Royal Holloway, University of London
Course specification for an undergraduate award
BA Philosophy (V500)

Section 1 – Introduction to your course
This course specification is a formal document, which provides a summary of the main features of your course and the learning outcomes that you might reasonably be expected to achieve and demonstrate if you take full advantage of the learning opportunities that are provided. Further information is contained in the College prospectus, and in various handbooks, all of which you will be able to access online. Alternatively, further information on the College's academic regulations and policies can be found here. Further information on the College's Admissions Policy can be found here. Your degree programme in Philosophy is delivered in three stages, each of which comprises one year of full-time study during which you must follow modules to the value of 120 credits. For Single honours philosophy, 120 credits each year are taken from a list of approved modules, which include both those validated specifically for philosophy courses and those offered by Politics and International Relations and other departments that help realise the courses' aims. Through a balance of compulsory modules and options, the course instantiates a progressive structure wherein you acquire both an increasing knowledge and understanding of philosophy. This conception of progression and your growing intellectual independence is reflected in the requirement, at stage three, that you complete a dissertation in philosophy. While Royal Holloway keeps all the information made available under review, courses and the availability of individual modules, especially optional modules are necessarily subject to change at any time, and you are therefore advised to seek confirmation of any factors which might affect your decision to follow a specific course. In turn, Royal Holloway will inform you as soon as is practicable of any significant changes which might affect your studies. The following is brief description for some of the most important terminology for understanding the content of this document: *Degree programme* – Also referred to as 'degree course' or simply 'course', these terms refer to the qualification you will be awarded upon successful completion of your studies. *Course unit* – Also referred to as 'module', this refers to the individual units you will study each year to complete your degree course. Undergraduate degrees at Royal Holloway comprise 120 credits per year. On some degree courses a certain number of optional modules must be passed for a particular degree title.

Section 2 – Course details			
Date of specification update	September 2021	**Location of study**	Egham Campus
Course award and title	BA Philosophy	**Level of study**	Undergraduate
Course code	2617	**UCAS code**	V500
Year of entry	2022/23		
Awarding body	Royal Holloway, University of London		
Department or school	Politics, International Relations and Philosophy	**Other departments or schools involved in teaching the course**	N/A
Mode(s) of attendance	Full-time	**Duration of the course**	Three years
Accrediting Professional, Statutory or Regulatory Body requirement(s)	N/A		
Link to Coursefinder for further information:	https://www.royalholloway.ac.uk/studying-here/	**For queries on admissions:**	study@royalholloway.ac.uk.

Section 3 – Degree course structure

3.1 Mandatory module information
The following table summarises the mandatory modules which students must take in each year of study

Year	Module code	Module title	Contact hours*	Self-study hours	Written exams**	Practical assessment**	Coursework**	Credits	FHEQ level	Module status (see below)
1	PY1002	Introduction to Modern Philosophy	20	130	40%	0	60%	15	4	MNC
1	PY1101	Problems of Knowledge	30	120	40%	0	60%	15	4	MNC
1	PY1202	Philosophical Methods	20	130	0	0	100%	15	4	MC
1	PY1541	Introduction to Ancient Philosophy	20	130	0	0	100%	15	4	MC
1	PY1102	Tutorial Special Study	10	140	0	0	100%	15	4	MC
1	PY1104	Introduction to Political Philosophy	20	130	50%	0	50%	15	4	MC
1	PY1203	Issues in Ethics	20	130	50%	0	50%	15	4	MC
1	PY1103	Introduction to Formal Logic	20	130	50%		50%	15	4	MC
2	PY2202	Empiricism and Rationalism	20	130	50%	0	50%	15	5	MC
2	PY2001	Kant	20	130	0	0	100%	15	5	MC
2	PY2002	Mind and World	20	130	50%	0	50%	15	5	MC
2	PY2900	Race, Gender and Queer Philosophy	20	130	50%	0	50%	15	5	MC
3	PY3001	Dissertation	3	297	0	0	100%	30	6	MC

This table sets out the most important information for the mandatory modules on your degree course. These modules are central to achieving your learning outcomes, so they are compulsory, and all students on your degree course will be required to take them. You will be automatically registered for these modules each year. Mandatory modules fall into two categories; 'condonable' or 'non-condonable'.

