

MA in Philosophy

Postgraduate Diploma in Philosophy

STUDENT HANDBOOK

2022-2023

www.ucc.ie/philosophy

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WELCOME TO THE MA OR POST-GRADUATE DIPLOMA IN PHILOSOPHY

For one year you will be involved in the study of and critical as well as creative engagement with different philosophical concepts, theories and approaches to issues concerning the mind and consciousness, action and politics, ethics and aesthetics, society and culture, globalism, power, territory, and many more. MA students will have the chance during the spring and summer months to put this to work in a sustained piece of independent research.

We are looking forward to working with you and we hope you will enjoy the course.

COVID 19

Though COVID-19 no longer has pandemic status, it continues to circulate in Ireland. Our priority remains the safety and well-being of all our students, our teaching and non-teaching staff, and their families. Students should make themselves familiar with the Covid-19 university guidelines on what to do if you or someone you've been in close contact with develops symptoms. For up-to-date information on UCC's Covid-19 control measures, please read the following guidelines:

<https://www.ucc.ie/en/emt/covid19/>

For Covid-19 Student FAQ, please see here:

<https://www.ucc.ie/en/emt/covid19/student-faq/>

For the Academic Year 2022/23, all modules will be delivered face-to-face in classroom. Students should not expect that recordings of lectures will necessarily be available for general review. Should the public health situation change in a way that requires adjusted measures, updated information will be posted here.

SEMESTER DATES 2022-2023

ORIENTATION: Will take place at the beginning of Autumn Semester. Date TBA.

AUTUMN SEMESTER (Semester One):

Monday, 12th September 2022 - Friday, 2nd December 2022

One week Study/Review: Monday, 5th December 2022 - Friday, 9th December 2022

SPRING SEMESTER (Semester Two):

Monday, 16th January 2023 - Friday, 8th April 2023

One Week Study/Review: Monday, 25th April 2022 - Friday, 7th April 2023

CHRISTMAS RECESS:

Monday, 26th December 2022 - Sunday, 8th January 2023

EASTER RECESS:

Easter Recess: Monday, 10th April 2023 - Sunday, 23rd April 2023

MA MINOR DISSERTATIONS:

Final submission date: Friday, October 6th, 2023

DEGREE STRUCTURE

September – April	MA: 5 Courses (10 credits each) PG Dip: 6 Courses (10 credits each)
January – April	MA: Literature Review & Oral Presentation (10 credits)
April – September	MA: Minor Dissertation (30 credits)

The MA and Post-Graduate Diploma degrees can be taken over one year, with full-time registration, or over two-years with part-time registration. In your classes you will study and discuss philosophy, improve your writing skills, and acquire familiarity with relevant concepts and authors. After finishing coursework, MAs should be able to undertake their dissertations with confidence under the supervision of a staff member.

If you are an MA student, you prepare during the second semester (January – March), under the direction of a staff member, a detailed review of relevant literature (The Literature Review), which provides a context within which you will write your dissertation. The LITERATURE REVIEW includes oral and written components. The oral presentation is made to the department during the latter half of the second semester. The written literature review must be submitted on or before FRIDAY, APRIL 28TH, 2023.

Finally, MA students will write a MINOR DISSERTATION (max. 15,000 words) with academic advice from your supervisor, to be submitted no later than FRIDAY, OCTOBER 6, 2023.

PG DIP STUDENTS: Upon successful completion of the coursework for the Postgraduate diploma, you will have completed all of the requirements for the PGdip degree. However, students may opt not to be conferred with the Postgraduate Diploma and may transfer their registration to the MA in Philosophy and complete the dissertation (to the value of 30 credits), along with other MA students of this year. If a student wishes to transfer from the PGDip to the MA degree programme, s/he must notify the Department by May 5th.

ASSESSMENT

MA

The grade for the MA is based on: (a) coursework; (b) literature review; and (c) minor dissertation. A total of 1,800 marks are awarded: each 10-credit course counts for 200 marks (1000 in total), the Literature Review counts for 200 marks, and the Minor Dissertation for 600 marks.

