



UNIVERSITY
of York

DEPARTMENT OF PHILOSOPHY



**GUIDE FOR TAUGHT MA STUDENTS
2017/18**

The advice given in this guide is no substitute for knowledge of University Policy on graduate matters. The University's 'Ordinances and Regulations' is the authoritative work, and should be consulted whenever doubt arises. The purpose of this guide is to explain how University policy is implemented in the Philosophy Department.

Departmental Postgraduate Teaching Aims

In its postgraduate programmes, the Philosophy Department is committed to:

- producing students of a high academic quality who have shown the ability to undertake research,
- incorporating the latest research and scholarship into its courses and tuition, and
- enabling students to appreciate the value of the study of philosophy.

PHILOSOPHY DEPARTMENT GUIDE FOR MA STUDENTS

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Please note that information concerning assessment policies and procedures, exceptional circumstances, the format of essays can be found on the Department's webpages:

<http://www.york.ac.uk/philosophy/current/taught-postgraduates/>

1 INTRODUCTION TO THE DEPARTMENT

The Department of Philosophy welcomes all those who have come to York to undertake work leading to an MA degree. This guide is intended to offer you information and advice, so that you can become familiar with our procedures and make the best use of your time here. We hope that you, as members of the Philosophy Department, will take full advantage of what we have to offer.

The Department of Philosophy has around 25 members of academic staff including teaching fellows, offering a wide range of areas of research interest, including the history of philosophy (ancient, early modern, late modern and early twentieth century), metaphysics, epistemology, philosophy of mind, philosophy of language, philosophy of logic, philosophy of religion, ethics, applied ethics, aesthetics, and continental philosophy. The library provision is strong in all these areas. The Department has links with a number of other Departments in the university, in particular with the Politics Department, the English Department, and the Department of Health Sciences. It is one of the constituent Departments of the Humanities Research Centre, housed in the Berrick Saul Building, where space is available for postgraduates to work and meet other postgraduates in the humanities.

The Department is based in the Sally Baldwin Buildings, Block A. The offices of the academic and departmental administrative staff are here. The staff seminars and Philosophy Colloquia are typically held in the departmental seminar room A/009.

Members of Staff and their Research Interests

Keith Allen (BA (Cambridge), MPhil, PhD (London)) Senior Lecturer

Email keith.allen@york.ac.uk

His interests include colour, perception, and Early Modern Philosophy. He is the author of *A Naïve Realist Theory of Colour* (2016).

Jamie Buckland (BA, MA (Kent), PhD (Reading)) Associate Lecturer, **Programme Director for Philosophy and Politics, Member of Arts and Humanities Ethics Committee**

Email jamie.buckland@york.ac.uk

Jamie's primary interests are in ethics, metaethics, and reasons theory; particularly the distinction between agent-neutrality and agent-relativity. He is also interested in the relationship between normative ethics and political theory.

Richard Yetter Chappell (PhD (Princeton)) Lecturer

Email richard.yetterchappell@york.ac.uk (on leave Summer 2018)

His primary research interests are in Consequentialism and non-naturalist normative realism. He's also interested in applied ethics and epistemology.

James Clarke (BA (Leeds Metropolitan), MA (Sussex), PhD (Durham)) Lecturer

Email james.a.clarke@york.ac.uk (on leave Autumn 2017)

His interests include post-Kantian idealism, especially Fichte and Hegel, contemporary critical theory, phenomenology, aesthetics, ethics and political philosophy. He is currently working on a book on Fichte.

Tom Cochrane (BA Philosophy (UCL), MA Music Composition (Birmingham Conservatoire), PhD Philosophy (Nottingham)) Associate Lecturer

Email tom.cochrane@york.ac.uk

His primary areas of specialism are the philosophy of mind/psychology (particularly the emotions, mental disorders, and the extended mind) and aesthetics (particularly music, expression theory, and the various aesthetic values).

Greg Currie (BSc, PhD (London School of Economics)) Professor, **Research Impact Officer** (on leave Autumn 2017 and Spring 2018)

Email gregory.currie@york.ac.uk

His interests include the arts and cognition, and the imagination as an area of special focus.

