BA Philosophy, Politics & Economics

Course Handbook

2019/20
Welcome from the Head of Department of Philosophy & The PPE Convenor

Welcome to the Philosophy, Politics and Economics BA degree! This is your course handbook. It contains important information about how your degree course and related matters are organised, which you will need to know as you progress through your years of study here. Please read it carefully. We look forward to meeting you, and wish you an enjoyable and fruitful time at Sussex. You are now a member of a higher education academic community. There will be exciting challenges ahead, and we look forward to helping you master them.

As a PPE student, you will be spending time in three Schools and Departments, so please take some time to work out how each of your School and Department works. Please do not hesitate to ask either of the two of us any questions you may have about Sussex Direct, Canvas, and similar matters relating to access to your on-line course materials. All of your seminar tutors have office hours twice a week, so you should make sure you make the most of the time that they place at your disposal. Your lecturers and tutors are friendly, approachable, and knowledgeable people. They want you to feel at home at Sussex, help you to succeed as a student, and help you to grow as a person.

We are always happy to meet with you during our office hours or by appointment, and we very much look forward to getting to know you.

Dr Tony Booth, A28, Head of the Philosophy Department, email: A.R.Booth@sussex.ac.uk

Professor Michael Morris, A34, PPE degree convenor, email: M.R.Morris@sussex.ac.uk
Since its inception in 1961, the University of Sussex has consistently ranked among the best British universities for the study of arts and humanities.

In 2009 the University brought together four leading programmes - History, Art History, Philosophy and American Studies - into a new dedicated School of study. The subjects we teach focus on the ability to reason, to analyse, to take critical positions and to expound them. Your studies with us will be an intensive high-level training in how to think - whatever your area of study - fitting you with the skills for a wide range of careers.

The School of History, Art History and Philosophy (HAHP) combines high-quality teaching, cutting edge international research and a friendly and supportive atmosphere.

Professor Liz James
Head of School of History, Art History and Philosophy
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Key HAHP School and PPE contacts

The History and Philosophy Departments sit within the wider unit of the School of History, Art History and Philosophy (HAHP). Administration of your degree and modules is organised by the School. The School, and its component Departments including History and Philosophy, are all situated in Arts A on campus (here’s a [campus map]).

HAHP School Office  
Arts A7

Philosophy Departmental Co-ordinator (your first point of contact for any administrative issues or difficulties that arise, such as changing modules, change of contact details, etc.)
  
Arts A7, philosophy@sussex.ac.uk

Politics Departmental Co-ordinator
James Dowling, FRE-G41, j.dowling@sussex.ac.uk

Economics Departmental Co-ordinators
Luke Beale, Amy Dimer, Jo O'Connor, JUB-G08
  
ug-econ@sussex.ac.uk

Head of Philosophy
Tony Booth, Arts A28, A.R.Booth@sussex.ac.uk

Head of Politics
Dan Hough, FRE-107, D.T.Hough@sussex.ac.uk

Head of Economics
Paola Manzini, JUB-274, p.manzini@sussex.ac.uk

PPE Convenor and Advisors

PPE Convenor
Michael Morris, Arts A34, M.R.Morris@sussex.ac.uk

PPE Advisor for Politics
Paul Taggart, FRE-06, P.A.Taggart@sussex.ac.uk

PPE Advisor for Economics
Mohsen Veisi, M.Veisi@sussex.ac.uk

Head of School of HAHP
Liz James, Arts A130, E.James@sussex.ac.uk

School Director of Student Experience
In addition, you can find out the contact details of your lecturers and seminar tutors by checking Sussex Direct.

**How we contact you**

We will use your university email address to contact you (not a private one). Please check it regularly for important course and module information.

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**Careers and employability**

It’s never too early to start thinking about your future career after you leave Sussex. The Careers and Employability Centre is based in the Library. See the Careers and
Employability Centre’s website for more details of workshops, cv advice, internship opportunities, employer drop ins, job fairs, individual appointments, and lots more: http://www.sussex.ac.uk/careers/services/students

BA Philosophy, Politics & Economics course aims

The aims of the Philosophy course are to:

- Bring you to a critical understanding of the ideas and arguments of some of the major philosophers in the history of the subject, encountered in their own writings, both as living argument and as a challenge to contemporary modes of thinking.
- Familiarise you with some central theories and arguments in the fields of Metaphysics, Epistemology, or Philosophy of Mind, Aesthetics, Moral Philosophy, or Social and Political Philosophy broadly understood.
- Enable you to critically engage in major issues currently at the frontiers of philosophical debate and research.
- Enable you to identify and produce valid arguments, and to show knowledge of classic argumentative forms and methods of reasoning.

