

HEYTHROP COLLEGE, UNIVERSITY OF LONDON

Programme Specification

1. Title: MA Philosophy & Religion	
2. Awarding institution	University of London
3. Teaching institution	Heythrop College, University of London
4. Final Award	MA Philosophy & Religion
5. Interim Awards (if applicable)	Postgraduate Diploma in Philosophy & Religion <i>To receive a postgraduate diploma students must complete four taught modules.</i> Postgraduate Certificate in Philosophy & Religion
6. Mode(s) of study	Full time and part-time
7. Normal duration of Programme	One year full-time, two years part-time
8.	
9. External reference points used to develop this programme	The Framework for Higher Education Qualifications in England, Wales and Northern Ireland 2008
10. Date of production or revision of this specification	April 2013
11. Programme Convenor	Dr Paul Rout
12. Brief description of this programme	
<p>This degree explores the dynamics of the constant interplay between philosophical and theological such issues, and the consequences which flow from this for practical living. It incorporates reflection on religion from both philosophical and theological perspectives and addresses questions as religious fulfilment and ethical impulse as raised in the classical Christian tradition and in modern analysis.</p> <p>This MA aims to be of interest to a wide range of students – for example those engaged in the study and practice of religion, those interested in making an informed contribution to contemporary religious, social and ethical debate; and those whose professional life involves ethical questions.</p>	
13. Relationship to staff research	
<p>A very substantial proportion of staff are active researchers within the disciplines in which they teach. Many optional modules directly reflect the research interests of the module teacher.</p>	
14. Programme Aims	
<p>The programmes aim to:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. To provide a foundation in reflective study of philosophical theological questions relating to religious belief; 2. To provide the conceptual tools necessary for a critical and evaluative grasp of certain fundamental questions of philosophy of religion and theology; 3. To appreciate some aspects of the history of philosophical and theological approaches to religious questions and how that history has influenced contemporary approaches; 4. To provide a critical foundation in fundamental Christian ethics, with particular attention paid to its social applicability in a context of cultural pluralism.; 5. To provide an opportunity for students to apply general ethical principles of theory and 	

method in particular situations;

6. To provide an opportunity for students to appreciate the diverse ways in which different religious traditions have approached fundamental religious questions;
7. To provide an opportunity for students to explore the relationship between religious faith, reason and practical living;
8. To provide research skills, which will enable the student to undertake research in an appropriate field of the student's own choice.

15. Learning outcomes

The **MA Philosophy & Religion (Level 7)** provides opportunities for students to achieve and demonstrate the following learning outcomes:

Knowledge and Understanding

By the end of the programme, competent and diligent students can expect to attain the following:

LO1	A critical appreciation of some aspects of the history of philosophy of religion and theology and how that history has influenced contemporary approaches
LO2	A critical and evaluative grasp of a representative range of contemporary approaches and issues in philosophy of religion and theology
LO3	A demonstrably competent knowledge of critical areas/issues in the related disciplines
LO4	A clear understanding of the relevance of the various disciplines for issues arising in contemporary society
LO5	The capacity to carry out personal research and produce formal written work within the subject area.

Intellectual and Cognitive Skills

A student will be able to:

LO6	Analyse and synthesise complex key concepts and theories
LO7	Identify, gather and analyse material from a wide range of sources to inform research.
LO8	Make sound judgements on the basis of material arising from research.

Practical and transferable skills

The *practical and transferable skills* which are fostered are:

LO9	The capacity for independent, critical thought and the ability to present ideas verbally and in writing.
LO10	The ability to use bibliographical resources and conduct research, including effective use of Communication and Information Technology (CIT)
LO11	The ability to work collaboratively with others, both learning from them and contributing to their learning.
LO12	The ability to clearly and effectively organize and present substantiated arguments to support one's own position, using experience and reflection.
LO13	The ability to make links between different areas of study