Dorothea Debus (MA (Munich), BPhil, DPhil (Oxford)) Lecturer (on leave 2017-2018)

Email dorothea.debus@york.ac.uk

Her interests include memory, emotion, and the will.

David Efird (BA (Duke), MDiv (Princeton Theological Seminary), MSc (Edinburgh), DPhil (Oxford)) Senior Lecturer, **Deputy Head of Department** (Summer 2018)

Email david.efird@york.ac.uk

His interests include metaphysics (especially modal metaphysics) and the philosophy of religion.

Stephen Everson (BA, MA (Oxford), PhD (London)) Lecturer

Email stephen.everson@york.ac.uk

His interests are in ancient philosophy and philosophy of mind. He is the author of *Aristotle on Perception*, and he is editor of *Aristotle: The Politics* and of a number of books on ancient philosophy.

Johan Gustafsson (BA, MA (Stockholm), PhD (Royal Institute of Technology, Stockholm)) Lecturer, **Departmental Computing Officer**

Email johan.gustafsson@york.ac.uk

His interests include decision theory, value theory, normative ethics, personal identity and Locke.

Stephen Holland (MA, DPhil (Oxford), MA (London), PhD (York)) Reader

Email stephen.holland@york.ac.uk (on leave Autumn 2017)

His interests are in ethics, especially bioethics and normative theory.

He has published *Bioethics: A Philosophical Introduction* and also *Public Health Ethics*.

Owen Hulatt (BA, MA, PhD (York)) Lecturer, **Convener of MA/Diploma in Philosophy; Careers Officer**

Email owen.hulatt@york.ac.uk

His interests include Frankfurt School critical theory (particularly Adorno), aesthetics, anti-humanist political philosophy, Spinoza and post-Kantian idealism.

Dave Ingram (PhD (Nottingham)) Associate Lecturer

Email david.ingram@york.ac.uk

His primary research interests are in metaphysics and the philosophy of time. In fact, he is interested in the metaphysics of x for almost all values of x . He is also interested in questions that arise in the philosophy of mind and the philosophy of physics, particularly when the best answers to those questions force him to think a bit harder about his background in metaphysics.

Christopher Jay (BA Philosophy (London), MPhil. Stud., PhD (UCL)) Associate Lecturer, **Undergraduate Admissions, Outreach and Open Day Officer**

Email christopher.jay@york.ac.uk

Most of his current research is in metaethics and related areas of philosophy (especially other areas of philosophy where the sorts of commitments a person can or ought to have are at issue). Other areas of interest are fictionalism and realism, Kant's moral philosophy and philosophy of religion. He is also working on what sorts of reasons a person can have.

Nick Jones (BA (York), MA, PhD (Nottingham)) Lecturer

Email nick.jones@york.ac.uk

His interests include philosophy of mind, epistemology, aesthetics, and the philosophy of Darwinism.

Peter Lamarque (MA (UEA), BPhil (Oxford)) Professor

Email p.v.lamarque@york.ac.uk

His interests centre on aesthetics and the philosophy of literature. He is the author of *Truth, Fiction, and Literature* (with S. H. Olsen), *Fictional Points of View*, and *The Philosophy of Literature*. He was editor of the *British Journal of Aesthetics* from 1995-2008. His recent work has been on interpretation, aesthetic

properties, and ontology.

Barry Lee (BA (Newcastle), MA (York), PhD (London)) Lecturer, **Chair, Departmental Teaching Committee**
Email barry.lee@york.ac.uk

His interests include contemporary metaphysics (especially material objects, identity, persistence, supervenience, events, causation and modality), philosophy of language (especially metaphor and fiction), philosophy of mind and Wittgenstein.