The aims of the Politics course are to:

- Enable students to understand the importance of Politics in the contemporary world.
- Ensure that students acquire knowledge and understanding in appropriate areas of theory and analysis.
- Enable students to understand and use the concepts, approaches and methods of the discipline and develop an understanding of the contested nature and problematic character of inquiry in the discipline.
- Provide students with the opportunity to combine the insights and methods of the discipline.
- Develop students' capacities to critically analyse events, ideas, institutions and practices.
- Provide students with opportunities to develop their intellectual, personal and interpersonal skills so as to enable them to participate meaningfully in their societies.
- Provide a curriculum supported by scholarship, staff development and a research culture that promotes breadth and depth of intellectual enquiry and debate.
- Provide students with a supportive and receptive learning environment.

The aims of the Economics course are to:

- To provide our undergraduates with a training in the economics discipline, develop their interest in the subject and encourage them to examine both
economic and other social problems from an analytical and critical perspective.

- To provide our undergraduates with a flexible curriculum that allows the approaches and methodologies of other disciplines to be explored through the interdisciplinary and multidisciplinary structures at Sussex and instil in them an openness and flexibility to alternative views.
- To provide our students with a set of general skills that enable them to think analytically, express themselves clearly, work independently, meet deadlines and encourage initiative.
- To provide our students with a set of subject-specific skills appropriate to the level of their course that enable them to access, analyse and appraise economic theories and related evidence; to present and sustain coherent and logical argument; and to implement and complete independent research in economics.
- To give our students the opportunity to participate in processes of module review and evaluation.

**Course learning outcomes**

The learning outcomes for PPE are just the learning outcomes of the component subjects.

The **Philosophy** learning outcomes are as follows (‘course learning outcomes’ are the skills, abilities and characteristics we expect you to acquire over the length of the Philosophy part of your degree course). We expect you to:

- Philosophical skills including: detecting fallacies in arguments; articulacy in identifying underlying issues in debate; precision of thought and expression in analyzing complex problems; sensitivity in interpretation of texts; the ability to use philosophical terminology; ability to abstract and analyze arguments.
- An appreciation of the nature and range of philosophical debate and of philosophy as itself a philosophical problem.
- Detailed knowledge and understanding of the principal theories in at least one and up to three fundamental fields of philosophy.
- Detailed knowledge and understanding of the principal ideas of at least one and up to three major philosophers through the study of original texts, albeit in translation in most cases.
- Familiarity with the range of philosophical problems together with a sense of how variously they have been interpreted and treated throughout the history of philosophy.
- Familiarity with and understanding of classical argumentative forms and methods of reasoning.

The **Politics** learning outcomes are as follows (‘course learning outcomes’ are the skills, abilities and characteristics we expect you to acquire over the length of the Sociology part of your degree course). We expect you to:
• Identify and describe and illustrate key approaches to the study of politics and understand the contested nature of knowledge and understanding
• Identify and understand the key normative ideas and concepts which serve as the foundations of politics
• Describe and illustrate the structure and operation of different political systems
• Describe and illustrate the key explanatory concepts and theories used in the study of politics
• Develop a familiarity with major methods of data collection and analysis in politics, and their appropriate uses
• Develop a knowledge of British politics and the key concepts and approaches used to explain British politics
• Critically evaluate the nature of political change in a political system or with regard to a political issue
• Ability to understand and critique political philosophical arguments made by political theorists
• An ability to compare different political systems in order to develop a general understanding of the functioning of politics
• Plan and carry out a research project relating to a political topic which sustains a line of argument and draws on a body of academic literature
• Critically evaluate the approaches to understanding the nature and processes of making contemporary public policy.

