GUIDE TO PRE-ADVISING
IN HONOURS PHILOSOPHY

APRIL 2017
for 2017-18 module choices

The Honours Philosophy Adviser is:

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Following the publication of module grades on Tuesday 6 June, you will be able to pre-advice into modules of your choice. The online Pre-Advising system opens on Monday 19 June, and remains open until Friday 30 June.

However, all students intending to take honours modules in Philosophy in 2017-18 are urged to ensure that they have completed the on-line advising process by Friday 23 June at the latest. It is very important that you do this.

You will then meet with the Honours Advisor in pre-sessional week in September 2017 to confirm these choices, and have them validated.

Philosophy will be holding an information session on Wednesday 19 April in the Arts lecture Theatre for all students who will be studying at Honours level next year. At this session, prospective Junior Honours and Senior Honours students will receive advice about Honours study from the Honours Advisor and the Director of Teaching, and will then hear about the optional modules that will be available in 2017-18, and from which they will select their module choices. Staff delivering the modules will be on hand to answer questions about the content and assessment of modules, and information will be available to take away.

All second year students who are hoping to enter either single or joint honours Philosophy next year should attend from 2pm. All junior honours students who will be entering senior honours Philosophy next year should attend from 2.30pm.

It is very important that you attend this information session, so that you are well-informed about the modules you will be choosing next year. Subsequent to the information session, you will have the option to meet with the Honours Advisor, if necessary, if you have further queries (by appointment).
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1. Session Dates 2017-18

Orientation Week: Week commencing Monday 11 September 2017

Martinmas Semester: Monday 18 September 2017 – Friday 22 December 2017

Graduation: Thursday 7 & Friday 8 December 2017

Revision Period: Monday 4 December 2016 – Sunday 10 December 2017

Examinations: Monday 11 December 2017 – Thursday 21 December 2017

Christmas Vacation: Saturday 23 December 2017 – Wednesday 3 January 2018

Candlemas Semester: Monday 29 January 2018 – Friday 25 May 2018

Spring Vacation: Saturday 17 March 2018 – Sunday 1 April 2018

May Day Holiday: Monday 7 May 2018

Revision Period: Saturday 28 April 2018 – Sunday 13 May 2018

Examinations: Monday 14 May 2018 – Friday 25 May 2018

Graduation: Monday 25 June 2018 – Friday 29 June 2018
2. Aims and Objectives of Honours Study in Philosophy

The Honours modules are designed to build on the foundations laid by sub-Honours modules in philosophy. The programme gives students the opportunity to develop and broaden their interests in philosophy, through historical study as well as discussion and evaluation of particular philosophical issues and problems.

In addition, Honours modules are designed to equip students with a broad range of personal and intellectual skills which will not only enable students to complete their degree successfully but will also provide a foundation for further training and prepare them fully for their future careers.

Amongst the broad range of personal and intellectual skills the Philosophy Department recognises and develops are:

- interpretative and critical skills
- independent learning and research
- oral and written communication skills
- constructive discussion skills
- information management
- and time and task management.

The study of Philosophy at Honours is particularly geared to foster the following skills and abilities:

**Analytical and Critical Thinking Abilities:**

- The ability to identify and clarify assumptions and conceptual relationships.
- The ability to construct, evaluate and criticise arguments on a reasoned basis.
- The ability to recognise and employ a variety of argumentative strategies.
- The ability to diagnose where a view has gone wrong and where to put it right.

**Communication Skills:**

- The ability to speak and write with clarity, precision, and rigour.
- The ability to communicate a complex point of view succinctly.

**Interpretative and Comprehension Skills:**

- The ability to master difficult texts and follow complex arguments.
- The ability to listen to and appreciate different points of view and values.
- The ability to recognise and evaluate one’s own presuppositions.
3. Admission to Junior Honours in 2017

For All Arts Students:

- 240 credits at sub-Honours, of which at least 80 should be at 2000-level.

If you fall short of 240 credits, then provided you have at least 40 at second level, you may be permitted to 'trail' the missing modules, i.e., take them in your Junior Honours year. (Speak to the Honours Adviser about this at Pre-Advising in June if you are unsure.) You will not be permitted to trail more than one module (or 30 sub-honours credits) into Honours.

For MA Single Honours Philosophy or Joint Honours Philosophy:

- At least 80 credits from PY1001 – PY2103, to include PY1006 or PY1012; AND
  - Grades of at least 11 in each module for 40 credits from PY2001 – PY2103 gained at first sitting; OR
  - Grades of at least 10 in each module for 40 credits from PY2001 – PY2103 with a mean of 12 or above across these modules, at first sitting.