Mary Leng (BA (Oxon), PhD (Toronto)) Senior Lecturer, **Chair, Departmental Research Committee (Spring and Summer 2018)**

Email mary.leng@york.ac.uk (on leave Autumn 2017)

Her interests are in Philosophy of Mathematics; Philosophy of Science; Philosophical Logic; Metaphysics; History of Analytic Philosophy. She is the author of *Mathematics and Reality* (OUP 2010).

Daniel Morgan, Associate Lecturer, **Library Officer**

Email d.morgan@york.ac.uk

Paul Noordhof (BA (Oxford), PhD (London)) Professor, **Chair, Departmental Research Committee (Autumn 2017)**

Email paul.noordhof@york.ac.uk (on leave Summer 2018)

His main research interests are in philosophy of mind, action theory and metaphysics.

Christian Pilller (Mag Phil (Graz), MA, PhD (Princeton)) Senior Lecturer

Email christian.pilller@york.ac.uk (on leave full year 2017-18)

His interests include ethics, decision theory, and Austrian philosophy.

Louise Richardson (MA (Durham), PhD (Warwick)) Lecturer, **Chair, Board of Studies, Equality Champion**

Email louise.richardson@york.ac.uk

Her interests include Philosophy of Mind, and Perception

Her research is focussed on questions about the five familiar perceptual senses - seeing, hearing, touching, tasting and smelling. She is currently concerned, particularly, with what differentiates the senses from other faculties that help us to find out about the world, and with what distinguishes the senses from one another.

Tom Stoneham (MA (Oxon), MPhil, PhD (London)) Professor, **Director of Studies (Research Students), Dean of the York Graduate Research School**

Email tom.stoneham@york.ac.uk

His interests include self-knowledge, the epistemology of reasoning, consciousness, and early modern philosophy. He is the author of *Berkeley's World* (OUP, 2002).

Alan Thomas (BA (Cambridge), D.Phil. (Oxford)) Professor, **Head of Department**

Email ap.thomas@york.ac.uk

His interests include moral and political philosophy and epistemology. He is the author of *Value and Context* (OUP, 2006), *Thomas Nagel* (Acumen/Routledge, 2008/2015) and *Republic of Equals* (OUP, 2016). He is currently working on a Templeton-funded research project, "The Moral Psychology of Inequality".

Rob Trueman (BA, MPhil, PhD (Cambridge)) Lecturer, **Disability Officer**

Email rob.trueman@york.ac.uk

His primary interests are in metaphysics, philosophical logic and the philosophy of mathematics.

Catherine Wilson (BPhil (Oxon), PhD (Princeton)), Anniversary Professor

Email catherine.wilson@york.ac.uk

Her research is focused on the relationship between historical and contemporary developments in the empirical sciences, including physics and the behavioural and life sciences, and some traditional problems of philosophy. She is also interested in metaethics from a naturalistic perspective and Early Modern

Philosophy.

David Worsley (BA, MA (York)) Associate Lecturer, **Director of the First Year Programme**

Email david.worsley@york.ac.uk

His primary research interests are in philosophy of religion and philosophical theology. He is also interested in metaethics and epistemology.

Helen Yetter-Chappell (PhD (Princeton)) Lecturer

Email helen.yetter-chappell@york.ac.uk (on leave Summer 2018)

Her primary research interests focus on consciousness, mental imagery, and introspection. She is also interested in philosophy of mind and areas that touch on it, including intentionality, personal identity and the unity of consciousness, Berkeleyan idealism, metaethical non-naturalism, and character/virtue.

Members of Support and Administrative Staff

Jane Bertram

Room A/021, tel (01904) 324311, email jane.bertram@york.ac.uk

Feedback Administrator, reading packs, supervision and feedback and advice time, attendance

Carol Dixon

Room A/021, (01904) tel 323251, email carol.dixon@york.ac.uk

Taught MA and Graduate Diploma Admissions; Assessments and Exceptional Circumstances for Taught MA and Graduate Diploma students; Taught Programme Co-ordinator and Office Manager; Module changes; Elective modules; Visiting student administration; Timetabling enquiries

Janet Eldred

Room A/001a, tel (01904) 324323, email janet.eldred@york.ac.uk

Postgraduate research admissions; Research Student Administration; Departmental research Administration

