

DEPARTMENT OF PHILOSOPHY

All students who prepare themselves for the ministerial priesthood have to study a minimum of two years of philosophy. This is a canonical requirement within the Catholic Church as a prerequisite to register for theological studies. Two one-year qualifications offered by the Department Philosophy are designed to meet these minimum requirements of studies for the priesthood. The Department also offers a three-year bachelors' degree for those who wish to go deeper into philosophical studies, with the possibility of qualifying for postgraduate studies in philosophy. Students who are not candidates for the Catholic priesthood are also welcome to register for any these qualifications. The three qualifications offered by the Department are:

Higher Certificate in General Philosophy

The entrance requirement for the HC (General Philosophy) is an NSC (or its equivalent) with a minimum of 16 points and a proficiency in English. This programme focuses on the development of the skills basic to the doing of philosophy: the ability to read (in English) philosophical texts deeply and critically; the ability to think clearly, cogently and coherently and the allied ability to write in clear, simple, and reasoned manner. Students are introduced to logic and critical thinking, to the nature of philosophical questioning, to the question of who it is we are as human being and to the nature of ethical theory and its applications (particularly in African contexts). The philosophical context of this one-year programme is supported by intensive course work in the reading and writing of English and an introduction to history in its relation to the study of philosophy.

While this qualification is listed, no students will be enrolled in the programme from the 2018 academic year.

Advanced Certificate in General Philosophy

The entrance requirement for the AC (General Philosophy) is the successful completion of the HC (General Philosophy). This programme seeks to continue the development of basic philosophical skills and understanding begun in the Higher Certificate. In addition to topical and historical studies in philosophy, students will be expected to participate in a seminar course (Philosophy Seminar I) and a philosophical look at African issues (African Philosophical Issues I). The programme will include courses in epistemology, the application of ethical theories, the phenomenology of symbols, the philosophies of nature and religion, and contemporary philosophy. Finally, the programme also includes an introduction to African literature.

Bachelor of Arts in Philosophy

The entrance requirement for the BA (Philosophy) is an NSC (or its equivalent) with a minimum of 21 points and a proficiency in English. Students who obtained a minimum average of 65% in the philosophy modules of the AC (General Philosophy) may apply to register for the degree, with advance of credits. The degree programme initially covers the same areas as in the two certificate qualifications, often with a greater volume of learning or a higher NQF level. The final year introduces the students to main philosophical currents and trends in science and philosophy of mind. It continues the examination of specifically African issues (in African Philosophical Issues II),

examines the nature of political philosophy and includes advanced seminar work on great philosophers (in the module “Major Philosophical Thinkers”) and topics of philosophical importance (in Philosophy Seminar II).

HIGHER CERTIFICATE IN GENERAL PHILOSOPHY

Qualification Type	Programme ID	NQF Level	Field	Minimum Credits	DoE Registration
Higher Certificate	83766	5	007 Human & Social Studies	120	19.11.2010

RATIONALE

In general, our society needs people who can think clearly and reflect on matters from a rational and sound foundation. Studying philosophy gives students an opportunity to question assumptions people generally take for granted and to develop critical-thinking skills through reading, writing, research and discussion.

The Higher Certificate in General Philosophy is designed to offer learners a basic foundation for their intellectual development and for the development of their ability to analyse issues. This is done by exploring classic and contemporary philosophic texts and systematically exploring philosophic issues in class, tutorial and seminar situations. Those who complete the Higher Certificate in General Philosophy successfully may proceed to the Advanced Certificate.

Exit level outcomes

Upon the successful completion of the programme students will be expected to:

- have a general understanding of the nature of philosophy.
- have a capacity to question and reason.
- be able to study issues and present work according to academic conventions
- have broadened his/her general education
- be able to read philosophical texts.

The structure of qualification is as follows:

- 8 compulsory Modules making a total of 128 credits

MODULE DESCRIPTIONS

COMPULSORY MODULES

Semester 1

HU 101 ENGLISH LANGUAGE I
(NSH: 52LOT0P0S80H24R0F4A16W16C)

Admission: Open

Aim & Description: This first semester course aims at the general improvement of English language skills with a special emphasis on reading and writing in philosophic contexts.

Three sections will be offered to ensure that individual attention can be provided where required.

As an excellent command of English is essential to the study and practice of philosophy in English, this revised module plays a more central role in the first semester and year of the programme. It carries a full and equal credit weight with the other modules and is meant for the development of effective English language skills in reading, writing and speaking.

Here, as in the other modules, a major focus and emphasis is on practice and learning by doing. Students must be conscious of developing basic skills that will be required in all aspects of the programme in years one through three. This module and its successor English Language II offers the student a golden opportunity to develop the basic and effective English language skills needed in this programme and in any other academic programme in English.