ASSESSMENT OF COURSES: 1000 MARKS (5 x 200)

LITERATURE REVIEW: 200 MARKS

MINOR DISSERTATION: 600 MARKS

TOTAL: 1800 MARKS

PG Dip

The grade for the PG Dip is based on assessment for courses only: 1200 marks (6 x 200).

TEACHING TEAM

Vittorio Bufacchi (Sabbatical Leave, Semester 2) v.bufacchi@ucc.ie	Political Philosophy, Human Rights, Violence, Social Justice
Jason Dockstader j.dockstader@ucc.ie	History of Philosophy, Metaethics, and Moral Psychology
Kian Mintz-Woo kian.mintz-woo@ucc.ie	Moral Philosophy, both theoretical and applied to climate change policy, Meta-ethics, Philosophy of Science (Economics)
Adam Loughnane (Parental Leave, Semester 2) adam.loughnane@ucc.ie	Aesthetics, Continental Philosophy, Asian Philosophy
Don Ross (Head of Department) don.ross931@gmail.com	Philosophy of Economics, Philosophy of Science, Scientific Metaphysics
Alessandro Salice alessandro.salice@ucc.ie	Phenomenology, Philosophy of Mind, Social Ontology, Philosophy of Action
Joel Walmsley j.walmsley@ucc.ie	Philosophy of Mind, Philosophy of Science, Cognitive Science

COURSES

The degree programmes officially begin on 16th September, 2022. MA students choose 5 of any of the PH6000-level courses. PG Dip students choose 6 of any the PH6000-level courses, excluding PH6019 and PH6020.

Students are required to make a final choice of modules by Monday, 10th October 2022 and to notify the Programme Coordinator (Dr Salice, alessandro.salice@ucc.ie).

The courses are specifically designed to provide an overview of current work in a particular area, and they are aimed at first-year postgraduate students. They each involve set readings and writing assignments. It is expected that students entering the course will already be (broadly) familiar with some key philosophical concepts or approaches. If you feel that you have some holes to fill, ask your lecturer to suggest some introductory readings.

SEMESTER 1		
PH6012 Human Rights	Dr Bufacchi	Mondays 10am - 12 noon Room G01, Elderwood 2
PH6047 Philosophy and Health	Dr Mintz-Woo	Thursdays 12 noon-2pm Room G01, Elderwood 2
PH6053 Professional Ethics: Advanced	Dr Mintz-Woo	Mondays 2-3pm--West Wing 6 Wednesdays 11am-12 noon--O’Rahilly 255
PH6054 Measuring Society	Prof Ross	Wednesdays 2-4pm Room G01 Elderwood 2
PH6056 Advanced Political Philosophy	Dr Dockstader	Thursdays 3-5pm G01 Elderwood 2
SEMESTER 2		
(MA only) PH6019 Literature Review		Semester 2
PH6048 Philosophy of Death & Dying	Dr Mintz-Woo	Tuesdays 10am-12 noon Room G01, Elderwood 3
PH6052 Advanced Moral Psychology	Dr Salice	Wednesdays 1-2pm—Kane G02 Thursdays 10-11am—Kane G18
PH6057 Philosophy and the Biological Health Sciences	Dr Autzen	Tuesdays 2-4pm Room G01, Elderwood 3
PH6061 Advanced Philosophy of Artificial Intelligence	Dr Walmsley	Tuesdays 12 noon - 1pm—FSB 322 Thursdays 1pm-2pm—ORB 255
SUMMER TERM		
(MA only) PH6020 Minor Dissertation		Summer

NOTE: If fewer than 3 students register for a module, it may be cancelled.

NOTE: Course offerings are preliminary, please check at the beginning of the semester for a finalized schedule.

Language Modules (Optional)

In addition to the above, students may opt to take up to 20 credits in Greek, and Latin or other language modules relevant to the student's research focus and available in the College of Arts, Celtic Studies and Social Sciences at a level appropriate to the student's proficiency which will be determined by the relevant language tutor. Students may not take two modules in the same language at the same proficiency level.

COURSE DESCRIPTIONS

PH6012 HUMAN RIGHTS (10 credits) – Dr. Vittorio Bufacchi

Module Content: The idea of human rights is one of the most pervasive features of our political reality, and yet the concept of ‘human rights’ remains vague and contested. The aim of this course is to explore the philosophical foundations behind the idea of human rights. We will try to find an answer to some of the following key questions: Can human rights be justified? And if so, how? Is the justification primarily moral, legal or political? A number of case-studies will also be scrutinized including human rights and health, and the ethics of human rights research.