For BSc Joint Honours Philosophy:

- At least 60 credits from PY1001 – PY2103, to include PY1006 or PY1012; AND
  - Grades of at least 11 from at least one of PY2010 Intermediate Logic and PY2012 Meaning and Knowing at first sitting; AND
  - 20 credits from any other 1000-level or 2000-level PY modules.

For those taking a Philosophy Honours module as part of a General Degree or another Honours programme:

- At least 80 credits from PY1001 – PY2103, to include PY1006 or PY1012; AND
  - Grades of at least 11 in each module for 40 credits from PY2001 – PY2103 gained at first sitting; OR
  - Grades of at least 10 in each module for 40 credits from PY2001 – PY2103 with a mean of 12 or above across these modules, at first sitting.

NB: Philosophy does not implement the policy, used in some other Schools and Departments, of offering “conditional entry” to the first semester of Junior Honours, (which then later becomes full Honours entry on achievement of certain standards during that first semester). Rather, Philosophy has two straightforward categories: either (i) admission to Honours Philosophy for those students who satisfy the above requirements, or (ii) denial of Honours Philosophy entry for those who do not.
4. Programme Requirements

General Explanation of Honours requirements:

There are two categories of Honours module in philosophy:

**3000-level**: PY3100 (Reading Philosophy 1) and PY3200 (Reading Philosophy 2)

**4000-level**: (prefix PY4- plus any cross-listed, e.g. some CL4-, GK4- and ID4-courses).

You must normally take 3000-level modules in your Junior Honours year.

**Single Honours Philosophy**

Over your two Honours years, you must accumulate:

- At least 210 credits in Honours Philosophy (modules labelled PY3-, PY4-, CL4444, CL4452, GK4117, ID4002, ID4859).

You may take up to 30 credits from outside Philosophy Honours (i.e. dip-down to sub-Honours, or dip-across to a different Honours subject), if you are granted permission by the relevant department, but you must accumulate at least 210 Honours credits in total. Across your four Honours semesters, you must take a total of 240 credits (so up to 30 credits can be from sub-Honours modules). Moreover, you must include at least 90 credits of 4000-level modules. Your degree classification is calculated on the basis of all your Honours modules, and does not include any sub-Honours credits.

In your Junior Honours year you must pass:

- PY3100 Reading Philosophy 1 AND/OR PY3200 Reading Philosophy 2
  (i.e. at least 30 credits of 3000-level modules).

In your Junior Honours year you should also take 60-90 credits of 4000-level modules in Honours philosophy (depending on how many 3000-level are taken, and unless you are taking a dip-across or dip-down).

In your Senior Honours year you must:

- Take enough 4000-level modules to ensure that you have across your two Honours years at least 90 4000-level credits, and a total of at least 210 Philosophy Honours credits.

A typical Single Honours student with no dip-down or dip-across will take:

Junior Honours: EITHER 60 credits 3000-level modules, and 60 credits 4000-level modules OR 30 credits 3000-level modules, and 90 credits 4000-level modules
**Senior Honours: 120 credits 4000-level modules.**

**Joint Honours Philosophy in the Arts Faculty**

Over your two Honours years, you must accumulate:

- At least 90 credits in Honours Philosophy (modules labelled PY3-, PY4-, CL4444, CL4452, GK4117, ID4002, ID4859).

You *may* take up to 150 credits from outside Philosophy Honours (i.e. in your other Honours subject, as dip-down to sub-Honours, or dip-across to a third Honours subject if you are granted permission by the relevant department), but you must accumulate at least 210 Honours credits in total. Across your two years, you must take a total of 240 credits (so up to 30 credits can be from sub-Honours modules). Moreover, you must take at least 90 credits of 4000-level modules. Your degree classification is calculated on the basis of all your Honours modules, and does not include any sub-Honours credits.

In your Junior Honours year you must pass:

- At least one of PY3100 *Reading Philosophy 1* or PY3200 *Reading Philosophy 2* (i.e. at least 30 credits of 3000-level modules).

In your Junior Honours year you may also choose to take the other 3000-level module, or to take some of the 4000-level modules in Honours philosophy.

In your Senior Honours year you must:

- Take enough 4000-level modules to ensure that you have across your four Honours semesters a total of at least 90 Honours philosophy credits, at least 90 4000-level credits, and a total of at least 210 Honours credits.

A *typical* Joint Honours student with no dip-across or dip-down will take:

Junior Honours year: 60 credits in the other Honours subject, plus 30 credits of a Philosophy 3000-level module, plus 30 credits of either the other 3000-level Philosophy module or a 4000-level Philosophy module.

Senior Honours year: 60 credits in the other Honours subject, plus 60 credits of 4000-level Philosophy modules.