Students will be responsible for completing both in and out of class assignments.

HU 103 INTRODUCTION TO HISTORY

(NSH: 52L0T0P0S80H24R0F4A16W16C)

Part 1: Before History

Aim & Description: The aim of the module is to give the student a sense of the passage of time and its sheer immensity. So the origin of the Universe which we inhabit and the origin of the human species itself will be briefly studied and the narrative will be brought forward to the first agricultural revolution.

Part 2: How a Historian works

Aim & Description: What is History and what is it meant to do? In the 19th Century attempts were made to turn the study of History into a respected academic discipline. The work of von Ranke and his emphasis on the use of primary sources will be studied and exercises will be given to demonstrate this approach. Other uses of History, such as propaganda and the historical novel will be examined.

Part 3: A Case Study

Aim & Description: *The Destruction of the Zulu Kingdom*, by Jeff Guy will be used to do an in depth study of Colonial Natal, the changes in African society brought about by Colonialism and the interpretation given by him which emphasizes the part played by political opportunism and the use of capital in changing Africa in the latter part of the 19th century. (Revised already)

As such this module replaces both of the former modules "History of Civilizations" and "African History."

PH 101 INTRODUCTION TO PHILOSOPHICAL PRACTICE

(NSH: 52L0T0P0S80H24R0F4A16W16C)

Admission: Open

Aim & Description: The aim of the new first semester module is to introduce the student to the practice of philosophy. It combines the content of the former "Introduction to Philosophy", the "History of Ancient" and "History of Medieval Philosophy" modules.

It will do so through the reading and discussion of basic and representative philosophic texts chosen for their general interest and for their simplicity and clarity of language. One of the main aims is to acquaint the student entering the study and practice of philosophy with the essential difference between philosophic and other kinds of questions. The students are challenged to read deeply and to write simply, clearly and coherently about both ideas and experiences.

PH 102 LOGIC & CRITICAL THINKING
(NSH: 52L0T0P0S80H24R0F4A16W16C)

Admission: Open

Aim & Description: This module aims at developing the ability to think in a philosophic manner and will seek to foster the development of a coherent and logically sound manner of thinking and writing.

While it will introduce the student to the basics of formal logic, the main focus will be on training students to think and express themselves logically in practice.

More specifically, it will seek to enhance the students' ability to understand and analyse the arguments of others; to critique arguments in a positive and constructive manner, to present coherent and logically sound counter arguments, and to develop a capacity for clear expression. Assessment will be by assignments designed to develop these skills and by a final examination.

Semester 2

HU 102 ENGLISH LANGUAGE II
(NSH: 52L0T0P0S80H24R0F4A16W16C)

Admission: Open

Aim & Description: This second semester module is the continuation of English Language I and seeks to further develop the basic skills that have been learned there. As in English Language I, the class will be divided into three small groups so as to ensure that each student is taught at an appropriate level and that they can be given individual attention and assistance.

This module seeks to accomplish its aim of developing and fostering English language skills by both classroom instruction, intensive practice through in-class and homework assignments.

HU 104 CRITICAL READING SEMINAR
(NSH: 52L0T0P0S80H24R0F4A16W16C)

Admission: Open

Aim & Description: This module is intended to continue the development of basic philosophic skills initiated in the First Semester modules: "Critical Thinking", "English Language I and II".

Philosophy students must be able to read philosophical texts. That means that they must be able to read deeply in a nuanced fashion and with an ability to respond critically to what is being said in a text. In any philosophy programme, this basic (and invaluable) skill will be continually fostered and gradually developed.

This module will attempt to provide the student with any remedial help required in the acquisition of this skill and to work toward a level of competence appropriate to undergraduate academic work in philosophy.

It will accomplish this task through a careful consideration of texts in a wide variety of genres chosen as befitting to this level. As well as a variety of simple, clearly written and readily comprehensible philosophic works, short stories, novels, poetry and plays, newspaper editorials and articles will also be used.

Students will be required to read the texts (provided) on their own and come to class prepared to discuss and/or give oral presentations. Written papers will also be required on selected texts and themes.

PH 106 ETHICAL THEORY & ITS APPLICATION

(NSH: 52L0T0P0S80H24R0F4A16W16C)

Admission: Open

Aim & Description: This second semester module seeks to introduce the student to the nature of ethical theory largely through the consideration of practical ethical questions and various attempts at applying such theories in concrete everyday situations and contexts. Special attention wherever possible will be paid to African issues and contexts.

This module continues the work begun in the modules “Introduction to Philosophy” and “Critical Thinking” (taught in the first semester). It is designed to be taught in close co-operation with “An Introduction to the Human Person” in the same semester.