Readings: James Nickel, *Making Sense of Rights*, 2nd Ed., Blackwell 2007. All other core readings available on Canvas.

Assessment: Total Marks 200: Continuous Assessment 200 marks (2 x 2,500 word essay).

PH6047 PHILOSOPHY AND HEALTH (10 credits) – Dr. Kian Mintz-Woo

Module Content: This module will introduce students to concepts of health and disease as well as the moral considerations involved in addressing public health in the context of COVID-19. Some of the topics to be discussed include the arguments for and against lockdown, what moral duties we have for inhibiting the spread of disease, what ethical questions there are about testing and distributing vaccines and scarce medical equipment, as well as interactions between health and climate change.

Readings: The primary text is the freely available open-access book *Pandemic Ethics* (Bartleby Books), whose author will join us as a guest lecturer.

Assessment: Total Marks 200: Continuous Assessment 200 marks (1 x 5,000 word essay).

PH6048 –PHILOSOPHY OF DEATH & DYING (10 credits) – Dr. Kian Mintz-Woo

Module Content: The module includes discussions of many puzzles and questions that arise from discussing death and dying, such as if death is bad and, if so, what makes death bad. We will draw from both Eastern and Western philosophical traditions, as well as explore representations of death and dying in literature from different cultural traditions. We will also have a guest lecturer join us to discuss under which conditions immortality is bad; their name is Dr August Gorman.

Readings: The primary textbook is Travis Timmerman and Michael Cholbi’s *Exploring the Philosophy of Death and Dying* [Routledge].

Assessment: Total Marks 200: Continuous Assessment 200 marks (1 x 5,000 word essay).

PH6052 –ADVANCED MORAL PSYCHOLOGY (10 credits) – Dr Alessandro Salice

Module Content: Moral Psychology investigates phenomena which are both psychological and ethical in nature, and therefore lies at the interface of philosophy and psychology. Some of the phenomena with which moral psychology is concerned include: altruism and egoism, moral judgment, praise and blame, moral responsibility, practical deliberation, intentional action, obligations, virtue and vice, character, moral development, and so on. To explain these phenomena, the moral psychologist must answer a number of questions about the nature of our actions and the way we do and should evaluate them. This course will focus on the role that affective phenomena, especially emotions, play in Moral Psychology. Given the privileged connection between affect and value, emotions seem to have an important role to play in how we judge individuals (both ourselves and others) and their actions morally. Furthermore, given their motivational force, affective phenomena are also importantly involved in moral behaviour and moral deliberation. This course presents the main theories of emotion to explain their centrality in our moral psychology and explores in detail several emotions and their moral underpinnings.

Readings: TBA

Assessment: Total Marks 200: Continuous Assessment 200 marks (1 x 5,000 word essay).

PH6053 – PROFESSIONAL ETHICS: ADVANCED (10 credits) – Dr. Kian Mintz-Woo

Module Content: What is a professional code of ethics? How should we choose our jobs in a moral way? Is profit the only rule in business? How far should business go to protect and preserve the environment? What does it mean to be a moral expert? Do businesses have obligations only to share-holders or also to future generations? What duties do different workers have in the context of COVID-19? These are some of the many questions that will be discussed in this course. Some of the following topics will come under closer scrutiny: whistleblowing and professional responsibility; harassment in the work place; executive pay; truth and deception in advertising; and the moral status of corporations.

Readings: All texts will be provided via Canvas.

Assessment: Total Marks 200: Continuous Assessment 200 marks (1 x 5,000 word essay).

PH6054 – MEASURING SOCIETY: GROWTH, POVERTY, INEQUALITY, AND HUMAN CAPITAL (10 credits) – Prof. Don Ross

Module Content: What social science lies behind the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (SDG's)? Core topics: How do economists measure relative growth, poverty, inequality, human capital, and other core variables associated with aggregate welfare comparisons?; What do these variables and measurements tell us about the main differences between rich and poor countries, and about optimal policies for moving the variables in desired directions (especially, for attempts to make poor countries less poor and less unequal)? How can global poverty and inequality be reduced in ways that are compatible with environmental sustainability? How are data presented, in graphs and charts, to support the SDGs? What general features make some graphs and charts more informative than others, and what features can cause graphs and charts to mislead?