**Joint Honours Philosophy (BSc) in the Science Faculty (with Science or Maths subjects)**

[NB: this degree programme was formerly named ‘BSc Logic and Philosophy of Science’ but has, since 2015-16, been renamed ‘BSc Philosophy’]

Over your two Honours years, you must accumulate:
• At least 90 credits in Honours Philosophy (modules labelled PY3-, PY4-, CL4444, CL4452, GK4117, ID4002, ID4859).

You may take up to 150 credits from outside Philosophy Honours (i.e. in your other Honours subject, as dip-down to sub-Honours, or dip-across to a third Honours subject, if you are granted permission by the relevant department), but you must accumulate at least 210 Honours credits in total. Across your two years, you must take a total of 240 credits (so up to 30 credits can be from sub-Honours modules). Moreover, you must take at least 90 credits of 4000-level modules. Your degree classification is calculated on the basis of all your Honours modules, and does not include any sub-Honours credits.

In your Junior Honours year you must pass:

• PY3100: Reading Philosophy 1.

In your Junior Honours year you may also choose to take the other 3000-level module, PY3200: Reading Philosophy 2, or to take one of the 4000-level modules in Honours philosophy.

In your Senior Honours year you must:

• Take enough 4000-level modules to ensure that you have across your two Honours years a total of at least 90 Honours philosophy credits, at least 90 4000-level credits, and a total of at least 210 Honours credits.

A typical BSc Philosophy student with no dip-across or dip-down will take:

Junior Honours year: 60 credits in the other Honours subject, plus 30 credits of PY3100, plus 30 credits of either the other 3000-level Philosophy module or a 4000-level Philosophy module.

Senior Honours year: 60 credits in the other Honours subject, plus 60 credits of 4000-level Philosophy modules.
5. Honours Philosophy modules offered in 2017-18

These modules carry 30 credits each, except where indicated otherwise. Definitive information about pre-requisites, anti-requisites, assessment etc. can be found in the University Course Catalogue.

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>SEMESTER 1 (SEPTEMBER 2017 – DECEMBER 2017)</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>3000-level Module:</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>Py3100 Reading Philosophy 1: Texts in Language, Logic, Mind, Epistemology, Metaphysics, and Science</td>
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<td><strong>4000-level Modules:</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>PY4606 Contemporary Epistemology</td>
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<td>PY4608 Political Philosophy in the Age of Revolutions</td>
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<td>PY4625 Philosophy and Public Affairs: Global Justice</td>
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<td>PY4635 Contemporary Moral Theory</td>
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<td>PY4638 Philosophy of Religion</td>
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<td>PY4640 Mediaeval Philosophy</td>
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<tr>
<td>PY4645 Philosophy and Literature</td>
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<tr>
<td>PY4649 Core Works in Continental Philosophy</td>
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<tr>
<td>PY4701 Philosophy and Pedagogy (15 credits)*</td>
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<tr>
<td>ID4002 Communication and Teaching in Arts and Humanities (15 credits)**</td>
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<td>*can only be taken with ID4002</td>
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<td>**ID4002 by application and interview only; deadline has now passed</td>
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<tr>
<th>SEMESTER 2 (JANUARY 2018– MAY 2018)</th>
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<tr>
<td><strong>3000-level Module:</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>Py3200 Reading Philosophy 2: Texts in Ethics, Meta-ethics, Religion, Aesthetics, and Political Philosophy</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>4000-level Modules:</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>PY4610 Philosophy of Perception</td>
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<td>PY4612 Advanced Logic</td>
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<td>PY4622 Kant’s Critical Philosophy</td>
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<td>PY4632 Contemporary Philosophy of Language</td>
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In addition you may take at most one of the following modules:
PY4698 Dissertation in Philosophy (Senior Honours only, over two semesters)
PY4699 Dissertation in Philosophy (Senior Honours only, over one semester)

NB: Dissertation modules not available to those taking PY4701
Remember that you may also dip across to other Honours subjects.

6. Details of non-dissertation Honours modules for 17-18

All Honours modules will involve three hours of contact time per week, in some combination of lecture-time and smaller-group seminar-time (except for the 3000-level 'Reading Philosophy' modules, which involve one 2-hour workshop per week).

Assessment methods for each module have been outlined here, but further details of each assessment element will be provided by the module coordinator. Note that there is some variety in assessment methods, with a number of modules moving away from the 'essay/exam' model, and some modules having presentation elements.

The final module content may differ slightly from the descriptions given below; note also that while some modules specify a course text, others just suggest useful preparatory reading. If you would like advice about what book(s) to buy, please contact the lecturer in question.