Julie Kay

Room A/102, tel (01904) 322329, email julie.kay@york.ac.uk

Department Manager; Administrator for First Year Admissions; Finance management and planning; Member of Senior Management Team; Support for Board of Studies and Teaching Committee; HR matters, including recruitment; Contact for Head of Department's diary

Karen Norris

Room A/021, tel (01904) 322328, email karen.norris@york.ac.uk

Undergraduate Assessments Administrator, undergraduate exceptional circumstances

2 MA in Philosophy (Course Convenor: Dr Owen Hulatt)

Programme Overview

The MA in Philosophy course lasts for 12 months (full-time), or 24 months (part-time) and carries a total of 180 credits. You should be doing about 18 hours of work per week for **each** 20-credit module you are taking throughout the total length of the course (not merely during term-time). You should expect your tutors to provide guidance for study and recommendations for reading sufficient for these hours.

General Aims: This course is intended to provide training in philosophical research. Whilst primarily aimed at those who are hoping to progress to a research degree in philosophy, it will be of interest and benefit to those who simply want to study the subject in greater depth. The taught modules aim to provide students with a detailed knowledge of current debates in the core areas of philosophy, as well as grounding in the skills needed to engage in those debates.

General Objectives:

By the end of the course, students should have acquired:

- a critical knowledge of current debates on core issues in philosophy, and
- an understanding of how to apply their knowledge and research skills in order to engage constructively in those debates.
- Through engaging in the Research Skills module and the Research Training Project, they will
 - be better able to understand the demands of advanced research in Philosophy, and to engage with work at this level,
 - have developed their understanding of good practice in philosophical research,
 - have improved their academic skills and research abilities.
- They will also have conducted an independent and extended piece of research (a Dissertation) on a topic of their choice.

By the end of the course, students should have demonstrated the ability to:

- engage critically with major works of philosophy;
- conduct a literature survey;
- initiate and develop their own lines of thought in the context of the study of these works; and
- compare the treatment of philosophical questions offered by philosophers working in different traditions.

More generally, students should have demonstrated the ability to:

- marshal a complex body of information;
- construct cogent arguments in the evaluation of this material;
- construct an extended piece of writing;
- present, in both oral and written forms, a clear and well-structured assessment of relevant considerations; and
- present an argument, articulate its relevance and defend it against criticism.

Course Structure:

The 180 credits of the MA in Philosophy are made up as follows:

Taught Modules (80 credits)

The taught modules are designed to provide students with a detailed knowledge of the core areas of Philosophy. They comprise the following:

Two Core Modules:

- Autumn Term - PHI00020M Topics in Theoretical Philosophy (20 credits)
- Spring Term - PHI00019M Topics in Practical Philosophy (20 credits)

Two 20-Credit Option Modules, one taken in each of the Autumn and Spring Terms and chosen from the modules below:

Autumn Term

- PHI00037M Consciousness
- PHI00049M Philosophy of Art from Hume to Tolstoy
- PHI00027M Philosophy of Christianity
- PHI00053M Personal Identity
- PHI00030M Language and Mind
- PHI00054M Suffering and the Good Life
- PHI00013M Project Essay

Spring Term

- PHI00051M Contemporary Issues in Bioethics
- PHI00043M Philosophy of Emotions
- PHI00032M Foundations of Maths
- PHI00039M German Idealism
- PHI00055M Analytic Aesthetics
- PHI00056M Wittgenstein and Philosophy
- PHI00052M Value and the Meaning of Life
- PHI00013M Project Essay

Postgraduate Research Skills (PHI00008M) (10 credits)

This module runs in the Autumn and Spring Terms, and aims to introduce students to the skills necessary to carry out successful postgraduate research.

Dissemination Practice (PHI00023M) (10 credits)

In this module students gain experience of all aspects of the dissemination of philosophical research, including organising a small internal conference.

Dissertation Preparation PHI00022M (20 credits)

This module runs in the Autumn, Spring and Summer Terms. It aims to teach students to learn how to identify, prepare and plan a research project in philosophy.

