

Programme Specification

I. Programme Details

Programme title	World Philosophies			
Final award (<i>exit awards will be made as outlined in the Taught Degree Regulations</i>)	BA	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	MA	<input type="checkbox"/>
	BSc	<input type="checkbox"/>	MSc	<input type="checkbox"/>
	Other ...	<input type="checkbox"/>		
Mode of delivery	Distance-learning	<input type="checkbox"/>		
	On-campus	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>		
Professional body accreditation (<i>if applicable</i>)	n/a			
Academic year this specification was created	2016/17			
Dates of any subsequent amendments				

II. Programme Aims: What will the programme allow you to achieve?

<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. To train students in foundational philosophical concepts, practices, and themes (logic, hermeneutics, epistemology, ontology, ethics, aesthetics, etc.). 2. To develop a critical awareness of the dynamic range of philosophical traditions and the intellectual value of expanding the horizons of western philosophy through exposure to philosophical traditions of Asia, Africa and the Middle East. 3. To encourage a dialogical approach to the study of philosophy by bringing together the study of western philosophical traditions with non-western philosophies in their vernacular, historical, and contemporary contexts. 4. To develop a deep understanding of a range of culturally specific systems of thought and the ability to converse in more than one intellectual language or system of thought. 5. To enable specialism in philosophical traditions or themes and exposure to the languages through which these other philosophies express themselves.
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III. Programme Learning Outcomes: What will you learn on the programme?

There are four key areas in which you will develop:

Learning Outcomes: Knowledge	
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Familiarity with core concepts, themes, and arguments in the discipline of Philosophy; 2. Knowledge of the history of Philosophy as a discipline; 3. Fluency in a range of philosophical traditions and systems of thought from Asia, Africa and the Middle East; 4. Training in theories and practices of criticism and interpretation in relation to western philosophical systems, both analytic and continental. 5. Training in theories and practices of criticism and interpretation in relation to core topics in world philosophies, historical and contemporary. 6. Knowledge of a variety of intellectual frameworks and key concepts that enable close engagement with the core problematic of intellectual insularity and the value of dialogue across philosophical traditions. 	
Typical Teaching Methods	Typical Assessment Methods
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Acquisition through coursework, examinations, long essays and dissertation; 	

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Acquisition through core seminar sessions and seminar presentations and discussions; • Acquisition through supervised individual research and supervised coursework, regular monitoring and feedback on student progress. 	
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Learning Outcomes: Intellectual (thinking) skills	
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Precision in assessment of evidence and argumentation. 2. Capacity to discuss philosophical concepts and problems in an articulate, informed, and intellectual manner. 3. Critical acumen in the assessment of philosophical arguments and interpretations; 4. The ability to assess evidence and arguments independently; 5. Effective presentation of complex philosophical arguments; 6. Development and application of self-reflexive approaches to dominant issues in the field of world philosophies. 	
Typical Teaching Methods	Typical Assessment Methods
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Acquisition of all skills will be fostered through the programme's core and compulsory modules, subsidiary modules that offer training in specific non-western philosophical traditions and systems of thought, independent study projects (ISPs), and individual supervision of research topics. • Development of judgment about validity and cogency of complex forms of argumentation will be fostered through training in reading practices, the production of essays and critical reflection papers in the assessed journal components of the three core module seminar syllabi, as well as in-class presentations and exercises, through the assessment forms of the subsidiary modules, and through individual ISP supervisions. 	

Learning Outcomes: Subject-based practical skills
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Application of logic and critical thinking to both abstract and real-world problems; 2. Ability to assess complex arguments in cultural context; 3. Ability to develop and articulate clear and strong arguments across a range of contentious issues and debates. 4. Academic and professional writing to the highest standards; 5. IT-based information retrieval, processing and data organization; 6. Research project design 7. Presentational skills 8. Independent study skills 9. Reflexive learning

Typical Teaching Methods	Typical Assessment Methods
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Acquisition of logic and critical thinking to both abstract and real-world problems through coursework and exercises in compulsory module 'Introduction to Logic, Critical Reasoning and Argumentation; • Acquisition of ability to assess complex arguments in cultural context, and ability to develop and articulate clear and strong arguments across a range of contentious issues and debates through coursework, practical exercises , and examinations in all modules across the core and subsidiary syllabi; • Acquisition of academic and professional writing skills through the preparation of long essays, seminar reports and presentations, and ISP. • Acquisition of information retrieval and analysis skills through module teaching and training sessions offered by the Library and Information Services staff and the Academic Development Directorate. • Acquisition of presentational and research skills through seminar presentations and ISP workshops. • Acquisition of essays writing techniques, research skills, and presentation techniques through skill workshops offered by the Academic Development Directorate and feedback on coursework; • Acquisition of independent study skills and research techniques through supervised individual research and writing (ISPs and long essays). • Acquisition of reflexive learning through seminar discussion, production of research journals in each core module, and supervised coursework. 	