**FIRST SEMESTER HONOURS MODULES 2017-18**

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<tr>
<th>Course Code</th>
<th>Course Title</th>
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<tr>
<td>PY3100</td>
<td>READING PHILOSOPHY 1: TEXTS IN LANGUAGE, LOGIC, MIND, EPISTEMOLOGY, METAPHYSICS, AND SCIENCE</td>
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**Credits:** 30.0

**Pre-Requisite:** PY1006 or PY1012 and 40 credits in 2000-level PY modules

**Module coordinator:** Patrick Greenough (pmg2)

**Module teachers:** Team Taught

**Class Hour:** Choice of 2-hour groups to sign up to (plus autonomous learning group time to be arranged)

**Description:** This module is designed to develop the philosophical skills students have acquired over their sub-Honours years, and acquaint them with key works in core areas of philosophy. The module involves close study of philosophical texts - historical and contemporary - that address a variety of topics within metaphysics, epistemology, the philosophies of logic and language, mind and science. Students will be required to carry out close study and discussion of these texts in staff-led weekly
workshops, thereby furthering their skills of critical evaluation and analysis. Students will also take turns in presenting papers to the workshop, in pair-groups, which will help them to develop important communication skills and provide an opportunity for teamwork.

**Assessment method:** 100% continuous assessment (3 elements, including seminar presentations)

### PY4606 CONTEMPORARY EPISTEMOLOGY

**Credits:** 30.0  
**Pre-Requisite:** PY1006, or PY1012  
**Module coordinator and teacher:** Katherine Hawley (email: kjh5)  
**Class Hour:** TBA

**Description:** Knowledge is power, but ignorance is bliss. What we know, and what we don’t know, is intimately connected to who we are, both collectively and individually. This module will explore the borderzones between epistemology, ethics, and political philosophy, focusing on three main issues. First, what is the epistemological significance of our race, gender, social class, or other identities? Second, what are the democratic significance of expert and citizen knowledge, and how is public discourse threatened by group polarization, ignorance or conspiracy theorising? Third, what tensions are there between our right to knowledge, and our right to privacy?

**Assessment method:** 100% continuous assessment (2 essays)

### PY4608 POLITICAL PHILOSOPHY IN THE AGE OF REVOLUTIONS

**Credits:** 30.0  
**Pre-Requisite:** PY1006 or PY1012  
**Module coordinator and teacher:** James Harris (email: jah15)  
**Class Hour:** TBA

**Description:** This module examines connections between political philosophy and political action. It focuses on political philosophy written in Britain in the seventeenth and eighteenth centuries, and on Hobbes, Locke, Hume, and Burke in particular. It considers this political philosophy in relation to the great political events of that age - the English Civil War, the Glorious Revolution of 1688, the American Revolution, and the French Revolution. In each case we will examine how historical events shape philosophical thinking and how philosophical thinking helps shape subsequent historical events. We will explore how political philosophy shaped the expressed ideology of the revolutionary movements and how this influence was codified in various constitutions and documents. The module will also consider how once revolutionary philosophies transform into defences of the status quo following success in securing political power.

**Assessment method:** 100% continuous assessment (2 essays)
PY4625 PHILOSOPHY AND PUBLIC AFFAIRS: GLOBAL JUSTICE

Credits: 30.0
Pre-Requisite: PY1006 or PY1012
Module coordinator and teacher: Elizabeth Ashford (email: ea10)
Class Hour: TBA

Description: This module is an introduction to contemporary developments in the overlap between moral, political and social philosophy and public policy. It may explore debates on a number of issues such as just war theory, global distributive justice, education and welfare, arts and culture, environment and bioethics. In 2017-18, the module will address the topic of global justice, focusing on the nature and foundations of human rights, in particular on the status and moral implications of a human right to subsistence. It will also address contemporary developments in just war theory and environmental ethics.

Assessment method: 100% continuous assessment (2 essays)

PY4635 CONTEMPORARY MORAL THEORY

Credits: 30.0
Pre-requisite: PY1006 or PY1012
Module coordinator: Theron Pummer (email: tgp4)
Module teachers: Ben Sachs (email: bas7)
Class Hour: TBA

Description: This module aims to provide a critical appreciation of the main contemporary moral theories. It provides an in-depth examination of consequentialism - the view that one should always act so as to bring about the most good - as well as objections to the view and its main alternatives: e.g., Aristotelianism, feminist ethics, Kantianism.