Readings: Three books to be purchased at the LowerCase Bookstore:

1. Diane Coyle, Markets, State, and People. Princeton University Press.
2. Alberto Cairo, How Charts Lie. Norton.
3. World Bank, Atlas of Sustainable Development Goals 2018

Assessment: Total Marks 200: Continuous Assessment 200 marks (1 x 5,000 word essay).

PH6056 ADVANCED POLITICAL PHILOSOPHY (10 credits) – Dr. Jason Dockstader

Module Content: This module will focus on understanding political concepts like power, political institutions, authority and collaboration. The module will also address whether the historical and psychological presuppositions of modern political philosophy hold up to empirical scrutiny.

Readings: TBA

Assessment: Total Marks 200: Continuous Assessment 200 marks (1 x 5,000 word essay).

PH6057 PHILOSOPHY AND THE BIOLOGICAL HEALTH SCIENCES – Dr Bengt Autzen

Module Content: Our scientific picture of the human body is rapidly changing due to the developments in biology and medicine. Indeed, many life scientists and clinicians hope that the problems of disease can be reduced to problems of molecular science. This course will provide students with an understanding of the relationship between philosophy of science, biological research and engineering, and their applications in the health sciences. Topics to be covered include disease and genomics, causal and statistical methods in biomedical research, artificial intelligence and medical diagnosis as well as the relationship between evidence-based medicine and personalised medicine.

Readings: All readings available on Canvas.

Assessment: Total Marks 200: Continuous Assessment 200 marks (1 x 5,000 word essay)

PH6061 ADVANCED PHILOSOPHY OF ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE – Dr Joel Walmsley

Module Content: “Within a few years, if there remain any philosophers who are not familiar with some of the main developments in artificial intelligence, it will be fair to accuse them of professional incompetence” (Aaron Sloman 1978). Whilst Sloman has perhaps overstated his case, there are nonetheless many aspects of contemporary AI that are of great philosophical significance. This module will focus on two such themes. First, we will examine AI as a branch of cognitive science concerned with the questions ‘Could a machine think?’ and ‘Are we such thinking machines?’ Second, we will examine some ethical issues—concerning responsibility, autonomy, bias, and transparency—that arise in the context of contemporary uses of AI and machine learning.

Readings: Readings will be drawn from J. Walmsley (2012) *Mind and Machine* (Palgrave-Macmillan), together with a variety of primary sources, made available through Canvas.

Assessment: Your grade will be awarded on the basis of a 5,000 word essay. Prior to that, there are two further elements, designed to help you develop and prepare that essay, and on which you will receive feedback.

- A 300-word research essay proposal/abstract (including initial bibliography) due mid-semester.
- A 15-minute presentation at a module ‘Mini Conference’ towards the end of the semester.

MA PART 2:

PH 6019 LITERATURE REVIEW (10 CREDITS)

The Literature Review includes a written and an oral component, and is preparation for your Minor Dissertation. The principal objective is for you to gain a thorough understanding of the most compelling literature relevant to your chosen subject. By doing this you will be able to situate your own contribution in relation to an existing scholarly field. You will also be improving your skills in identifying relevant research materials, in critical reading, and in understanding and summarising arguments. You will be working with your own supervisor in regular individual meetings.

All MA students present their initial research topic. This includes an indication of the relevant issues they expect to be involved and a provisional outline of the ways in which they want to tackle them. Students and staff give feedback in discussion. These presentations are part of the research and supervision process. The idea is that you not only give a presentation but also provide feedback at the presentations given by your fellow students.

Assessment: Total marks 200: 1 x 5,000 word essay, 150 marks; oral presentation, 50 marks.

Deadlines: Identify a supervisor and submit to him/her a topic and a brief outline of the questions you wish to address by Feb. 17th, 2023. Oral presentations, date TBA, (February-March 2023). Deadline for completed literature review essay, April 28th, 2023.

