PROGRAMME SPECIFICATION

Name, title and level of final qualification(s)	**Cert HE Philosophy** (Level 4)
Name and title of any exit qualification(s)	N/A
Awarding Body	University of London
Teaching Institution(s)	Birkbeck, University of London
Home school/other teaching departments	School of Historical Studies
Location of delivery	Central London
Language of delivery and assessment	English
Mode of study, length of study and normal start month	Part-time (2-4 years) September
Professional, statutory or regulatory body	Not applicable
QAA subject benchmark group(s) Higher Education Credit Framework for England	Philosophy
Birkbeck Course Code	UEHPLPHY
HECoS Code	100337
Start date of programme	Autumn 2010
Date of programme approval	Summer 2010
Date of last programme amendment approval	November 2022
Valid for academic entry year	2023-24
Date of last revision to document	31/10/22

Note: this is a modular enrolment certificate programme

Admissions requirements

There are no specific entry requirements, except an interest in the intellectual pursuit of philosophy. However, all modules are taught at university level and you should be able to read, write and speak English fluently in order to benefit fully from your studies and successfully complete your coursework. If you need help, we offer a range of academic English and language development.

Course aims

- The programme provides you with an introduction to Philosophy and gives you the opportunity to study part-time in the evening.
- The programme offers you the possibility to explore philosophical topics in small interactive groups, alongside fellow students who are keen to learn and will bring a wide range of experience to the class.
- The programme can offer you a progression route onto the BA Philosophy. Birkbeck's Certificate of Higher Education in Philosophy may be considered for entry into the second year of the BA. Each case will be considered on its own merits by the department.

Course structure

Level	Module Code	Module Title	Credit	Comp/ Core/ Option	Likely teaching term(s)
Part-time – 2-4 years					
Year 1-4					
4	SSPL233S4	Morality, Society and Politics	30	Comp	T1
4	SSPL234S4	Knowledge and Reality	30	Comp	T2
4	SSPL235S4	Philosophy as the Art of Living: Ancient & Modern Views	30	Comp	T3
4	SSPL236S4 SSPL239S4	**Either** Logic (*skills module*) *or* Critical Thinking *(skills module)*	30	Comp	T3 T2

Core: Module must be taken and passed by student
Compulsory: Module must be taken but can be considered for compensated credit (see CAS regulations paragraph 24)
Option: Student can choose to take this module

How you will learn

Your learning and teaching are organised to help you meet the learning outcomes (below) of the course. As a student, we expect you to be an active learner and to take responsibility for your learning, engaging with all of the material and sessions arranged for you.

Each course is divided into modules. You will find information on the virtual learning site (Moodle, see Academic Support below) about each of your modules, what to expect, the work you need to prepare, links to reading lists and readings, and information about how and when you will be assessed.

Teaching on this course is a combination of in-person lectures and seminars. Lectures are designed to provide you with an outline or overview of the topic, to engage you with the material and direct you to other resources. They include interaction with the lecturer and are a springboard for your own learning. Seminars are group sessions where you will be asked to contribute to discussion around the topic, with material set in advance for which you need to prepare. In addition to attending lectures and seminars, you will engage in substantial independent learning during this course, including reading texts in philosophy; answering questions about the texts in preparation for participation in classes; watching/listening to audio-visual resources; completing assessments.

How we will assess you

The course will use a variety of assessment methods. Assessment is used to enhance your learning rather than simply to test it. For most of the modules associated with this course, your assessment will be through the following types of assessment:

Short writing assignments, essays which will develop in length and expected complexity as you progress through your studies, and short-answer exams completed at home. For some modules you may have sets of problems to solve and other brief assignments.

Learning outcomes (what you can expect to achieve)

At the end of this course, you should be able to:

- Demonstrate understanding of topics in central areas of philosophy, including historical and contemporary debates
- Identify specialist principles and concepts deployed by philosophers, and recognise some of their strengths and weaknesses
- Undertake analyses of different philosophical arguments and theories, and evaluate the outcomes
- Understand increasingly complex texts and communicate the basic ideas and arguments deployed in a variety of sources
- Use course materials to construct coherent arguments for or against a position, engaging in guided self-reflection to improve argumentation
- Take responsibility for your own learning and development using reflection and feedback to analyse your own capabilities, appraise alternatives and implement suggestions

Careers and further study

Graduates can pursue career paths in education, research, politics and journalism. Possible professions include:

- Higher education
- Civil service
- Local government officer
- Journalist
- Business and finance
- Social work
- Marketing and advertising

In fact, a philosophy qualification from Birkbeck will provide skills that are attractive to employers in wide range of professions, in particular:

- Critical thinking skills
- High-level oral and written communication skills in English
- The ability to evaluate different types of evidence and information
- Presentation skills
- The ability to persuade with cogent arguments

See the British Philosophical Association Careers and Employability web page for more information.

Birkbeck offers a range of careers support to its students. You can find out more on the careers pages of our website.

Academic regulations and course management

Birkbeck's academic regulations are contained in its Common Award Scheme Regulations and Policies published by year of application on the Birkbeck website.

You will have access to a course handbook on Moodle and this will outline how your course is managed, including who to contact if you have any questions about your module or course.

Support for your study

Your learning at Birkbeck is supported by your teaching team and other resources and people in the College there to help you with your study. Birkbeck uses a virtual learning environment called Moodle and each course has a dedicated Moodle page and there are further Moodle sites for each of your modules. This will include your course handbook.

Birkbeck will introduce you to the Library and IT support, how to access materials online, including using Moodle, and provide you with an orientation which includes an online Moodle module to guide you through all of the support available. You will also be allocated a personal tutor and provided with information about learning support offered within your School and by the College.

Please check our website for more information about student support services. This covers the whole of your time as a student with us including learning support and support for your wellbeing.

Quality and standards at Birkbeck

Birkbeck's courses are subject to our quality assurance procedures. This means that new courses must follow our design principles and meet the requirements of our academic regulations. Each new course or module is subject to a course approval process where the proposal is scrutinised by subject specialists, quality professionals and external representatives to ensure that it will offer an excellent student experience and meet the expectation of regulatory and other professional bodies.

You will be invited to participate in an online survey for each module you take. We take these surveys seriously and they are considered by the course team to develop both modules and the overall courses. Please take the time to complete any surveys you are sent as a student.

We conduct an annual process of reviewing our portfolio of courses which analyses student achievement, equality data and includes an action plan for each department to identify ongoing enhancements to our education, including changes made as a result of student feedback.

Our periodic review process is a regular check (usually every four years) on the courses by department with a specialist team including students.

Each course will have an external examiner associated with it who produces an annual report and any recommendations. Students can read the most recent external examiner reports on the course Moodle pages. Our courses are all subject to Birkbeck Baseline Standards for our Moodle module information. This supports the accessibility of our education including expectations of what information is provided online for students.