Assessment method: 100% coursework (3 elements, including weekly seminar blogs)

PY4638 PHILOSOPHY OF RELIGION

Credits: 30.0
Pre-requisite: PY1006 or PY1012
Module coordinator: Sarah Broadie (email: sjb15)
Module teachers: Alex Douglas (axd) and Tim Mulgan (tpm6)
Class Hour: TBA

Description: This module aims to provide a philosophical understanding of the phenomenon of religion and its relation to other central human activities, studying
such topics as religious and cultural diversity, religious experience, belief and justification, faith and reason, religious language, religion and metaphysics, religion and science.

**Assessment method:** 100% continuous assessment (2 - 3 elements)

### PY4640 MEDIAEVAL PHILOSOPHY

**Credits:** 30.0  
**Pre-requisite:** PY1006 or PY1012  
**Module coordinator:** Mark Thakkar (email: mnat)  
**Class Hour:** TBA  

**Description:**  
This module is a selective introduction to over a thousand years of Western philosophy before Descartes. We will focus on the ‘golden age’ of the 13th and 14th centuries, which are most famously home to Thomas Aquinas and William of Ockham respectively. Topics will vary from year to year, but may include: bivalence, foreknowledge and determinism; whether the past can be changed; whether the past could be infinite; whether lines are composed of indivisible points; what constitutes logical validity; what the relationship is between conditionals and arguments. The module will involve close reading of primary texts in a weekly workshop.

**Assessment method:** 100% continuous assessment (2 elements)

### PY4645 PHILOSOPHY AND LITERATURE

**Credits:** 30.0  
**Pre-requisite:** PY1006 or PY1012  
**Module coordinator:** Lisa Jones (email: lj14)  
**Class Hour:** TBA  

**Description:** This module invites students to philosophically consider the practice, aims, and values of one of humankind’s most pre-eminent art forms, literature. We will be asking such questions, and investigating such issues, as: how is literature defined? What is the literary work? Why, and how, should we read literature? Since most literary works are also fictional, we will also focus on the nature of fiction, asking how fiction is defined, and investigating aspects of our engagement with fictional worlds and characters. Students should note this is not a module in literary theory, nor in literary criticism; nor will we be concerned with philosophy as literature, nor philosophy in literature; rather, our enquiry will be a form of philosophical (primarily analytical) aesthetics, carried out in relation to this singular art form.

**Assessment method:** 100% continuous assessment (3 elements, including a research & presentation element)
PY469 CORE WORKS IN CONTINENTAL PHILOSOPHY

Credits: 30.0
Pre-requisite: PY1006 or PY1012
Module coordinator: Walter Pedriali (email: gbpi)
Class Hour: TBA

Description: This module offers an in-depth study of one of more of the classic texts within so-called 'continental' philosophy. Typical examples of texts may be taught are: Heidegger's Being and Time, Hegel's Phenomenology of Spirit, Nietzsche's Beyond Good and Evil and On the Genealogy of Morals, or Sartre's Being and Nothingness. Depending on the work studied, typical topics will include: the role of history for philosophy, the role of the self and self-consciousness, the foundations of ontology and its relation to our human existence, and the value of our value systems.

Assessment method: 100% continuous assessment (3 elements, including seminar presentations)

PY4701 PHILOSOPHY AND PEDAGOGY

Credits: 15.0
Pre-Requisite: PY1006
Availability: Available only to students taking ID4002, Senior Honours Only
Co-requisite: ID4002
Module coordinator and teacher: Lisa Jones (email: lj14)
Class Hour: by supervision only.

Description: This module is a complement to ID4002 - Communication and Teaching in Arts and Humanities (a placement module in which students gain substantial experience of a working educational environment, and of communicating philosophical ideas or themes to school pupils). In this module, students will have the opportunity to carry out further study into the place of philosophy in education and/or the role of philosophy in teaching. This is a guided self-study module, which will be supervised by a member of philosophy staff. It is available only to participants in ID4002.

Assessment method: 100% continuous assessment (1 element: 5000-word essay)

ID4002 COMMUNICATION AND TEACHING IN ARTS AND HUMANITIES

Information regarding this module was circulated previously; entry is by application and interview only – deadline for applications was 2 March 2017.
SECOND SEMESTER HONOURS MODULES 2017-18

**PY3200 READING PHILOSOPHY 2: TEXTS IN ETHICS, META-ETHICS, RELIGION, AESTHETICS AND POLITICAL PHILOSOPHY** (Core module)

**Credits:** 30.0  
**Pre-Requisite:** PY1006 or PY1012 and 40 credits in 2000-level PY modules  
**Module coordinator:** to be confirmed  
**Module teachers:** Team Taught  
**Class Hour:** Choice of 2-hour groups to sign up to (plus autonomous learning group time to be arranged)

**Description:** This module is designed to develop the philosophical skills students have acquired over their sub-Honours years, and acquaint them with key works in core areas of philosophy. The module involves close study of philosophical texts - historical and contemporary - that address a variety of topics within ethics, metaethics, aesthetics, philosophy of religion and political philosophy. Students will be required to carry out close study and discussion of these texts in staff-led weekly workshops, thereby furthering their skills of critical evaluation and analysis. Students will also take turns in presenting papers to the workshop, in pair-groups, which will help them to develop important communication skills and provide an opportunity for teamwork.