In the case of mandatory 'non-condonable' (MNC) modules, you must pass the module before you can proceed to the next year of your course, or to successfully graduate with a particular degree title. In the case of mandatory 'condonable' (MC) modules, these must be taken but you can still progress or graduate even if you do not pass them. Please note that although Royal Holloway will keep changes to a minimum, changes to your degree course may be made where reasonable and necessary due to unexpected events. For example; where requirements of relevant Professional, Statutory or Regulatory Bodies have changed and course requirements must change accordingly, or where changes are deemed necessary on the basis of student feedback and/or the advice of external advisors, to enhance academic provision.

*Contact hours come in various different forms, and may take the form of time spent with a member of staff in a lecture or seminar with other students. Contact hours may also be laboratory or, studio-based sessions, project supervision with a member of staff, or discussion through a virtual learning environment (VLE). These contact hours may be with a lecturer

or teaching assistant, but they may also be with a technician, or specialist support staff. It is intended that these contact hours will face-to-face as far as possible, but in certain unavoidable situations, these may take place virtually.

**The way in which each module on your degree course is assessed will also vary, however, the assessments listed above are all 'summative', which means you will receive a mark for it which will count towards your overall mark for the module, and potentially your degree classification, depending on your year of study. On successful completion of the module you will gain the credits listed. 'Coursework' might typically include a written assignment, like an essay. Coursework might also include a report, dissertation or portfolio. 'Practical assessments' might include an oral assessment or presentation, or a demonstration of practical skills required for the particular module.

3.2 Optional modules

In addition to mandatory modules, there will be a number of optional modules available during the course of your degree. The following table lists a selection of optional modules that are likely to be available. However, not all may be available every year. Although Royal Holloway will keep changes to a minimum, new options may be offered or existing ones may be withdrawn. For example; where reasonable and necessary due to unexpected events, where requirements of relevant Professional, Statutory or Regulatory Bodies (PSRBs) have changed and course requirements must change accordingly, or where changes are deemed necessary on the basis of student feedback and/or the advice of External Advisors, to enhance academic provision.There may be additional requirements around option selection, so it is important that this specification is read alongside your department's Student Handbook, which you can access via their webpage.

Year 1	Year 2	Year 3
None	PY2205 Feminist Philosophy	PY3201 Twentieth Century German Philosophy
	PY2206 Hegel	PY3203 Twentieth Century French Philosophy
	PY2212 Philosophy of Medicine and Bioethics	PY3213 Philosophy of Psychiatry and Mental Illness
	PY2216 Ancient Ethics	PY3214 Philosophy of Information and Digital Ethics
	PY2217 Ancient Metaphysics	PY3215 Philosophy of Psychology
	PY2219 Medieval Philosophy	PY3221 Philosophy of Religion: The Anglo-American Tradition
	PY2220 Existentialist Ethics	PY3222 Major Thinker
	PY2230 Philosophy of Science	

3.3 Optional module requirements

In your **second year**, in addition to the mandatory modules, you must choose options equal to the value of **60 credits** from the Departmental list of available stage two modules. Of these 60 credits, you may choose options equal to the value 30 credits from other courses with the approval of the Course Director.

In your **third year**, in addition to your mandatory module, you must choose options equal to the value of 90 credits from the Departmental list of available stage three modules. Of these 90 credits, you may choose options equal to the value 30 credits from other courses with the approval of the Course Director.

Section 4 - Progressing through each year of your degree course

For further information on the progression and award requirements for your degree, please refer to Royal Holloway's Academic Regulations.

All first year students on this course are required to pass a Moodle-based writing skills quiz in order to progress into the second year of study. The pass mark for the test is 60%. Certificates of Distinction are awarded to students who achieve at least 80% in the quiz. Students may attempt the quiz as often as they wish with no penalties or capping. Students who meet the requirements for progression as stipulated in the *College's Undergraduate Regulations* (Section: Conditions for progression to the next stage) but fail to pass the Moodle-based quiz will not be permitted to progress into their second year of academic study at the College.