Learning Outcomes: Transferrable skills	
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Problem solving, argumentation, and research skills 2. Oral and written communication 3. Critical and independent thought 4. Synthesising of difficult and wide ranging empirical material 5. Regional, tradition-based, and/or linguistic specialism 6. Working to deadlines and to high standards of presentation and argumentation 7. Ability to make assessments involving complex factors 	
Typical Teaching Methods	Typical Assessment Methods

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Problem solving, argumentation, synthesis, critical assessment, and research skills through in-class exercises, coursework (long and short essays and response papers), seminar presentations and discussions, examinations; • Oral communication through seminar presentations and class discussions; • Concise and clear written communication through essay and dissertation writing; • Regular monitoring and feedback on student progress throughout each year of the programme; • Substantial elements of independent learning, with regular feedback and discussion with supervisors; • Regular seminar discussion, seminar presentations, research training workshops to support ISPs, and individual supervisions. 	
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General statement on contact hours – undergraduate programmes

All full-time undergraduate programmes consist of 120 credits per year, in modules of 30 or 15 credits. They are taught over 10 or 20 weeks. The programme structure shows which modules are compulsory and which optional.

As a rough guide, 1 credit equals approximately 10 hours of work. Most of this will be independent study (see <https://www.soas.ac.uk/admissions/ug/teaching/>). Also included are class time, which may include lectures, seminars and other classes. Some subjects may have more class time than others – a typical example of this are language acquisition modules.

In the Department of [...], most undergraduate modules have a [...]-hour lecture every week. Some, but not all, also have a [...]-hour seminar every week/every [...] weeks.

More information can be found on individual module pages.

BA World Philosophies						
Year 1	credits	30	15	15	30	30
	module code	158000197	158000193	158000198		
	module title	Introduction to World Philosophies	Introduction to Logic, Critical Reasoning and Argumentation	Metaphysics in Comparative Perspective	from list A	open option
	FHEQ status	level ?? core module	level ?? compulsory module	level ?? compulsory module	compulsory module	open option
Year 2	credits	30	15	15	30	30
	module code	158000135	158000199	158000196		from list B (Traditions of Philosophy) guided option*
	module title	Anglo-European Philosophies and Critical Dialogue: Hermeneutics and Beyond	Comparative Ethics	Philosophies of Language	from list B (Traditions of Philosophy)	OR from list C or language list guided option*
	FHEQ status	level ?? compulsory module	level ?? compulsory module	level ?? compulsory module	guided option*	guided option*
Year 3	credits	30	30	30	30	
	module code	158000116	158000194		from list B (Traditions of Philosophy) guided option*	
	module title	'The Margins of Philosophy': Postcolonial, Gender, and Queer Epistemologies	Independent Study Project in World Philosophies	from list B (Traditions of Philosophy)	OR from list C or language list guided option*	
	FHEQ status	level ?? compulsory module	level ?? compulsory module	guided option*	guided option*	

List of modules (subject to availability)

FHEQ level	Code	Title	Credits
4	158000110	Buddhism: Foundation	15
4	158000118	Hinduism: Foundation	15
??	158000189	Islam: Foundations	15
4	158000205	R140 Introduction to Jainism	15
4	158000148	Judaism: Foundation	15
4	158000100	Religions of East and Central Asia	15

List B: Traditions of Philosophy

FHEQ level	Code	Title	Credits	Prerequisites
??	155901397	African Philosophy	15	
??	155901398	Afrophone Philosophies	15	Prerequisite: 'African Philosophy.'
5	154800308	Buddhist Philosophy	15	Prerequisite: 'Buddhism: Foundation'
5	158000172	Death and the Meaning of Life	30	
??	158000188	Developments in Muslim Religious Thought	15	Strongly recommended as prerequisite: 'Islam: Foundation'
6	155901338	Islamic Intellectual History	30	
6	158000206	R440 Jaina Philosophy	15	
??	158000168	Jewish Identity	15	
??	158000192	Modern Indian Philosophy	30	
??	158000178	Modern Jewish Thought	15	
5	158000054	Non-Violence in Jain Literature, Philosophy and Law	30	
6	158000098	Philosophies of the Vedic Traditions: Mimamsa, Vedanta and Vyakarana	15	
5	158000005	Religion, Power, and Society in Modern Africa	30	
5	158000123	Religious Philosophies of Ancient and Medieval India	30	
5	158000147	Shi'a Islam: Religious Authority and Community Identity	30	
5	158000181	Taoism: the Great Tradition	15	
??	158000156	The Holocaust and the Problem of Evil	15	
5	158000029	Zoroastrianism in the Ancient and Modern Worlds	30	