**Assessment method:** 100% continuous assessment (3 elements, including seminar presentations)

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**PY4610 PHILOSOPHY OF PERCEPTION**

**Credits:** 30.0  
**Pre-requisite:** PY1006 or PY1012  
**Module coordinator and teacher:** Simon Prosser (email: sjp7)  
**Class Hour:** TBA

**Description:** This module concerns a variety of contemporary philosophical issues relating to perception. Attention will be paid to issues in philosophy of mind, epistemology and metaphysics as well as the relevance of empirical research in cognitive science. Topics covered are likely to include the arguments from illusion and hallucination, sense-data, direct and indirect realism, naïve realism, disjunctive theories of perception, the relation between perception and belief, the relation between the representational content of an experience and its phenomenal character, Molyneaux's question, colour experience and the metaphysics of colours, the perception of change, and the question of whether perceptual experiences have non-conceptual contents.

**Assessment method:** 100% continuous assessment (3 essays)
**PY4612 ADVANCED LOGIC**

**Credits:** 30.0  
**Pre-requisite:** PY1006 or PY1012  
**Module coordinator and teacher:** to be confirmed  
**Class Hour:** TBA  

**Description:** The module presupposes facility in the elementary practice of logic provided by PY2001/PY2010. This module makes use of meta-theoretical techniques to make logic itself the subject of formal investigation. The main goals of the module will be to tackle the standard metatheoretical results: completeness, compactness, the Löwenheim-Skolem theorems, and Gödel's celebrated incompleteness theorems. Along the way, there will be preparatory discussion of elementary set theory, model theory, and recursion theory.

**Assessment method:** 100% continuous assessment (2 elements: weekly exercises, and take-home examination)

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**PY4622 KANT’S CRITICAL PHILOSOPHY**

**Credits:** 30.0  
**Pre-requisite:** PY1006 or PY1012  
**Anti-requisites:** PY4811  
**Module coordinator and teacher:** Michael Walschotts (email: mw232)  
**Class hour:** TBA  

**Description:** The purpose of this module is twofold. First, it examines the foundations of Kant’s critical philosophy, often called ‘transcendental idealism’. For this purpose, we shall read selections from Kant’s *Prolegomena* (1783). Secondly, it will explore one of the three ‘Critiques’ Kant wrote as examples of this system: either (i) The Critique of Pure Reason (1781/87, describing the ‘Copernican Turn’ in Metaphysics and Epistemology), (ii) the Critique of Practical Reason (1788, a further exploration of the ethical theory of categorical commands as familiar from the Groundwork) or (iii) the Critique of Judgement (1790, Kant’s theory of art and aesthetic judgement).

For 2017-18, the focus will be close study of Kant’s second Critique, the *Critique of Practical Reason* (1788). In an effort to understand this work within the context of Kant’s broader philosophical project (especially his transcendental idealism), we will also read selections from some of his other works, such as the *Critique of Pure Reason* (1781/1787), the *Prolegomena* (1783), and the *Groundwork of the Metaphysics of Morals* (1785). Topics that will be the focus of our discussion may include: the nature of moral goodness, freedom, moral obligation, Kant’s idea of “respect” for the moral law and moral motivation, the priority of the right to the good, the notion of the highest good, and moral education.

**Assessment method:** 50% continuous assessment (essay, and presentation element); 50% exam
### PY4632 CONTEMPORARY PHILOSOPHY OF LANGUAGE

**Credits:** 30.0  
**Pre-requisite:** PY1006 or PY1012  
**Module coordinator and teacher:** Ephraim Glick (email: eg35)  
**Class Hour:** TBA

**Description:** Using contemporary texts, this module will be an in-depth exploration of recent issues in philosophy of language. Topics that may be discussed include context and indexicality, indefinites and definites, quantifiers, modality and tense, or the relationships among singular propositions, singular thoughts, and singular terms.