The Dissertation (PHI00017M) (60 credits)

As an application of the core knowledge, skills and experience gained in the previous stages of the course, the Dissertation enables students to produce a sustained piece of critical writing on a topic previously defined and developed through the Dissertation Preparation module.

Course Structure for Full-time Students

Term 1	PHI00020M Topics in Theoretical Philosophy	PHI00008M Postgraduate Research Skills	PHI00022M Dissertation Preparation
	Option module		
Term 2	PHI00019M Topics in Practical Philosophy		
	Option module		
Term 3	PHI00023M Dissemination Practice		
Summer Vacation	PHI00017M Dissertation (Writing up)		

Course Structure for Part-time Students

Term 1	PHI00020M Topics in Theoretical Philosophy	PHI00008M Postgraduate Research Skills
Term 2	PHI00019M Topics in Practical Philosophy	
Term 3 and Summer Vacation	PHI00013M Project Essay	
Term 4	Option Module	PHI00022M Dissertation Preparation
Term 5	-----	
Term 6	PHI00023M Dissemination Practice	
Summer Vacation	PHI00017M Dissertation (Writing up)	

Module Outlines (in alphabetical order)

[PHI00055M Analytic Aesthetics \(option\) – Spring Term](#)

[PHI00037M Consciousness \(option\) – Autumn Term](#)

[PHI00051M Contemporary Issues in Bioethics \(option\) – Spring Term](#)

[PHI00023M Dissemination Practice \(compulsory\) – Summer Term](#)

[PHI00022M Dissertation Preparation \(compulsory\) – Autumn\Spring\Summer Terms](#)

[PHI00017M Dissertation \(writing up\) \(compulsory\) – Summer Vacation](#)

[PHI00032M Foundations of Maths \(option\) – Spring Term](#)

[PHI00039M German Idealism \(option\) – Spring Term](#)

[PHI00030M Language and Mind \(option\) – Autumn Term](#)

[PHI00053M Personal Identity \(option\) – Autumn Term](#)

[PHI00049M Philosophy of Art from Hume to Tolstoy \(option\) – Autumn Term](#)

[PHI00027M Philosophy of Christianity \(option\) – Autumn Term](#)

[PHI00043M Philosophy of Emotions \(option\) – Spring Term](#)

[PHI00008M Postgraduate Research Skills \(compulsory\)](#)

[PHI00013M Project](#) (option for full-time students in Spring Term but compulsory for part-time students in the Summer Term of their first year)

[PHI00054M Suffering and the Good Life \(option\) – Autumn Term](#)

[PHI00019M Topics in Practical Philosophy \(compulsory\) – Spring Term](#)

[PHI00020M Topics in Theoretical Philosophy \(compulsory\) – Autumn Term](#)

[PHI00052M Value and the Meaning of Life, The \(option\) – Spring Term](#)

[PHI00056M Wittgenstein and Philosophy \(option\) – Spring Term](#)

3 SUPPORT AND TRAINING FOR YOUR STUDIES

Departmental Support

The Chair of the Board of Studies is responsible for the overall provision of your course. However, the MA programme has its own Convenor, Dr Owen Hulatt, who will act as your personal supervisor, and you should, in the first instance, direct any specific queries about that programme to him. You may also see him at his office hour or at any other time (by arrangement). Each term the members of staff who are tutoring your individual modules will provide you with summative feedback on your assessed work. You can discuss the reports, should you wish to, at the next beginning-of-term supervision with the MA Convenor.

As part of the Postgraduate Research Skills module students are required to attend some of the Department's **Philosophy Colloquia** which provide a programme of internal and external speakers who talk on a wide range of topics. The Colloquium normally meets on Wednesdays during term-time at 4.00 pm in SBA/009. If you have any suggestions for speakers please contact [Johan Gustafsson](#).