List C: extra-departmental modules

FHEQ level	Code	Title	Credits	Prerequisites
??	154900181	Exploring the Arts of Southeast Asia: Aesthetics and Politics of Sexual Difference	15	
??	154900180	The 'Historical' Buddha: Explorations in Southeast Asian Arts	15	
4	152900069	General Linguistics	30	
4	153400001	Introduction to Political Theory	30	
6	155901338	Islamic Intellectual Tradition	30	
6	155200037	Islamic Law	30	
6	152900021	Issues in Semantics	15	Prerequisite: Intermediate Semantics
??	152900086	Language and Meaning I	15	
6	155200064	Law, Multiculturalism and Rights	30	
6	151010045	Neoliberalism, Democracy and Development	15	
??	155800086	Music and Religion in South Asia	15	
6	155900882	Nation and Empire in Modern Japanese History 1868-1945	15	Prerequisite: 'Intermediate level Japanese'
6	155901297	Readings in Sanskrit Systematic Thought	30	Prerequisite: 'Sanskrit I'
5	152900088	Intermediate Semantics	15	Prerequisite: General Linguistics
4	151801003	Social Theory	30	

List D: languages

FHEQ level	Code	Title	Credits	Prerequisites
5	155900874	Basic Japanese 1	30	
5	155900875	Basic Japanese 2	30	Prerequisite: Basic Japanese 1
5	155901345	Intermediate Japanese 1	30	Prerequisites: Basic Japanese 2 (155900875) or equivalent
5	155901346	Intermediate Japanese 2	30	Prerequisites: Intermediate Japanese 1 or equivalent
5	155900834	Hausa 1	30	
5	155900324	Hausa 2(a) intermediate	30	Prerequisites: Hausa I or equivalent
6	155900327	Hausa 3(a) advanced	30	Prerequisites: Hausa II(A) (155900324) or equivalent.
5	155900985	Swahili 1	30	
5	155900986	Swahili 2a intermediate	30	Pre-requisite: Swahili I
6	155900635	Swahili 3	30	Prerequisites: Swahili II (or equivalent).
5	155900833	Yoruba 1	30	
5	155900935	Yoruba 2	30	Pre-requisite: Yoruba 1
5	155901219	Chinese 104: Introduction to Classical Chinese	30	
5	155901234	Special course in Chinese: Reading Classical and Literary Chinese	30	Prerequisites: Working knowledge of about 500-800 characters. Students will be given a placement test to determine level.
5	155901217	Chinese 101: Elementary Modern Chinese Language 1	30	
??	155901387	Intensive Elementary Tibetan	60	
5	155901289	Intermediate Classical Tibetan	30	Prerequisites: Elementary Classical Tibetan
5	155901202	Arabic 100	30	
5	155900897	Arabic 2	30	Prerequisites: Arabic 1 (or equivalent standard).
5	155901203	Arabic 200	30	Prerequisites: Arabic 100 or equivalent.
6	155901204	Arabic 300	30	Prerequisites: Arabic 200 or equivalent.
5	155901053	Elementary Written Persian	30	
??	155901365	Elementary Qur'anic Arabic	30	Prerequisites: Students may not take this module and Arabic 100 (155901202) as they are both elementary Arabic language modules.
5	155901374	Intermediate Qur'anic Arabic	30	Prerequisites: Elementary Qur'anic Arabic (155901365) or equivalent.
5	155900801	Intermediate Persian Language	30	Prerequisites: Persian language I.
6	155900802	Advanced Persian Language	30	Prerequisites: Persian language II.
5	155901242	Intensive Persian Language	60	
4	155900916	Elementary Hebrew	30	
??	155900894	Intensive Modern Hebrew	30	Prerequisite: Elementary Hebrew
4	158000200	Basic Pali	30	
5	155901323	Introduction to Prakrit	15	
5	155901324	Readings in Prakrit	15	Prerequisite: Introduction to Prakrit
5	155901303	Sanskrit Language 1	30	
5	155901304	Sanskrit Language 2	30	Prerequisite: Sanskrit Language 1