**Assessment method:** 100% continuous assessment (4 elements, including weekly seminar blog)

### PY4653 TOLERATION IN THE EARLY MODERN PERIOD

**Credits:** 30.0  
**Pre-requisite:** PY1006 or PY1012  
**Module coordinator:** Adam Etinson (email: ae45)  
**Module teacher:** Alex Douglas (email: axd)  
**Class Hour:** TBA

**Description:** This module offers an in-depth study of the theory and practice of religious toleration in the Early Modern Period (16th & 17th centuries). The module covers classic texts, such as Locke's Letter Concerning Toleration, but also spends a good deal of time exploring the thought of lesser-known figures: Pierre Bayle, Sebastian Costellio, Jean Bodin, etc. The main purpose of the course is to try to understand the variety of arguments offered both for and against religious tolerance in the Early Modern Period, the historical background or context informing these arguments, and the relationship between these arguments and the actual practice of religious tolerance or intolerance.

**Assessment method:** 100% continuous assessment (3 elements, including 2 essays and a seminar presentation element))

### PY4655 ADVANCED METAETHICS

**Credits:** 30.0  
**Pre-Requisite:** PY1006 or PY1012  
**Anti-requisite:** PY3702  
**Module coordinator and teacher:** Justin Snedegar (email: js280)  
**Class Hour:** TBA
**Description:** We take ourselves to know lots of moral truths: slavery is unjust, murder is wrong, we shouldn't ignore those in need. Beliefs like this are among those that we're most certain of. Most of us also take moral questions that we don't yet have a view about to be very important, as well. But throughout the history of philosophy, philosophers have worried about the nature and status of morality. What, exactly, are we saying when we say that murder is wrong? What is it for something to be good or bad? Even if we take ourselves to know that murder is wrong, how do we know? What did we have to do to learn it? Some philosophers have been moved by the lack of satisfactory answers to questions like these to question the whole enterprise of morality. Even if we can agree that there are some things that are morally wrong for us to do, and even if we can know what those are, we may ask: So what? Why should we do what morality demands of us? This module addresses these kinds of metaethical questions.

**Assessment:** 100% coursework (2 elements: 5 short critical summaries (800-1,000 words) (50%); 1 3,500 word essay (50%))

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**PY4656 THE PHILOSOPHY OF LOVE AND SEX**

**Credits:** 30.0  
**Pre-requisite:** PY1006 or PY1012  
**Module coordinator and teacher:** Alison Duncan Kerr (email: adk10)  
**Class Hour:** TBA

**Description:** This module will introduce students to important historical and contemporary literature on the philosophy of love and sex. Love, friendship, and sex are widely accepted as essential to a flourishing human life, yet few of us actually think critically through issues concerning love and sex despite the fact that they both play such a fundamental role in our lives. This course will strengthen students' critical thinking skills while exploring the nature of love and sex through the consideration of questions like: What is love? Does parental love differ from sibling love, friendship love, erotic love, or romantic love? Why might love be essential to a flourishing human life? To answer these questions properly requires thinking about definitions, historical discussions, and implications of love. What is sex? When we want to have sex, what is it that we actually want? Why do we want sex? What are the moral, social, and physical issues concerning sex?

**Assessment method:** 100% coursework (3 elements, including weekly seminar blogs)
CL4413 LOGOS, NATURE AND PSYCHE

Credits: 30.0  
Pre-requisite: Permission of the Classics Honours Adviser (Carlos Machado, carm3)  
Module coordinator and teacher: Stephen Halliwell (email: fsh)  
Class Hour: Wednesdays 11 - 1

Description: This module investigates the origins of Greek (and therefore Western) philosophy in the period of the so-called Presocratics, i.e. roughly the sixth and first half of the fifth century BC. It explores ideas which have had a major influence (e.g. on science and religion, as well as on philosophy itself) and which are still relevant to attempts to make comprehensive sense of the world. The issues addressed by the Presocratics include the nature and structure of the cosmos, the workings of the mind, the position of human beings in relation to the rest of reality, and the processes of rational argument, analysis and explanation. The main thinkers to be studied, who include some of the most remarkable figures in archaic Greek culture, are Thales, Anaximander, Anaximenes, Xenophanes, Pythagoras, Heraclitus, Parmenides, Anaxagoras, Empedocles, and Democritus. This is a module for students who like grappling with big and challenging questions. The prescribed coursebook will be R. D. McKirahan, Philosophy before Socrates, 2nd edn. (Indianapolis/Cambridge, 2011).

Some preliminary bibliography:  
- Barnes, J., Early Greek Philosophy (Penguin Classics, 1987/2002), Introduction  
- Waterfield, R., The First Philosophers (World’s Classics, 2000), Introduction  

Assessment method: 50% continuous assessment; 50% exam

7. Details of Dissertation Modules

You can choose to do at most one 30-credit dissertation module, either PY4698 or PY4699. These modules are only open to students in their Senior Honours year. Students taking PY4701 in their final year are not permitted to take a dissertation module. Joint Honours students also have the option (subject to agreement by appropriate staff members) of doing a joint dissertation – see details in the Course Catalogue for PY4794.