All second year students on single, joint or combined honours courses for which the Department of Philosophy is the lead department are also required to undertake and pass a short 'reflecting on feedback' exercise in order to progress into the final year of study. Students undertaking this exercise will be supported by their personal tutor and will be marked on a pass/fail basis. Students who fail the exercise will have an opportunity to resubmit. Students who meet the requirements for progression as stipulated in the *College's Undergraduate Regulations* (Section: Conditions for progression to the next stage) but fail to pass 'reflecting on feedback' exercise will not be permitted to progress into their final year of academic study at the College.

Courses including an International Year
You must take modules at an overseas university nominated through the Erasmus or Student Exchange Programmes. The equivalent of a full academic load at the overseas university must be taken. The modules to be taken overseas are to be agreed with the Tutor for International Studies in the Department. The marks achieved are converted into equivalent College marks and count as a thirteenth unit. This will contribute 20% to the final stage three marks.

Section 5 – Educational aims of the course

The aims of this course are:

- to expose you to a broad and coherent philosophical curriculum that draws on both the European and Anglo-American traditions;
- to present an appreciation of philosophy that stresses its pertinence to other areas of intellectual inquiry;
- to provide you with sufficient choice to allow you to pursue your philosophical interests where possible;
- to engender a range of subject-specific and general intellectual skills through a variety of learning activities geared to the study and practice of philosophy;
- to develop a friendly, stimulating, and supportive academic environment that encourages you to strive to achieve your potential in philosophy;
- to inculcate an active sense of the interplay between the intellectual-historical and ahistorical dimensions of philosophical inquiry;
- to present philosophy's significance both for one's self-understanding and for one's critical engagement with issues of public importance;
- to enable you to take an active role in shaping the development of your philosophical interests;
- to expose you to some major issues at the frontiers of philosophical debate and research;
- to enable you to develop independent critical thinking and judgement by taking progressive responsibility for your own learning, concluding the process in the final year through the production of an extended piece of philosophical writing.

Section 6 - Course learning outcomes

In general terms, the courses provide opportunities for students to develop and demonstrate the following learning outcomes. (*Categories – Knowledge and understanding (K), Skills and other attributes (S), and Transferable skills (*)*)

1. a grounding in many of the central theories in the fields of logic, epistemology, metaphysics, moral and political philosophy, aesthetics and philosophy of mind **(K);**
2. a critical engagement with some of the topics that are of interest to philosophers working today **(K);**
3. a critical appreciation of the wide application of the techniques of philosophical reflection to the concerns of contemporary society **(K);**
4. the knowledge to situate historically and conceptually the central figures in the history of philosophy, and the diversity of philosophical methods, styles and problems **(K);**
5. an ability to interpret and critically engage with key philosophical texts, constituting a variety of traditions and ranging historically from the Ancient through to the contemporary **(K);**

6. an ability to summarise complex philosophical arguments and to present critical evaluations both orally and writing **(S);**
7. command of a wider vocabulary and appropriate critical and theoretical terminology **(S);**
8. the capacity to work in groups in order to further understanding, and to communicate and defend arguments to peers **(S*);**
9. competence in the analysis of arguments, and an awareness of such features as persuasion and intended audience **(S*);**
10. bibliographical skills appropriate to the subject including accurate citation of sources and consistent use of conventions in the presentation of scholarly work **(S);**
11. the capacity to evaluate and adjudicate between competing normative claims **(S*);**
12. the ability to assimilate and communicate complex ideas **(S*);**

Section 7 - Teaching, learning and assessment

Teaching, learning and assessment methods serve the course aims by recognising your expanding knowledge and command of correlated skills as you progress from stage one to stage three and both acknowledging and encouraging your increased intellectual independence. Consequently, at stages one and two the primary method of teaching is to combine lectures, which are used to map out a conceptual area and help orientate you in it, with small-group seminars where you are able to test your developing understanding through presentations and discussion and focussed learning tasks (précis, timed analysis, etc.). In the case of Single Honours students this approach is exemplified in the compulsory stage one module Tutorial Special Study. These formative modes are supplemented with summative essays and examinations. From stage two onwards the emphasis on independent learning arising from your growing knowledge, and your desire to follow your interests is reflected in more specialised modules for which a formal distinction between lecture and seminar is no longer entirely appropriate. Here the shift in formative assessment is towards presentations of work-in-progress and one-to-one advice on essay planning at both the conceptual and structural level. Full details of the assessments for individual modules can be obtained from the Department of Philosophy

Section 8 – Additional costs

There are no other associated costs on this degree course.