The Economics learning outcomes are as follows (‘course learning outcomes’ are the skills, abilities and characteristics we expect you to acquire over the length of the Sociology part of your degree course). We expect you to:

• Have demonstrated knowledge of the core principles of economics
• Have demonstrated a knowledge of quantitative techniques appropriate to the study of economics or finance (as appropriate).
• Be able to use the power of abstraction to focus upon the essential features of an economic problem and to provide a framework for the evaluation of the effects of policy or other exogenous events.
• Be able to analyse an economic problem or issue using an appropriate theoretical framework.
• Have displayed a knowledge of sources and content of economic information and data.
• Have demonstrated the ability to carry out self-directed study and research.
• Have demonstrated an understanding of appropriate concepts in economics that may be of wider use in a decision-making context (e.g. opportunity cost)
• Have demonstrated an understanding of appropriate concepts in finance that may be of wider use in a decision-making context (e.g. discounting).
• Have learnt to communicate economic ideas, concepts and information using means of communication appropriate to the audience and the problem at issue.
• Have learned to appreciate the importance of, and be able to construct, rigorous argument to help evaluate ideas.
• Have demonstrated a facility in numeracy and other quantitative techniques, such as correctly interpreting graphs.
• Have demonstrated competence in the use of an appropriate range of computer software.

Course structure

In YEAR ONE, you take eight modules in total: two or three modules in Philosophy, two or three modules in Politics, and three modules in Economics.

In Philosophy, you will take the following core module in Autumn, designed to give you a foundation on philosophical method:

• Paradox & Argument

You may then take one further Philosophy module from the following:

• Existentialism
• Science and Reason
• Truth and Morality: The Meaning of Life

In the Spring term you can then choose one module from the following:

• Early Modern Philosophy
• Logic and Meaning
• Society, State and Humanity
• Reading Philosophy

In Politics, you will take one or both of the following in Autumn:

• British Political History
• Explanatory Concepts in Political Science

And one of the following in the Spring:

• Foundations of Politics
• Research Skills and Methods in Political Science

On the Economics part of your degree, you will take the following core module in Autumn:

• Introduction to Mathematics for Finance and Economics

And the following core modules in Spring:

• Macroeconomics I
In YEAR TWO, you take eight modules in total: two or three modules in Philosophy, two or three modules in Politics, and two or three modules in Economics.

In Philosophy you take two or three modules (no more than two Philosophy modules in one term) among the following:

- Ancient Philosophy
- Feminist Philosophy
- Philosophy of Mind
- Aesthetics
- Epistemology
- Phenomenology
- Philosophy of Religion
- Philosophy of Science
- Philosophy of Language

In Politics you take two or three modules (no more than two Politics module in one term) among the following:

- European Politics
- Modern Political Thought
- Communicating Politics
- Politics of Governance: East Asia
- Politics of Governance: Eastern Europe
- Politics of Governance: France
- Politics of Governance: Germany
- Politics of Governance: India
- Politics of Governance: International Institutions and Issues
- Politics of Governance: The European Union

In Economics you take one or both of the following modules in the Autumn:

- Macroeconomics II
- Microeconomics I

If you take only one of those, you are free to choose also:

- Statistics and Introductory Econometrics

In the Spring you can choose one or two among the following:

- Advanced Macroeconomics
- Advanced Microeconomics
- Applied Economic Topics
In YEAR THREE, you specialize in just two of the three subjects, Philosophy, Politics, and Economics.

If you choose Philosophy as one of your two Year Three subjects, you do one Philosophy module in the Autumn and one in the Spring. The Autumn options are:

- Ethics
- Islamic Philosophy
- Metaphysics
- Modern European Philosophy

The Spring options are:

- Figures in Analytic Philosophy
- Figures in Post-Kantian Philosophy
- Figures in Social and Political Philosophy
- Language, Truth and Literature.