MA Part 3:

PH6020 MINOR DISSERTATION (30 CREDITS)

The programme is designed to enable you, as far as is possible, to pursue your own diverse research interests. Every effort will be made to accommodate and advise you in researching your topic of choice, bearing in mind the limitations of resources available in the Boole Library and the expertise of the staff.

You should begin to discuss your ideas informally with different staff members during semester 1. You will then be ready to undertake an appropriate literature review, beginning in January, and then focus sharply on your dissertation topic from the beginning of May.

Preparation for your thesis will include an oral presentation (see above under Literature Review) about your planned research topic, which gives you the opportunity to get feedback from all your colleagues (staff and students).

Length of Dissertation: You are expected to submit a dissertation of not more than 15,000 words.

Deadline: The final date for submission of dissertations without incurring financial penalties is designated by the Examinations Office and is usually the first Friday in October (Friday 6th October, 2023).

Important:

- your dissertation can be submitted to your supervisor by email.
- All dissertations must use the same page title. This can be found on the last four pages of this handbook (Appendix 3).

OVERVIEW OF PG DIP DEADLINES

Task	Date
Confirm Choice of Taught Philosophy Module	Monday, 10th October 2022
Module Essays	Check each module syllabus.
OPTIONAL: Notification deadline to transfer from PGDip to MA degree programme	May 5th, 2022

OVERVIEW OF MA DEADLINES

Task	Date
Confirm Choice of Taught Philosophy Module	Monday, 10th October 2022
Module Essays	Check each module syllabus.
Choice of Topic and Supervisor for Literature Review and Dissertation	17th February 2023
Oral Presentation	TBA. Latter half of Semester 2.
Literature Review (written)	28th April 2023
Minor Dissertation	6th October 2023

ABSENCES

Students are expected to submit a certificate of medical illness from their doctor within two weeks of their absence.

ADDITIONAL HIGHLIGHTS

In order to complement the work you do in this programme, we organise a number of events during the year. They are meant to give you the opportunity to watch different professional philosophers at work and to practice your own skills in a variety of contexts and situations. Speakers from UCC and other institutions (from Ireland and from abroad) will visit to give papers on their current research and to engage in debate with us. Look out for information that will be made available during the year.

You are expected to attend and to participate in these events. If you cannot make it to a scheduled event, please let the programme coordinators know in advance.

Other departments and organisations also organise conferences during the year. You are encouraged to attend these as well, especially if they are relevant to your own research interests.

APPENDIX 1: PLAGIARISM

Plagiarism is a serious offence. In simple terms, plagiarism is the presentation of other people's ideas and words as your own without clearly acknowledging your sources.

All written work submitted by students for their MA and PG Diploma degree must be their own. If you borrow a paragraph, sentence or even a long phrase from some other author (including Internet sources), you are obliged to put the words in quotation marks and to acknowledge the original author by giving a reference. Of course it may be appropriate, for purposes of discussing someone's argument, to quote their argument in full [e.g. the equivalent of a paragraph of text]; there is no objection to this as long as the text is appropriately identified and the original author is acknowledged.

The obligation to acknowledge the work of others is not avoided simply by changing a few words in what is otherwise someone else's sentence or paragraph.

Breaches of the rule against plagiarism are equivalent to cheating in your examination. There is a range of serious penalties for cheating.

Details can be found online at:

<https://www.ucc.ie/en/exams/procedures-regulations/>

APPENDIX 2: CITATIONS AND BIBLIOGRAPHY

In order to ensure that you cannot be suspected of Plagiarism, always indicate when you are using other sources. (See earlier section on Plagiarism).

There are various recommended and widely-used systems for composing a bibliography and a corresponding system of references within your text. Refer to other authors either by inserting footnotes with bibliographical references (MLA Style) or by adding authors' names and titles in parenthesis (Harvard System). Whichever one you choose, you have to be consistent throughout the text.

For citations, references and bibliographies, we recommend either the "MLA System" (i.e. the humanities style/notes-bibliography style) or the so-called "Harvard System" (i.e. the author-date system). Both styles are explained in The Chicago Manual of Style, which is available in the philosophy office. Style sheets are also available online.