These estimated costs relate to studying this particular degree course at Royal Holloway. General costs such as accommodation, food, books and other learning materials and printing etc., have not been included, but further information is available on our website.

Section 9 – Indicators of quality and standards	
QAA Framework for Higher Education Qualifications (FHEQ) Level	4-6
Your course is designed in accordance with the FHEQ to ensure your qualification is awarded on the basis of nationally established standards of achievement, for both outcomes and attainment. The qualification descriptors within the FHEQ set out the generic outcomes and attributes expected for the award of individual qualifications. The qualification descriptors contained in the FHEQ exemplify the outcomes and attributes expected of learning that results in the award of higher education qualifications. These outcomes represent the integration of various learning experiences resulting from designated and coherent courses of study.	
QAA Subject benchmark statement(s)	http://www.qaa.ac.uk/quality-code/subject-benchmark-statements
Subject benchmark statements provide a means for the academic community to describe the nature and characteristics of courses in a specific subject or subject area. They also represent general expectations about standards for the award of qualifications at a given level in terms of the attributes and capabilities that those possessing qualifications should have demonstrated.	

Section 10 – Further information
This specification provides a concise summary of the main features of the course and the learning outcomes that a typical student might reasonably be expected to achieve and demonstrate when taking full advantage of the learning opportunities that are available. More detailed information on module units, including teaching and learning methods, and methods of assessment, can be found via the online Course Catalogue. The accuracy of the information contained in this document is reviewed regularly by the university, and may also be checked routinely by external agencies, such as the Quality Assurance Agency (QAA). Your course will be reviewed regularly, both by the university as part of its cyclical quality enhancement processes, and/or by your department or school, who may wish to make improvements to the curriculum, or in response to resource planning. As such, your course may be revised during the course of your study at Royal Holloway. However, your department or school will take reasonable steps to consult with students via appropriate channels when considering changes. All continuing students will be routinely informed of any significant changes.

Section 11 – Intermediate exit awards (where available)		
You may be eligible for an intermediate exit award if you complete part of the course as detailed in this document. Any additional criteria (e.g. mandatory module units, credit requirements) for intermediate awards is outlined in the sections below.		
Award	**Criteria**	**Awarding body**
Diploma in Higher Education (DipHE)	Pass in 210 credits of which at least 90 must be at or above FHEQ Level 4 and at least 120 of which must be at or above FHEQ Level 5	Royal Holloway and Bedford New College
Certificate in Higher Education (CertHE)	Pass in 120 credits of which at least 90 must be at or above FHEQ Level 4	Royal Holloway and Bedford New College

Section 12 - Associated award(s)	
BA Philosophy with an International Year	BA Ancient History with Philosophy (V1V5)
BA Ancient History and Philosophy (VV15)	BA Classical Studies with Philosophy (Q9V5)
BA Classical Studies and Philosophy (QV8M)	BA Classics with Philosophy (Q8V5)
BA Classics and Philosophy (QV85)	BA Comparative Literature and Culture with Philosophy (Q2V5)
BA Comparative Literature and Culture and Philosophy (QV25)	BA Drama with Philosophy (W4V5)
BA Drama and Philosophy (WV45)	BA English with Philosophy (Q3V5)
BA English and Philosophy (QV35)	BA Film Studies with Philosophy (W6V5)
BA French and Philosophy (RV15)	BA French with Philosophy (R1V5)
BA German and Philosophy (RV25)	BSc Mathematics with Philosophy (G1V5)
BA History and Philosophy (VV51)	BA Multilingual Studies with Philosophy (R9VM)
BA Italian and Philosophy (RV35)	BA Music with Philosophy (W3V5)
BA Music and Philosophy (WV35)	BSc Physics with Philosophy (F3V5)
BA Politics and International Relations and Philosophy (LV25)	BA Politics with Philosophy (L2V5)
BA Spanish and Philosophy (RV45	BA/BSc Politics, Philosophy and Economics (L0V0)
	BA Spanish with Philosophy (R4V5)