
Diploma and Higher Diploma in Philosophy

Course Director: Rev Dr Thomas Casey SJ

In the tradition of St Patrick's College, philosophy has always been highly regarded in its own right, as well as being an important preparation for studying other disciplines. *The Diploma in Philosophy and Arts* and *the Higher Diploma in Philosophy and Arts* have been designed by the Pontifical University to provide a rich introduction to the field and history of philosophy, while also introducing students into the kind of critical thinking that is beneficial for other disciplines.

The Diploma in Philosophy and Arts is a full time Level 7 award.

The Higher Diploma in Philosophy and Arts is a fulltime Level 8 award aimed at those who currently possess a third level qualification.

Programme Level Learning Outcomes

By the end of this programme, graduates will be able to:

Knowledge and Understanding

Breadth Exhibit detailed knowledge and understanding of the history of Western philosophy and of its principal disciplines – for example, metaphysics, epistemology, logic, philosophy of the human person, ethics, political philosophy, and the philosophy of science.

Kind Demonstrate the cognitive skills of logical reasoning and critical thinking, and the ability to make connections between different areas of philosophy.

Know-How and Skill

Range Analyse philosophical arguments, show flexibility of thought, and synthesise information.

Selectivity Summarize and explain difficult ideas and concepts, furnishing convincing supporting arguments.

Competence

Role Write philosophical papers that are coherently argued and thoroughly documented. Critically reflect upon the importance and the limits of philosophy.

Learning to learn Complete learning tasks in a manner that demonstrates careful attention to logic, language, and the nuances of arguments.

Insight Acquire a reflective attitude toward life, implementing the Socratic conviction that the unreflected life is not worth living.

Entry Requirements

Diploma in Philosophy and Arts

For admission to the course a pass grade is required in five subjects of the Leaving Certificate or its equivalent: three of these must be academic subjects in the Maynooth University matriculation syllabus.

Higher Diploma in Philosophy and Arts

The course is open to any student who satisfies the entry requirements, viz. a third-level qualification in any subject or combination. Applicants must have completed an *Honours* or *Ordinary Bachelor Degree*.

Programme Structure

Diploma in Philosophy and Arts

Students follow almost the same courses as students of the Higher Diploma, but the courses are assessed at module level 7. Students will be required to achieve a pass on the first year's courses before being admitted to the second year.

Programme Structure for the Higher Diploma and the Diploma

The programme is a two-year cyclical programme.

The following modules will be offered for the HDPa and DPA Programmes in the academic year 2017 to 2018:

MODULE CODE	MODULE TITLE	LECTURER	SEMESTER	CREDITS
PY 101	Introduction to Philosophy*	Casey	1	5
PY 105	Epistemology	Moroney	1	5
PY 119	The History of Ancient Philosophy	Moroney	1	5
PY 121	Classical Metaphysics	Gorevan	1	5
PY 125	Fides et Ratio*	Ryan	1	5
PY 209	Mary through the Millennia+	Casey	1	5
PY 103	The Philosophy of Science and Nature	Gurmin	2	5
PY 120	The History of Medieval Philosophy	Moroney	2	5
PY 122	Contemporary Metaphysics	Moroney	2	5
PY 124	Logical Reasoning and Critical Thinking*	Ryan	2	5
PY 135	Phenomenology	Gorevan	2	5
PY 136	Augustine on Good and Evil (HDPa only)	Akain	2	5
PY 208	The Philosophy of the Human Person II	Casey	2	5
PY 212	Academic and Personal Reflection II+	Casey	2	5

The 3 modules above with an *asterisk* (*) are exclusive to 1st years. The 2 modules above with a *cross* (+) are exclusive to 2nd years. All other modules are in common to both years. PY 136 (Augustine on Good and Evil) is for HDPa students only.

The following modules will be offered for the HDPa and DPA Programmes in the academic year 2018-2019.

MODULE CODE	MODULE TITLE	LECTURER	SEMESTER	CREDITS
PY 101	Introduction to Philosophy*	Casey	1	5
PY 125	Fides et Ratio*	Ryan	1	5
PY 129	The History of Modern Philosophy	Moroney	1	5
PY 132	Issues in Ethics	Moroney	2	5
PY 130	General Ethics	Gorevan	1	5
PY 209	Mary through the Millennia+	Casey	1	5
PY 124	Logical Reasoning and Critical Thinking*	Ryan	2	5
PY 131	The History of Contemporary Philosophy	Moroney	2	5
PY 104	The Philosophy of Religion	Ryan	2	5
PY 117	The Philosophy of the Human Person I	Casey	2	5
PY 212	Academic and Personal Reflection II+	Casey	2	5
PY 134	Atheism and Philosophy	Gorevan	2	5
PY 203	Philosophy, Politics and Religion	Ryan	1	5
PY 211	The Cinema of Transcendence (HDPa only)	Casey	1	5

The 3 modules above with an *asterisk* (*) are exclusive to 1st years. The 2 modules above with a *cross* (+) are exclusive to 2nd years. All other modules are in common to both years. PY211 is for HDPa students only.

Elective and Special Modules

Students in Year One of the DPA and HDPa Programmes are required to take a modern academic language other than their mother-tongue (preferably English, French, German, Spanish or Italian).

Students in Year Two of the DPA and HDPa Programmes are required to take either a modern academic language other than their mother-tongue (preferably building on what they have studied in first year) or else to take Latin, so as to be able to understand the philosophical writings (particularly of Christian authors) written in Latin.

Progression

On successful completion of these awards, students may be considered for entry into the Baccalaureate in Philosophy (B Phil) programme.