If you choose Politics as one of your two Year Three subjects, you do one Politics module in the Autumn and one in the Spring. The Autumn options are:

- Photography and Politics
- Political Change: Contemporary France
- Political Change: Eastern Europe in Transition
- Political Change: Political Parties and Party Systems
- Political Change: The European Union as a Global Actor
- Political Change: the Evolution of Post War European Integration

The Spring options are:

- Independent Study/Internship
- Political Corruption
- Progress and Decline
- Democracy and Inequality
- Parties and Voters in the UK
- Governing Technology
- Feminism and Women’s Political Activism

If you choose Economics as one of your two Year Three subjects, you do two Economics module in the Autumn and two in the Spring. The Autumn options are:

- Statistics and Introductory Econometrics
- Economics of European Integration
- Environmental Economics
- Labour Economics
- Macroeconomics 2
- Microeconomics 2
- Monetary Theory and Policy
- Public Economics
• Understanding Global Markets

The Spring options are:

• Applied Econometrics
• Behavioural Economics
• Climate Change Economics
• International Trade
• Statistics Project
• The Economics of Development

Consolidation weeks

In most Philosophy modules you will have one week designated as a ‘consolidation week’ (this is sometimes also called a ‘reading week’ in other Departments). This is NOT a holiday and is to be used to catch up on reading for your module or to prepare for assessment. During that week, there will be a general lecture or class on study skills for your year group, which you should attend, as it will contain vital information for your future assessments. Normally you should not go home during this week. Since reading weeks differ from Department to Department, you should continue to attend classes in your other modules, if they are held.

Choosing your options

You will choose your options for the next academic year around the middle of the second term of the previous academic year. You will be sent an email by your departmental co-ordinators at the relevant time. In addition, your Head of Departments or their nominee will hold an ‘Options Fair’ around that time: a publicised general meeting for your year group, to discuss the various modules available to you, and to help you make an informed choice. If you want further information, please drop in to see the tutor of the module you are interested in during their office hours (see below).

‘Sussex Choice’ pathways and electives

In addition to your main degree subject, those of you on Single Honours degrees may wish to take modules or sets of modules from other subject areas. You can take a ‘pathway’ or ‘electives’.

A ‘pathway’ is an approved, academically-coherent combination of modules, which students study across either the first two years (60 credits) of their degree or across all three years (90 credits). The rationale for Pathways is to enable students to study a second subject outside of their main discipline in a structured manner.

‘Electives’ are single modules which allow single honours students to study a subject outside of their main discipline within and beyond their home School. These modules may be at Level 3, 4 or 5 of the Academic Framework and will always have a credit rating of 15 credit points per module. Electives are different from Option modules; the latter are selected by students on both single and joint honours awards from a
group of modules linked to a specific degree course. Options are normally delivered within a single School.

For more information on pathways and electives within the Sussex Choice programme, see http://www.sussex.ac.uk/adge/curriculum/sussexchoice

Student feedback and drop-in hours

Every member of teaching faculty holds “student feedback and drop-in hours” (sometimes also known as “office hours”) each week during term time, which will be advertised on their office doors and on Sussex Direct. These hours are for, among other things: following up material discussed in lectures or seminars; raising questions you still have; trying out new ideas; discussing any feedback you have received on written work or presentations. They are a form of contact hours available to you throughout your degree, should you wish to make use of them. You are strongly encouraged to ‘drop-in’ during these hours or else make an appointment via email. (If a tutor is away without notice during a published office hour, please let the Philosophy or Sociology Co-ordinator know- see p.5).

Teaching and learning on the PPE Degree

Modules in PPE are typically taught via a lecture which is 1 or 2 hours long, and smaller group seminars later in the week (1 hour long).

In addition to attending lectures and seminars, you are expected to do independent reading and note-taking and any other tasks the lecturer has set you for the week.

Much of your course material is found on Canvas https://canvas.sussex.ac.uk/, the University’s online learning platform, which you will need to check every week. You should be automatically subscribed to the Canvas sites for your modules but if not, please contact the Philosophy Co-ordinator in the School Office (see p.5).

Any additional reading material not on Canvas can be found via the University Library http://www.sussex.ac.uk/library/ In addition to their physical copies of books, they have an extensive electronic library which is accessible remotely. Please contact your tutor if some recommended book or other reading is not there so they can order it for you.

All of your class times and locations, and the contact details of your tutors, are to be found in your timetable on Sussex Direct https://direct.sussex.ac.uk/login.php. Sussex Direct is the University’s online tool for administrating your degree. Please contact the Philosophy Co-ordinator in the School Office (see p. 5) if anything is missing or in error.