The purpose of any bibliography is to provide a reader who is not familiar with the item in question with all the information required to identify and find it. In the case of a book, it requires the author's name, the title of the book, the place and date of publication and the publisher's name. For a journal article, it requires the journal title, the volume number, year, and page references. Although the ISBN or ISSN would also be helpful for ordering, neither is included in a bibliography.

In the bibliography, enter items in alphabetical order of the last name of the author (or first named author where there is more than one). Do not separate articles from books.

Here are examples of book entries in a bibliography:

ONE AUTHOR:

MLA: Murphy, John, *Existence and Its Implications* (London: Routledge, 1996). [Notes-Bibl. Style]

HARVARD: Murphy, John. 1996. *Existence and its Implications*. London: Routledge. [Author-Date System]

TWO AUTHORS:

MLA: Murphy, Jay and McCarthy, Bill, *The Year of the Harvest* (Oxford: Blackwell, 1985). (Notes-Bibl. Style)

HARVARD: Murphy, Jay and McCarthy, Bill. 1985. *The Year of the Harvest*. Oxford: Blackwell. (Author-Date System)

Note: Make sure you use the appropriate punctuation (commas, full-stops, etc.) to separate the different items in an entry.

For an article in a periodical or journal, the bibliography should include the

Author's name

Title of article

Title of periodical (in italics)

Volume etc.

Inclusive page numbers

Examples of periodical/journal entries:

MLA: Murphy, John G. "On the Meaning of Existence," *Philosophical Review*, 25 (1986) 4-15. (Notes-Bibl. Style)

HARVARD: Murphy, John G. 1986. On the Meaning of Existence. *Philosophical Review* 25: 4-15. (Author-Date System)

If you work with the MLA Style, you have to insert footnotes with full bibliographical details when you cite. The Harvard System requires parenthetical citations in the text (instead of footnotes).

Here are a few Harvard-style examples:

- It is futile to maintain that the sexes are interchangeable (Moir & Jessel, 1991).
- It is futile to maintain that the sexes are interchangeable (Moir & Jessel, 1991, p. 94).
- Moir and Jessel (1991) have shown that it is futile to maintain that the sexes are interchangeable.
- Moir and Jessel (1991, pp. 93-4) have shown that it is futile to maintain that the sexes are interchangeable.

BRIEF WRITING GUIDELINES FOR ESSAYS AND THESES:

SPELLING

Use either a dictionary or a spell-check programme to check your spelling (please be aware that spell checking programmes are not entirely reliable). In particular, make sure to record the names of authors as they spell their own names (in the case of names where there are alternative correct spellings, e.g. Hilary/Hillary, or René/Renée etc.).

PARAGRAPHS

Your paragraphing should reflect the division of ideas in your essay, rather than being an arbitrary indentation every 20 – 25 lines.

FORMAT

Type your essays in double-space. Leave adequate margins on all sides of the page: 1½ inches on left margin (for binding) and 1 inch top, bottom, and right side. Paginate. Add a cover or title page which includes the following:

1. Module Code and Lecturer
2. Title of your essay
3. Name and student number
4. Date submitted

WRITING LONG TEXTS (LITERATURE REVIEW AND DISSERTATION)

Writing a long text requires different skills from writing module essays. While you will receive specific instructions and support when you get started, the best way to learn how to write is to see what other people do. Reading longer texts by professional philosophers is therefore essential for understanding what is expected of you. At public lectures, workshops and other events, you can observe how speakers present and defend their arguments. Thus attending those helps you learn what to do (or what not to do, as may be the case). In addition, you can access MA Dissertations from previous years.

For further reference, please see the Taylor & Francis style guide, available on the Philosophy Department website.

Appendix 3: Page Title (Minor Dissertation)

TITLE OF THE THESIS

Subtitle (if any)

Student Name, Degree (Mark)

Presented for the Masters Degree in Arts (Philosophy) to the National University of
Ireland, Cork

Under the supervision of NAME OF THE
SUPERVISOR

Department of Philosophy
University College Cork MONTH
YEAR

Declaration

I NAME OF THE STUDENT certify that this Masters Thesis is my own work and that it has not been submitted for another degree at University College Cork or elsewhere.

SIGNATURE

NAME OF THE
STUDENT _____

Acknowledgements (IF ANY)

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