16. PROGRAMME STRUCTURE

Module Title	Code	Level	Credit tariff
Compulsory Core Modules (available every year)			
Understanding Religion in the Age of Modernity	CIR403	7	30
Reason and Religion	PHH505	7	30
Optional Modules (not all available every year)			
Foundations of Ethics	CET401	7	30
Ethical Issues Today *	CET501	7	30
Bioethics and Sexual Ethics *	CET502	7	30
The Franciscan Spiritual Tradition (Available every other year)	SPR508	7	30
Selected Themes in European Philosophy (Available every other year)	PHR507	7	30
Unity and Diversity in Contemporary Islamic Thought	ABR404	7	30
Dissertation	PHR599	7	60
<i>The topic of the dissertation is chosen by the student, subject to approval by the supervisor.</i>			
* Students who choose the Ethical Issues Today or Bioethics and Sexual Ethics module must first complete Foundations of Ethics.			
Pathways:			
Students may decide to choose options to provide a thematic pathway, or they may choose to combine elements from the two different pathways.			
The Ethics Pathway: Foundations of Ethics / Ethical Issues Today / Bioethics and Sexual Ethics			
The Philosophic Pathway: Selected Themes of European Philosophy/Franciscan Spiritual Tradition/Unity and Diversity in Contemporary Islamic Thought			

17. Admissions requirements

An honours degree, (normally 2.1 or above) or equivalent, in an appropriate subject

For mature students, academic ability to undertake the programme may be considered on the basis of other evidence, including learning from experience, evidence of prior study or work at an appropriate level, references and interview.

Applicants whose first language is not English should have an IELTS score of 7.0 or equivalent.

18. Indicative Learning and Teaching activities

May include:

Lectures, interactive lectures, seminars enabling group work and group discussions, individual or small group academic tutorials, individual learning, research and study, use of film or other audio visual aids, group activities, external visits, guest speakers.

19. Assessment strategy and indicative activities

Students are assessed by means of a range of tasks which may include book reviews, essays of various lengths and presentations. Essay questions are structured to allow students to demonstrate that they have acquired appropriate knowledge and understanding. The way that students pursue original thoughts and ideas and question opinions, and the organisational skills used to structure answers allows the transferable skills to be assessed. There are learning outcomes for each level of the programme, and assessment criteria at each level indicate the level at which these skills have been achieved.

Students submit coursework through the Virtual Learning Environment (Helios) and receive detailed on-line feedback or oral feedback in a tutorial

All coursework is moderated in accordance with College published procedures. All end-of-year essays and examinations are blind doubled marked and a selection of essays/script is sent to the external examiner.

20. Support for students and their learning

Students can also access a range of support mechanisms through the college. The Student Development Manager can offer personal and academic support, including study skills and access to a range of student welfare proven, either in College or through the University of London. Support and guidance on academic matters is available from module convenors and programme convenors and also from the Heythrop Students' Union.

21. Student evaluation opportunities

Students have a range of opportunities, both formal and informal, to evaluate their learning experiences. Informal means includes consulting individual members of staff, including their personal tutor, module leader, programme convener or staff in the Student Services Centre. Issues can be raised with the Heythrop Students' Union who can raise issues with the College on behalf of individuals or groups of students. Formal module evaluations are carried out. Taught postgraduate and research students have termly meetings to provide feedback to staff. Occasional consultations or evaluation exercises gain views on aspects of the student experience, and the College participates in external surveys such as the NSS, PRES and PTES.

22. Indicative time commitments

Each module usually involves a weekly 2-hour seminar for one term, with the exception of a reading

week in the middle of the term. There are therefore normally 11 x 2 class hours.

Student effort hours which are not spent in classes or tutorials are used for directed personal study – e.g. preparing for seminars, and some coursework tasks – and self-directed work – e.g. wider reading, some coursework tasks, the dissertation, and preparing for examinations.

23. Opportunities for graduates of this programme

Some graduates progress to teacher training programmes or postgraduate study. Others use their knowledge of religion in the public or voluntary sectors. The transferable skills gained are invaluable in many professions.