching methods and delivery:	**Weekly contact**: 2-hour seminar (x 11 weeks)
Assessment pattern:	Coursework = 100%
Module Co-ordinator:	Dr J Harris
Lecturer(s)/Tutor(s):	Dr J Harris

PY5312 Aesthetics

SCOTCAT Credits:	20	SCQF Level 11	Semester:	2
Planned timetable:	To be arranged			

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 Programmes, or other postgraduate programmes within the Department as approved by the MLitt Convenor
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

SCOTCAT Credits:	20	SCQF Level 11	**Semester:**	2
Planned timetable:	To be arranged			

This module covers the relationship between morality and the law, while also attending to whether the various understandings of that relationship are compatible with classic political principles such as the harm principle and the principle of liberal neutrality. It examines the question of whether the law generates moral reasons and whether it should be used to enforce morality, with this latter question being discussed both in the abstract and with respect to three case-studies: exploitation, coercion and blackmail. No prior exposure to philosophy of law is presumed.

Programme module type:	Optional for Moral, Political and Legal Philosophy, or Philosophy Postgraduate Programmes, or other postgraduate programmes within the Department as approved by the MLitt Convenor
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

PY5319 Topics in Recent Moral Theory

SCOTCAT Credits:	20	SCQF Level 11	**Semester:**	1
Planned timetable:	To be arranged			

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, or other postgraduate programmes within the Department as approved by the MLitt Convenor
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

PY5326 Twentieth-Century Philosophers

SCOTCAT Credits:	20	SCQF Level 11	**Semester:**	2
Planned timetable:	To be arranged			

This module provides an introduction to some of the main ideas and arguments presented in the work of major twentieth-century philosophers. In any given year it will focus on one or two figures identifying the context of their work, the sources and figures that influenced them, and the positions and problems they adopted and addressed.

Programme module type:	Optional for History of Philosophy, Moral, Political and Legal Philosophy, or Philosophy Postgraduate Programmes, or other postgraduate programmes within the Department as approved by the MLitt Convenor
Learning and teaching methods and delivery:	**Weekly contact**: 2-hour lecture.
Assessment pattern:	Coursework = 100%
Module Co-ordinator:	Dr A Etinson