Masters in 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 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 and PY5103
60 credits: PY5201 - PY5502

MLitt:
120 credits as for the Taught Element plus PY5099

MPhil:
120 credits as for the 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:

PY5201 Classical Philosophy				
SCOTCAT Credits:	20	SCQF Level 11	**Semester:**	1
Planned timetable:	To be arranged.			
The module will address topics in ancient metaphysics and ethics concentrating on selected readings from the works of Plato or Aristotle. The module will investigate Aristotle's notion of motion and change and how motion and change relate to different understandings of infinity and place/space. The readings will be primarily from Aristotle's Physics and Metaphysics.				
Programme module type:	Optional for History of Philosophy, or Moral, Polical 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 Sattler			
Lecturer(s)/Tutor(s):	Dr B Sattler and Prof S Broadie			

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

PY5205 Origins and History of Analytic Philosophy

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

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 History of Philosophy, or Logic and Metaphysicss, 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 P Sullivan
Lecturer(s)/Tutor(s):	Prof P Sullivan

PY5212 Introduction to Formal Epistemology

SCOTCAT Credits:	20	SCQF Level 11	Semester:	2
Planned timetable:	2.00 pm - 4.00 pm Mon			
This module provides an introduction to issues in Formal Epistemology. The module includes an introduction to probability theory and decision theory. Topics include for example, dutch-book arguments, accuracy arguments. Bayesian confirmation, degrees of belief vs belief, reflection principles, Bayes' theorem.				
Programme module type:	Optional for Epistemology, or Mind and Language, or Logic and Metaphysics, 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 lectures (x 11 weeks)			
Assessment pattern:	Coursework = 100%			
Module Co-ordinator:	Dr P Ebert			
Lecturer(s)/Tutor(s):	Dr P Ebert and Prof P Milne			

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			

PY5310 Philosophy of Mind

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

The module will look at the philosophical dimensions of a number of debates that occur at the intersection between philosophy, scientific psychology and cognitive science. Particular attention will be paid to relating these debates to more traditional problems in metaphysics, epistemology and philosophy of mind.

Programme module type:	Optional for Epsitemology, Mind and Language, 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 M Wheeler
Lecturer(s)/Tutor(s):	Prof M Wheeler

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

PY5320 Mediaeval Philosophy

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

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.

Programme module type:	Optional module for History of 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 M Thakkar
Lecturer(s)/Tutor(s):	Dr M Thakkar

PY5324 Philosophy of Logic

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

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?'.

Programme module type:	Optional for Epistemology, Mind and Language, or Logic and Metaphysics, 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 K Scharp
Lecturer(s)/Tutor(s):	Dr K Scharp

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

PY5402 Advanced Epistemology

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

In this module we will address a range of advanced issues in contemporary Epistemology. Topics will include: Basic Knowledge, Contextualist and Relativist Theories of Knowledge, Epistemic Closure, Sceptical Paradoxes, Lottery Paradoxes, Self-knowledge, The possibility of Apriori Knowledge, Knowledge and Assertion, Knowledge and Practical Interests, Internalism and Externalism, Fallibilism, Intuition, Reliabilism, Minimalist Theories of Knowledge.

Programme module type:	Optional for Epistemology, Mind and Language, 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 S Roca Royes
Lecturer(s)/Tutor(s):	Dr S Roca Royes

PY5403 Intuitions and Philosophical Methodology

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

In this module we will address a range of issues concerning philosophical methodology and the use of intuitions in philosophy. Topics will include: the nature of intuition; how intuitions are and should be used within philosophy; positive accounts of intuition (rationalist, phenomenalist, naturalistic, conceptualist, eliminativist); skeptical challenges to the use of intuitions (from calibration, disagreement, experimental philosophy results).

Programme module type:	Optional for Epistemology, Mind and Language, 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 Brown
Lecturer(s)/Tutor(s):	Prof J Brown