Programme Specification

I. Programme Details

Programme title	World Philosophies
Final award *(exit awards will be made as outlined in the [Taught Degree Regulations](#))*	BA ☒ MA ☐ BSc ☐ MSc ☐ Other ☐
Mode of delivery	Distance-learning ☐ On-campus ☒
Professional body accreditation *(if applicable)*	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?

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.

III. Programme Learning Outcomes: What will you learn on the programme?

There are four key areas in which you will develop:

Learning Outcomes: Knowledge

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
• Acquisition through coursework, examinations, long essays and dissertation;	

• 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.	

Learning Outcomes: Intellectual (thinking) skills

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
• 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

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
• 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
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

- 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.	

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 Single-Subject

YEAR 1

	Taught Component	Taught Component	Taught Component	Taught Component	Taught Component	Taught Component
credits	30	15	15	30	15	15
module code	15000197	158000193	158000198	TBA		
module title	Introduction to World Philosophies	Introduction to Logic, Critical Reasoning and Argumentation	Metaphysics in Comparative Perspective	Understanding Religion, Theories & Themes	*From list 1 'Philosophy and Religious Doctrine' list*	*From list 1 'Philosophy and Religious Doctrine' list*
FHEQ	level 4	level 4	level 4	level 4	level 4	level 4
status	core module	compulsory module	compulsory module	compulsory module	guided option	guided option

YEAR 2

	Taught Component	Taught Component	Taught Component	Taught Component	Taught Component	Taught Component	Taught Component
credits	30	15	15	15	15	15	15
module code	158000135	158000196	158000199				
module title	Anglo-European Philosophies	Philosophies of Language	Comparative Ethics	From list 2 'Traditions' lists	From list 2 'Traditions' lists	From list 2 'Traditions' lists	From list 2 'Traditions' lists
FHEQ	level 5	level 5	level 5	level 5	level 5	level 5	level 5
status	compulsory module	compulsory module	compulsory module	guided option	guided option	guided option	guided option

YEAR 3

	Taught Component	Taught Component	Taught Component	Taught Component	Taught Component	Taught Component
credits	30	30	15	15	15	15
module code	158000116	158000194				
module title	Margins of Philosophy	Independent Study Project in World Philosophies	From list 2 'Traditions' lists	From list 2 'Traditions' lists	From list 2 'Traditions' lists	From list 2 'Traditions' lists
FHEQ	level 6	level 6	level 5	level 5	level 5	level 5
status	compulsory module	compulsory module	guided option	guided option	guided option	guided option

List of modules (subject to availability)

Please list all modules (subdivided into lists if necessary) that will be available to students on this programme.
Module availability in any given academic year will be communicated via the website.

Code	Title	Credits
LIST 1: PHILOSOPHY AND RELIGIOUS DOCTRINES		
158000118	R120 INTRODUCTION TO HINDUISM	15 credits
158000189	R130 INTRODUCTION TO ISLAM	15 credits
158000110	R 110 INTRODUCTION TO BUDDHISM	15 credits
LIST 2: TRADITIONS		
TRADITIONS 1: Philosophies of India		30 credits
158000192	MODERN INDIAN PHILOSOPHY	15 credits
158000098	ANCIENT AND MEDIEVAL INDIAN PHILOSOPHY	15 credits
154800308	BUDDHIST PHILOSOPHY	15 credits
158000206	JAINA PHILOSOPHY	
TRADITIONS 2: Philosophies of East Asia		
158000103	CLASSICAL THOUGHT IN CHINA	15 credits
158000181	TAOSIM: THE GREAT TRADITION	15 credits
1548000315	JAPANESE BUDDHIST THOUGHT	15 credits
TRADITIONS 3: Philosophies of Africa		
15000005	RELIGION, POWER AND SOCIETY IN MODERN AFRICA	30 credits
15590137	AFRICAN PHILOSOPHY	15 credits
155901398	AFROPHONE PHILOSOPHIES	15 credits
TRADITIONS 4: Philosophies of the Islamic and Jewish Traditions		
158000178	MODERN JEWISH THOUGHT	30 credits
155901338	ISLAMIC PHILOSOPHY	*15 credits*
158000168	JEWISH IDENTITY	15 credits
158000156	HOLOCAUST AND THE PROBLEM OF EVIL	15 credits