Helpful learning resources

Philosophy library and internet resources http://www.sussex.ac.uk/hahp/internal/philosophy/studentresources/internet

For resources on essay writing skills (see also links on the left side bar): http://www.sussex.ac.uk/hahp/internal/philosophy/studentresources/general
Academic mentors

Mentors are HAHP PhD students who are available to help you with a range of study skills, such as time management and effective planning, help with presentations, planning and structuring written assessments, revision skills and exam preparation, contributing effectively to seminars, and making the best use of feedback. Mentors run lunchtime drop-in sessions every day of the week; see posters around the school for details.

Brushing up your general academic skills

The Careers and Employability Centre runs a range of workshops on specific skills such as: academic writing, planning and structuring essays; referencing; managing stress; revision; and more. See here for a range of online and in-person resources: [http://www.sussex.ac.uk/careers/studyskills](http://www.sussex.ac.uk/careers/studyskills)

English Language skills

The Sussex Centre for Language Studies offers resources designed to help students improve their academic English and their understanding of British academic culture.

They offer free workshops, 'time to write' sessions and one-to-one tutorials throughout the academic year for students for whom English is not their first language. These are available to international/overseas students studying for a degree at the University of Sussex.

Contact the team on elas@sussex.ac.uk or see here for more details [http://www.sussex.ac.uk/languages/english/elas](http://www.sussex.ac.uk/languages/english/elas)

Assessment

Whilst at Sussex you will sit a range of mid-term and end-of-term assessments, and get marks for them. In First Year, these marks will contribute to an overall mark which determines whether you can progress to Second Year. In Second and Final Year, your marks will be combined to compose your eventual degree classification. Degree classifications are as follows: First (70-100), 2.1 or 'Upper Second' (60-69), 2.2 or 'Lower Second' (50-59), Third (40-49), Fail (39 or below). Your Second Year marks will be weighted at 32%, your Year Abroad at 20% and your Final Year marks will be weighted at 48% of your overall degree mark.

Assessments may take the form of essays, gobbets, presentations, exams, dissertations, take away papers or in-class tests, for instance.
The Examination and Assessment Regulations govern the way in which all taught students – undergraduate and postgraduate – are examined and assessed at the University of Sussex. Follow this link to the full examination and assessment handbook.

‘Assessment criteria’ broadly describe the characteristics typically associated with various marks and classifications. For Philosophy Assessment Criteria, follow the links below:

Assessment criteria for Philosophy

Feedback on your work

Written feedback will normally be provided to all students on all assessments within three weeks of the assessment deadline. If it is necessary to return comments after this time, every effort will be made to notify students in advance, but please remember that sometimes there are unexpected delays for reasons beyond our control (e.g. staff illnesses).

We aim to make our feedback clear and helpful, giving you constructive information about how to improve which you can take forward to other assessments in the rest or your degree. If anything is unclear about a piece of feedback, or you don’t feel it has been as helpful as it might be, we strongly encourage you to discuss it further with your lecturer or tutor during an office hour (see p.9). If you have a complaint about a piece of feedback, please contact the School Director of Teaching and Learning (see p.5), about it and they will try to resolve the matter.

In addition to written feedback, you will get informal feedback during seminars, as you discuss, explore and clarify new ideas with your tutor and fellow students.

Electronic submission

From 2016, students taking first and second year modules will usually be asked to submit assessments electronically where assessments are text-based, for example, an essay. Your Sussex Direct webpages and module handbook will give all assessment details, including whether the assessment is to be submitted via e-submission through Sussex Direct or in hard copy via the School Office. Feedback for all e-submission assessments will also be provided electronically.

Please refer to the frequently asked questions available on the following webpage for further information:

www.sussex.ac.uk/adqe/standards/examsandassessment/esubmission

Turnitin

You are encouraged to use the internet-based text-matching service, Turnitin, prior to submitting your assessments. This may help you identify problems with your referencing.

Turnitin is also used during the marking process as a means of checking the originality of submitted work. From 2014/15 all assessments submitted electronically
via e-submission will be uploaded to the Turnitin database and an Originality Report will be made available to the marker. Please refer to the frequently asked questions available on the following webpage for further information:

www.sussex.ac.uk/adqe/standards/examsandassessment/esubmission

**Late Submission**

Should you miss an assessment submission deadline (for whatever reason) you may still submit the assessment after the published deadline. However, this will incur a penalty, as follows:

- Work submitted up to 24 hours late shall incur a penalty deduction of 5 percentage points (not 5% of the actual mark)
- Work submitted after 24 hours and up to 7 days late shall incur a penalty deduction of 10 percentage points (not 10% of the actual mark)
- No work shall be accepted after the 7 day penalty period has elapsed

**Exceptional Circumstances** - please see the [Student Life website](https://www.sussex.ac.uk/studentlifecentre/index)

If your assessments are affected by sudden and unforeseen circumstances (e.g. illness) you can make an Exceptional Circumstances (EC) claim. All EC claims are completed on Sussex Direct and evidence must be uploaded electronically.

