

Royal Holloway, University of London

Course specification for an undergraduate award

BA Drama and Philosophy (WV45)

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 course in Drama and Philosophy is delivered in three stages, each of which normally comprises one year of full-time study, during which you must follow modules to the value of 120 credits.

At **stage one**, you are introduced to four key themes through four **pathways**, denoting areas of theatrical activity and ways that theatre and performance engage with the world: theatre and performance making, theatre and text, theatre and culture and theatre's relationship to other disciplines. Stage one offers a broad-based grounding in the subject, suitable for those of you with different levels of experience and understanding, giving everyone a shared basis of critical and creative skills that will prepare you for stages two and three. All modules are compulsory. At **stage two**, students extend their exploration of the **pathways** at a higher level, taking specialist modules grouped under these themes. At **stage three**, you have greater choice and responsibility, drawing on your work at stages one and two to choose your own final projects, follow a research-intensive seminar module, and engage directly with debates and practices in the contemporary creative industries. You contribute to a substantial **Finalists Festival** towards the end of stage three, in which work is publicly performed, presented and discussed.

For joint and combined honours courses, please refer to the course specification for your secondary department's corresponding single honours course for further information on educational aims, and learning outcomes.

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 course – May also be referred to as 'degree programme' or simply 'programme', these terms refer to the qualification you will be awarded upon successful completion of your studies.

Module – May also be referred to as ‘course’, this refers to the individual units you will study each year to complete your degree course. Undergraduate degrees at Royal Holloway comprise a combination of modules in multiples of 15 credits to the value of 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	December 2021	Location of study	Egham Campus
Course award and title	BA Drama and Philosophy	Level of study	Undergraduate
Course code	2416	UCAS code	WV45
Year of entry	2022/23		
Awarding body	Royal Holloway, University of London		
Department or school	Drama, Theatre and Dance	Other departments or schools involved in teaching the course	Philosophy
Mode(s) of attendance	Full-time or part-time	Duration of the course	Three years or six 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:	Admissions Enquiry Form (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	DT1100	Theatre and Performance-Making	71	229	0	50%	50%	30	4	MC
1	DT1200	Theatre and Text	71	229	0	50%	50%	30	4	MC
1	PY1002	Philosophy: Introduction to Modern Philosophy	20	130	0	0	100%	15	4	MC
1	PY1101	Philosophy: Problems of Knowledge	20	130	0	0	100%	15	4	MNC
1	PY1541	Philosophy: Introduction to Ancient Philosophy	20	130	0	0	100%	15	4	MC
1	PY1202	Philosophical Methods	20	130	0	0	100%	15	4	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.

**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
	PY2655 The Good Life in Ancient Philosophy	Drama and Theatre: Special Project
	PR2490 Contemporary Political Theory	Drama and Theatre: Taught Dissertation
	PY2005 Philosophy and the Arts	Drama and Theatre: Practice- Based or Seminar-Based Advanced Options
	PY2100 Philosophy of Psychology	PY3007 Recovering Reality
	PY2105 The Philosophy of Religion	Classics: Greek Theatre and Iphigenia
		Classics: Greek Theatre and Iphigenia

3.3 Optional modules requirements

In your **second year**, you must take **either** DT2100: Theatre and Performance-Making 2 **OR** DT2200 Theatre and Text 2, **plus either** DT2300: Theatre and Culture 2 **OR** DT2400 Theatre and Ideas 2.

For **Philosophy**, in **Second Year**, students must choose **at least** 30 credits from the following options basket:

PY2001 Kant (15 credits)

PY2002 Mind and World (15 credits)

PY2202 Empiricism and Rationalism (15 credits)
PY2900 Race, Gender and Queer Philosophy (15 credits)

And their remaining Philosophy credits from a list of other options.

In your **final year**, you must choose two modules in any combination from the following:

DT3500 Drama Research Seminar
DT3XXX Advanced Options
DT3201 Final Year Project - Dissertation
DT3204 Taught Dissertation (30 credits)
DT3203 Final Year Project - Special Study (30 credits)

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 single, joint or combined honours courses offered all or in part by the School of Humanities, School of Performing and Digital Arts, or department of Politics, International Relations and Philosophy 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.

