

Masters in Logic and Metaphysics

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 Logic and Metaphysics. 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: PY5205, PY5210, PY5301, PY5302, PY5306, PY5321, PY5322, PY5324, PY5325, PY5503 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)			
<p>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.</p> <p>Epistemology and Ethics will be covered in PY5101, Philosophy of Language and Philosophy Mind will be covered in PY5102.</p> <p>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.</p> <p>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.</p>				
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 - Logic and Metaphysics MLitt & MPhil - 2015/6 - November 2015

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)			
<p>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.</p> <p>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.</p>				
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				
SCOTCAT Credits:	20	SCQF Level 11	Semester:	2
Planned timetable:	11.00 am - 1.00 pm Wed			
<p>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.</p> <p>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.</p> <p>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.</p>				
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			

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 - Semester 1:

PY5205 Origins and History of Analytic Philosophy				
SCOTCAT Credits:	20	SCQF Level 11	Semester:	1
Planned timetable:	2.00 pm - 4.00 pm Tue			
The object of this module is to provide an introduction to central themes in the work of some of the founding figures of the analytic tradition in the late nineteenth and early twentieth century. The primary focus of the module will be on developments in logic and its philosophy initiated in Frege's work and continued in Cambridge by Russell, the early Wittgenstein, and Ramsey.				
Programme module type:	Optional for Epistemology, Mind & Language, or History of Philosophy, or Logic and Metaphysics or Philosophy Postgraduate Programmes.			
Learning and teaching methods and delivery:	Weekly contact: 2 hours.			
Assessment pattern:	Coursework = 100%			
Module Co-ordinator:	Prof P Sullivan			
Lecturer(s)/Tutor(s):	Prof P Sullivan			

Optional modules - Semester 2:

PY5302 Advanced Logic B: Classical Metatheory				
SCOTCAT Credits:	20	SCQF Level 11	Semester:	2
Planned timetable:	2.00 pm - 4.00 pm Mon			
<p>This module begins with elementary aspects of the theory of cardinality, concentrating on equinumerosity and denumerability. The next topic is computability, focusing on two apparently quite different characterisations of this notion: computability by Turing machines and recursive functions. Fairly complete proofs of their equivalence are given. (Ultimately, we need this notion to give exact sense to the notion of a formal system.) This material serves as background to the remainder of the module which establishes the famous limitative results of Gödel (incompleteness of arithmetic), Tarski (non-definability of arithmetic truth), and Church (undecidability of first-order logic). To obtain these results we must show that the recursive functions are representable in a formal theory of the arithmetic of the natural numbers.</p>				
Programme module type:	Optional for Logic and Metaphysics, Philosophy, Postgraduate Programmes.			
Learning and teaching methods and delivery:	Weekly contact: 2 hours.			
Assessment pattern:	Coursework = 100%			
Module Co-ordinator:	Prof P Milne			
Lecturer(s)/Tutor(s):	Prof P Milne			

PY5324 Philosophy of Logic				
SCOTCAT Credits:	20	SCQF Level 11	Semester:	2
Planned timetable:	3.00 pm - 5.00 pm Tue			
<p>This module covers foundational issues in the philosophy of logic. Key questions include: 'Is there a correct logic for natural language?', 'Does indeterminacy demand a revision of classical logic?', 'Is the world precise or vague?'.</p>				
Programme module type:	Optional for Epistemology, Mind & Language, or Logic and Metaphysics, or Philosophy Postgraduate Programmes.			
Learning and teaching methods and delivery:	Weekly contact: 2 hours.			
Assessment pattern:	Coursework = 100%			
Module Co-ordinator:	Dr P Greenough			
Lecturer(s)/Tutor(s):	Dr P Greenough			

Philosophy - Logic and Metaphysics MLitt & MPhil - 2015/6 - November 2015

PY5325 Texts in Contemporary Metaphysics				
SCOTCAT Credits:	20	SCQF Level 11	Semester:	2
Planned timetable:	2.00 pm - 4.00 pm Fri			
<p>This module will focus on puzzles about and theories of causation, mental causation, and group agency. We will read a selection of contemporary articles and book excerpts on these subjects, covering questions such as: What is causation? What philosophical puzzles do different theories of causation bring up? For which theories of the mind is mental causation a problem? How many problems of mental causation are there anyway? Are there group agents that constitute agents in their own right, independently of the individual agents that make them up? If so, how can such a group be in control of what it does? How does it causally influence what happens in our world? By the end of the module, students will understand some of the major contemporary views on these questions and will be able to engage critically with those views.</p>				
Programme module type:	Optional for Logic and Metaphysics or Philosophy Postgraduate Programmes.			
Learning and teaching methods and delivery:	Weekly contact: 2 hours.			
Assessment pattern:	Coursework = 100%			
Module Co-ordinator:	Dr A Crean			
Lecturer(s)/Tutor(s):	Dr A Crean			