The Student Life Centre can advise you on how to make a claim. Please see the Student Life Centre website: [https://www.sussex.ac.uk/studentlifecentre/index](https://www.sussex.ac.uk/studentlifecentre/index)

**The Student Life Centre**

The Student Life Centre offers information and advice to all Sussex Students. Our aim is to help you to gain the best university experience you can, whatever your circumstances, by ensuring if you run into problems you get appropriate guidance and support.

The Student Life Centre is based in the heart of the campus: on the ground floor at the side of Bramber House. There are lots of ways to access our service. We are open from 9.00 am – 5.00 pm every week day, you can drop in to see us, call 01273 876767, email studentlifecentre@sussex.ac.uk or make an appointment – just go onto your Sussex Direct site, click on your ‘Study’ tab and then on Student Life Centre. You can select the advisor you wish to see at a time that suits you.

Amongst the many issues we can help you with are:

- Personal concerns affecting study progress or well-being.
- Funding and finance including scholarships, bursaries and hardship funds.
- Sources of help to improve academic performance – identifying obstacles to learning.
- Understanding university systems and regulations in relation to assessment, services, complaints, conduct, and discipline.
Progression, intermission and withdrawal processes - discussion and support.
Referrals to other professional services on campus.
Exceptional circumstances claims help.
If you don’t know who to talk to or who to ask – start at the Student Life Centre.

Because we are also a proactive service you may be contacted directly by the SLC while you are a student here as we may wish to offer you particular support. This may be, for example, in response to concern from your School about your attendance, participation or engagement with your course.

**Good academic practice**

The University takes academic misconduct very seriously, as does the Philosophy Department. Academic misconduct includes plagiarism, collusion, and personation (getting someone else to write work for you). It is your responsibility to find out what constitutes plagiarism, collusion, and personation, and to avoid them. If in doubt, please ask your tutors. Here are some useful links:

Sussex Student Union information on academic misconduct: https://www.sussexstudent.com/support/academic-misconduct/

Sussex Skills Hub material on Plagiarism: http://www.sussex.ac.uk/skillshub/?id=386

Sussex Skills Hub Referencing and Plagiarism quiz: http://www.sussex.ac.uk/skillshub/?id=377

Philosophy Department Referencing guide

University regulations on Academic Misconduct http://www.sussex.ac.uk/adqe/standards/academicmisconduct

English language resources and support: http://www.sussex.ac.uk/languages/english/acad

**Your feedback to us**

We like to hear from you how we are doing and how we might improve things. There are several ways you can get in touch:

- Informal feedback half way through the module, normally taken in class by your module tutor (if this doesn’t happen, please ask your tutor, or failing that, alert the Director of Teaching and Learning – see p.5).

- Electronic course evaluation questionnaires after the module is over (you will be sent an email with a link).

- A chat with your lecturer or tutor passing on any concerns you have.
• A chat with your Student Rep. For information about the Student Rep system, and to find your Rep, please see here https://www.sussexstudent.com/student-reps/for-students/

• If you have a major concern that you can’t resolve with your tutor, please contact either the Director of Student Experience or the Director of Teaching and Learning (see p.5).

What do to if you decide to change course
We recognise that sometimes students can feel after some reflection that a course is not for them, and wish to change to some other more suitable course. If this describes your situation, please see the Curriculum and Assessment Officer Gavin Osbourne (Arts A7, G.Osbourne@sussex.ac.uk) who will guide you through the process of applying to make a change. If you want advice on changing course, please see the Director of Student Experience, Hester Barron (Arts A151, H.Barron@sussex.ac.uk).

The University Student Handbook
For other more general material, please also see the University student handbook http://www.sussex.ac.uk/students/essentials/studenthandbook/