Part-Time Pathway for Joint Honours:

- Year 1 (a): Theatre and Performance Making 1
- Year 1 (b): Theatre and Text 1
- Year 2 (a): Theatre and Performance Making 2 or Theatre and Text 2
- Year 2 (b): Theatre and Culture 2 or Theatre and Ideas 1
- Year 3 (a): Advanced Option
- Year 3 (b): Group Project or Dissertation

Courses including an International Year

Students must take modules at an overseas university nominated through the Erasmus or Student Exchange Courses. 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, DT3600. This will contribute 20% to the final stage three marks.

Section 5 – Educational aims of the course

The aims of this course are:

- To engage you critically and creatively in the process of making and experiencing drama, theatre and performance.
- To enable you to develop independent critical thinking and judgement;
- To develop and enhance your expression of your ideas in a variety of modes and contexts;
- To foster the appreciation of diverse theatre and performance practices from a range of historical and geographical contexts;
- To encourage an awareness of theatre's relationship with a wide range of different intellectual and cultural practices;
- To foster understanding of the complementary value of critical and creative exploration;
- To encourage you to take progressive responsibility for your own study through negotiating subject areas of specialism with each other in seminars, through the informed choice of options and an extended piece of independent work in the final year.

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 (*)*)

<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Experience and understanding of processes by which performances are created, which may include devising, improvisation, scoring, training, directing, acting, performing, playwriting, adaptation, set, costume and lighting design, choreography, digital media, and community engagement (K); 2. Understanding of the performance possibilities implied by a script, score and other sources (K); 3. Experience of engaging in performance-making, based on an acquisition and understanding of appropriate creative vocabularies, skills, structures, and working methods (K); 4. Appreciation of 'Embodied knowledge' and 'practice as research' (K); 5. Awareness of relationships between past traditions and present practice (K); 6. Understanding of the relationship between individual and group creative activity (K); 7. Knowledge and understanding of various ways in which 'performance' originates, is constructed, circulated and received (K); 8. Ability to describe, interpret, theorise, and evaluate performance texts and events from a range of critical, theoretical, and philosophical perspectives (K); 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 9. Understanding of the function, value, and practice of theatre and performance (K); 10. Ability to follow and engage in cross-disciplinary conversations about theatre, theory and philosophy (K); Ability to work independently and autonomously, showing initiative and personal motivation (S); 11. Ability to work collaboratively, sharing responsibility, delegating, and where appropriate leading teams (S); 12. Project management (S); 13. Ability to handle multiple, diverse and competing demands on time and energy (S); 14. Ability to coherently develop and express ideas in various media including, but not limited to, essays and reports, creative writing, presentation, meetings, digital and social media, performance (S); 15. Skills in research, gathering appropriate evidence and ideas (S); 16. Confidence in dealing with complex ideas and experiences (S); 17. Confidence with digital and information technology (S); 18. Critical reasoning (S); 19. Ability to frame critical enquiry (S); 20. Ability to engage creatively with the wider world (S*);
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Section 7 - Teaching, learning and assessment

Teaching and learning is mostly by means of workshops, seminars, lectures, tutorials, performance, essay supervision, guided independent study and research, electronic communications and written and oral feedback. Assessment of knowledge and understanding is typically by essays, class presentations, performances, and other creative projects. Full details of the assessments for individual modules can be obtained from the Drama [Department](#) and Philosophy [Department](#).

Section 8 – Additional costs
Drama and Theatre - There are no single associated costs with studying Drama and Theatre Studies greater than £50 per item. It is a requirement to purchase a pair of safety boots in the first year, for which a range of cost options are available. Ticket costs for mandatory theatre trips are capped at £10.
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 modules, including teaching and learning methods, and methods of assessment, can be found via the online [Module 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 modules, 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 Drama and Theatre Studies (W440) BA Dance (W500) BA Drama and Theatre Studies with an International Year BA Classical Studies and Drama (QW84) BA Comparative Literature and Culture and Drama (Q2W4) BA Drama and Creative Writing (WW48) BA Drama and German (WR42) BA Drama and Italian (WR43)	BA Drama and Spanish (WR41) BA English and Drama (QW34) BA Drama and Music (WW43) BA French and Drama (RW14) BA Drama with Philosophy (W4V5) BA Drama and Dance (WW45) BA Drama with Philosophy (W4V5)