University and Other Support

There are a number of services and agencies across the University that can support you with living and studying at the University. You should have received a copy of the **University Handbook** outlining these services when you registered with the Philosophy Department but you can also obtain the information by going to the following student website: <https://www.york.ac.uk/students/>

Technical Support

- New students are automatically registered to use the University's IT Services' facilities (computing, email, Internet etc).

- Hardware facilities available are networked PCs, UNIX workstations, Apple Macintoshes, and printers; software facilities available include Word, various graphics, statistics, and Excel.
- IT Services are located to the left of the main University Library.
- The IT User Guide, which you should have received together with other information for new students, explains how to use information on your student card to log into the computers which are available centrally and in various classrooms throughout the campus. Visit the IT Services website for further information: <http://www.york.ac.uk/it-services/> or call in at their information desk for help and advice on all operational matters.

Training

- A variety of resources and courses relevant to the particular needs of individual MA students are offered within the University. You should ask your **supervisor** for guidance, and should discuss what your **training needs** might be. In the normal course of your work your tutors will give substantial help on bibliographical sources and study methods. But there are other more formal training courses available to you:
- **IT Services** run a wide range of courses for staff and graduates throughout the year. Visit their website at: <http://www.york.ac.uk/it-services/>
- **Languages for All** run courses in French, German and other modern languages. To see what's available have a look at their website: <http://www.york.ac.uk/inst/lta/lfa/>
- The **Centre for English Language Teaching (CELT)** provides a range of courses on English language skills aimed at students for whom English is not the first language. Details of their programmes can be found at: <http://www.york.ac.uk/celt/>

4 LIBRARIES

The University (J.B. Morrell) Library

The University library provides virtual tours of its facilities and various guides to its services, more details at: <http://www.york.ac.uk/library/>

You should begin by reading the University guide 'Philosophy' in the Library which lists the basic resources and provides a brief guide to the main classification.

The Library keeps a number of bibliographical guides that will be helpful in your work. There are the following electronic guides:

- The Philosopher's Index - available electronically
- British Humanities Index – available electronically
- Arts and Humanities Index - available electronically
- Humanities Index - available electronically

The following bibliographical journals are also available:

- Philosophical Books
- Bibliography of Philosophy

[Daniel Morgan](#) is responsible for the Department's liaison with the library and suggestions for book buying should be made to him. Further information about the library opening times etc can be obtained from its website: <http://www.york.ac.uk/library/>

Other sources of books

Although the J.B. Morrell Library has a very good collection of books in Philosophy, it is very possible that you will find that a book or journal that you need is not stocked. There are a number of other sources available to

you.

The Interlending and Document Supply Service (ILDS)

This enables you to order books from any library in the country. You can find more details about the Service at: [Interlending and Document Supply Service](#)

The British Library at Boston Spa

A few miles from York is the central national repository for the Inter-Library Loans service. Details of reference facilities are available in the J.B. Morrell Library. A good strategy is for you to make your literature searches in York to identify what you need to consult, and then to pay a personal visit to consult these works in the Reading Room. If you order at least two weeks in advance (forms are available at the J.B. Morrell Library Help and Information desk) you will be able to get almost immediate access to all you can manage in a day. This will enable you to identify those works which you would like to be able subsequently to borrow and so make the most efficient use of the Inter-Library Loans service. A minibus service to BLDS is available. Contact the library for details. More information at: <http://www.york.ac.uk/library/other-libraries/british-library/>

The Society of College, National and University Libraries (SCONUL)

The SCONUL Access scheme allows University of York Library users to borrow or use books and journals at other libraries belonging to the scheme. Further information about the scheme is available at: [SCONUL](#)

5 UNIVERSITY AND DEPARTMENT COMMITTEES

The University Teaching Committee and the Standing Committee on Assessment are the major University bodies dealing with graduate affairs.

The Board of Studies in Philosophy is the governing academic committee of the Department. It determines and co-ordinates all matters of academic policy and practice and comprises all full-time members of the academic staff, plus two postgraduates (one doing a taught course and one doing a research degree) and three undergraduate representatives. It normally meets twice a term, in Weeks 2 and 6.