PY4698 DISSERTATION (WHOLE YEAR)

Prerequisite: At least 60 Honours Philosophy credits including either PY3100 or PY3200  
Anti-requisite: PY4802, PY4699, PY4701  
Deadline for submission: 15 May 2018 (via electronic submission)
Description: This module aims to develop the philosophical skills of literature review, accurate exposition, clear analysis, and critical thinking for oneself, by writing a dissertation on a selected topic, with the supervision of a tutor.

PY4699 DISSERTATION IN PHILOSOPHY (EITHER SEMESTER)

Prerequisite: At least 60 Honours Philosophy credits including either PY3100 or PY3200

Anti-requisite: PY4802, PY4698, PY4701

Deadline for submission: on 2 Jan 2018 for semester 1; on 15 May 2018 for semester 2. (Each via electronic submission)

Description: This module aims to develop the philosophical skills of literature review, accurate exposition, clear analysis, and critical thinking for oneself, by writing a dissertation on a selected topic, with the supervision of a tutor.

IF YOU WISH TO DO A DISSERTATION (IN EITHER SEMESTER OR OVER BOTH) THEN you must:

I. get advice—before the summer vacation—from member(s) of staff on the selection of a manageable topic,
II. secure the agreement of a member of staff to supervise your work on it, and
III. submit a proposal form to the Philosophy main office (either in hard copy, or emailed to philosophy@) by Friday June 23rd 2017 (the day by which you should also have completed pre-advising online). The Dissertation Proposal Form is available on the Philosophy Department website, and is currently at this address (which may change):

http://www.st-andrews.ac.uk/philosophy/docs/honsdiss.pdf

[NB: for joint dissertations, a separate letter of agreement must be completed between the two schools/subjects – this will require advance discussion with Honours Advisors and/or Directors of Teaching in each subject, so you must consult staff in good time. The letter of agreement can be found online at https://www.st-andrews.ac.uk/media/teaching-and-learning/documents/joint-dissertation-letter-of-agreement-16-17 ]

The role of the supervisor is to meet the student either fortnightly over one semester or monthly over two semesters, to advise on relevant reading and on the general treatment of the topic, but not to give very detailed feedback on draft material, i.e. the main composition and revision must be done by the student.

The supervisor will also be one of the markers of the dissertation. The other marker will be a member of staff whose expertise fits the topic of the dissertation.
The upper limit on length is now 7,500 words, including all quotations and footnotes, but excluding the bibliography.

Please note that while your dissertation may well be informed by work done in your previous essays and your other coursework it should not reproduce work which you have already submitted for your degree. (Consult your supervisor if you are unsure about this.)

Samples of Dissertations which have achieved a first-class grade are available to consult from the Undergraduate Course Administrator. Your dissertation supervisor will also be able to give you detailed advice on how to write a first-class dissertation.

Dissertations are to be submitted in electronic copy only, by the date specified above. The electronic copy should be submitted via MMS by 23:59. Submissions must occur by the dissertation deadline, if time penalties are to be avoided.

8. Honours Philosophy modules that may be offered in 2018-19

The 4000-level modules listed below MAY be offered by the Department: but whether they or different modules are taught will depend on several factors, including staff availability. So you should not rely on any of these modules being offered: they are included merely as a guide that may help you to decide what modules to take in 2017-18. A more definitive list of 2018-19 modules will be provided in next year’s Pre-Advising booklet (available in April 2018).

- PY4607  Continental European Philosophy from Descartes to Leibniz
- PY4614  Philosophy of Mind
- PY4615  Metaphysics
- PY4624  Philosophy of Art
- PY4626  Life and Death
- PY4634  Philosophy of Logic
- PY4639  Philosophy of Creativity
- PY4643  Philosophy of Law
- PY4644  Rousseau on Human Nature, Society, and Freedom
- PY4646  Reasons for Action and Belief
- PY4647  Humans, Animals, and Nature
- PY4648  Conceptual Engineering and its Role in Philosophy
- PY4650  Philosophy, Feminism, and Gender
- PY4651  Effective Altruism
- PY4652  Philosophy of Human Rights
- PY4701  Philosophy and Pedagogy (15 credits)
- CL4458  Ethics and Lifestyles: Philosophy and Ways of Living in Antiquity
- ID4002  Communication and Teaching in Arts and Humanities (15 credits)

In addition you may take at most one of the following modules:
- PY4698 *Dissertation in Philosophy* (Senior Honours only, over two semesters)
- PY4699 *Dissertation in Philosophy* (Senior Honours only, over one semester)

*Remember that you may dip across to other Honours subjects.*