

Programme Specification

1	Awarding body	University of London				
2	Teaching Institution	Birkbeck College				
3	Programme Title(s)	Cert HE Philosophy				
4	Programme Code(s)	UEHPLPHY				
5	UCAS code	N/A				
6	Home Department	Philosophy				
7	Exit Award(s)	Cert of Continuing Education				
8	Duration of Study (number of years)	2-4 years				
9	Mode of Study	FT		PT	X	DL
10	Level of Award (FHEQ)	Level: 4				
11	Other teaching depts or institution	N/A				
12	Professional, Statutory Regulatory Body(PSRB) details	N/A				
13	QAA Benchmark Group	Philosophy				

14	Programme Rationale & Aims
	<p>The programme provides students with an introduction to Philosophy and gives them the opportunity to study part-time in the evening.</p> <p>The programme will offer a student 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.</p> <p>The programme also offers students a progression route onto the BA in Philosophy.</p>

15	Entry Criteria
	<p>There are no specific formal entry requirements.</p> <p>Credits gained from previous, successfully completed philosophy modules may be counted towards the 120 credits required to complete this Certificate.</p>

16	Learning Outcomes
	<p>By the end of the programme, students should display:</p> <p>Subject Specific:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Knowledge of the technical vocabulary employed in philosophical enquiry. 2. Knowledge of the underlying concepts and principles associated with the study of philosophy. 3. An understanding of the nature of argument, and what is involved in presenting a case. 4. An appreciation of the historical context in which certain philosophical views were developed.

	<p>Intellectual:</p> <p>5. An ability to evaluate and interpret philosophical concepts and principles within the context of philosophical enquiry.</p> <p>6. The ability to identify the intellectual commitments or assumptions underlying an argued position or theory.</p> <p>7. The ability to critically engage with the assumptions underlying an argued position or theory.</p> <p>Practical:</p> <p>8. The ability to present ideas cogently and accurately.</p> <p>9. The ability to develop sustained lines of argument.</p> <p>10. The ability to apply philosophical ideas and approaches to real-life situations.</p> <p>11. The ability to apply philosophical ideas and approaches to novel situations beyond those encountered in the classroom.</p> <p>Personal and Social:</p> <p>12. The ability to discuss philosophical ideas and concepts among peers in a classroom context.</p> <p>13. The ability to work in groups with one’s peers in the exploration and presentation of ideas.</p>
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17	Learning, teaching and assessment methods
	<p>Teaching occurs over three terms. Each module is supported by 10 lectures, with each lecture followed the same evening by a seminar, in a single term. The two Logic modules are assessed by logic exercises. In the other six modules, assessment is by a writing assignment (50%) and a take-home exam which consists of a range of questions requiring short answers (50%).</p>

18	Programme Description
	<p>This programme is aimed at introducing the student to an undergraduate philosophical education of the very highest academic quality.</p> <p>On this course students will investigate questions such as: Who (or what) am I? What is knowledge, and how, if at all, does one acquire it? What is the mind, and how is it related to the body? Do we have free will? What is the value of art? What are the proper limits of state power? Can values be objective? Is there a God?</p> <p>At Birkbeck we do not try to foist upon students any particular philosophical doctrines or dogmas; rather, we want them to learn to think for themselves.</p> <p>By participating for themselves in the great philosophical debates, they will develop skills of rigorous reasoning, and through the study, analysis and criticism of the great works of philosophy they will develop the capacity to make reasoned judgements for themselves.</p>

¹⁹	Programme Structure			
Part-Time programme				
Year 1 or 2				
Level	Module Code	Module Title	Credits	Status
4	SSPL012H4	Knowledge and Faith	15	Compulsory
4	SSPL009H4	Morality and Society	15	Compulsory
4	SSPL015H4	Philosophy as the Art of Living: Ancient Views	15	Compulsory
4	SSPL011H4	Identity, Mind and Free Will	15	Compulsory
4	SSPL010H4	Politics and Society	15	Compulsory
4	SSPL016H4	Philosophy as the Art of Living: Modern Views	15	Compulsory
4	SSPL013H4	Logic A — The Philosopher's Toolbox	15	Compulsory
4	SSPL014H4	Logic B — The Languages of Logic	15	Compulsory

Status*

CORE – Module must be taken and passed by student; *COMPULSORY* – Module must be taken, mark can be reviewed at sub-exam board; *OPTIONAL* – Student can choose to take this module

²⁰	Programme Director	Stacie Friend
²¹	Start Date (<i>term/year</i>)	Autumn 2010
²²	Date approved by TQEC	Spring 2010
²³	Date approved by Academic Board	Summer 2010
²⁴	Date(s) updated/amended	March 2020 (for 2020/21)