The primary focus will be on learning to think in an informed, philosophic, consistent, coherent and systematic way about ethical issues. A series of short written assignments and in class (and/or tutorial) presentations will be the basis of evaluation.

PH 107 PHILOSOPHICAL ANTHROPOLOGY

(NSH: 52L0T0P0S80H24R0F4A16W16C)

Admission: Open

Aim & Description: The aim of this module is to lay a basic foundation for the study of and the doing of philosophy by bringing the student into a broader and deeper awareness of what it is to be a human being.

This course is seen as a supplement to the “Introduction to Philosophical Practice” in that it examines what is one of the most basic of all philosophic questions: who is the human being?

ADVANCED CERTIFICATE IN GENERAL PHILOSOPHY

Qualification Type	Programme ID	NQF Level	Field	Minimum Credits	DoE Registration
Advanced Certificate	83747	6	007 Human & Social Studies	120	19.11.2010

RATIONALE

The Advanced Certificate in General Philosophy is designed to further the academic development achieved in the Higher Certificate. For those who take the Advanced Certificate in Philosophy as a foundation for theological studies, this qualification provides an academic basis for understanding theological concepts.

ACCESS TO THE QUALIFICATION:

Students registering for the Advanced Certificate in Philosophy must have obtained a Higher Certificate in Philosophy or its equivalent. The Exemptions Committee shall consider on a case by case basis the situation of those applicants with equivalent or non-South African qualifications and offer further guidance in accordance with the Institute’s RPL Policy and Procedures (PG 6.3; see also PG 4.2.2) and other applicable regulations from relevant agencies of State as these relate specifically to Higher Education.

EXIT LEVEL OUTCOMES AND ASSOCIATED ASSESSMENT CRITERIA

Upon the successful completion of the programme students will be expected to have:

- a basic introduction to a variety of philosophers and philosophical issues.
- developed in their capacity to question and reason.
- broadened their general education and have been introduced to the Social Sciences.
- developed in their ability to read philosophical texts.
- learned to work in a seminar context

The structure of qualification is as follows:

- compulsory Modules making a total of 120 credits

Semester 1

PH 210 EPISTEMOLOGY

(NSH: 52L0T0P0S80H24R0F4A16W16C)

Admission: Open

Required for: PBS1605 (Metaphysics)

Aim & Description: The questions concerning human capacity to know and the validity of human knowledge are somewhat controversial. Hence there are various perspectives and approaches with regard to the act of knowing. Taking into consideration the different epistemologies - classical, modern and contemporary - the course will examine the dynamicity of human knowledge as an activity. Further, the course will examine the subject-object relationship in the act of knowing. In addition, the possibility of the “objectivity” of human knowledge and the dilemma of the sceptic will be considered. Lastly, the course will examine how “inter-subjectivity” is the privileged platform for arguing for the objectivity of human knowledge.

PH 211 AFRICAN PHILOSOPHY TODAY

(NSH: 52L0T0P0S80H24R0F4A16W16C)

Admission: Open

Aim & Description: The aim of this module is to explore the ways in which philosophy today contributes to an understanding of issues of concern to people on this continent. These may include ethical, religious, social, political or environmental issues of special concern to Africans. Students will be responsible for reading and thinking about the issues selected. An interactive participative approach will be supplemented by lectures.

PH 213 PHILOSOPHY OF NATURE

(NSH: 52I0T0P0S80H24R0F4A16W16C)

Admission: Open

Aim & Description: The course aims to show how the philosophical thought of Aristotle’s *Physics* may still be relevant in the context of modern science, following the programme of William Wallace OP in his attempt to model nature, incorporating the successful findings of modern physics and chemistry. After a critique of this process, the course aims at introducing the student to physical evolution (the Big Bang Theory) and biological evolution (Darwin’s Theory of Natural Selection) and raises the philosophical issues concerning these, and to contemporary ideas of holistic evolution, according to the view of Ken Wilber.

HU 215 POST COLONIAL AFRICAN LITERATURE

(NSH: 52L0T0P0S80H24R0F4A16W16C)

Admission: Open

Aim & Description: To introduce the student to key writers in English-speaking Africa focusing on the short story and the novel.

The students will be required to read texts with a view to identifying themes of significance and interest. Informed and thoughtful participation in classroom discussions, written assignments and lectures will be employed as strategies designed to accomplish the aim of the module.

Semester 2

PH 215 METAPHYSICS

(NSH: 52L0T0P0S80H24R0F4A16W16C)

Admission: Requires PBH1502 (History of Ancient Philosophy), PBS1604 (Logic) and PBS1603 (Epistemology)

Required for: PBS1609 (Philosophy of Nature)

Aim & Description: Bearing in mind the classical definition of metaphysics as 'the science of being *qua* being', this module will critically examine the metaphysical positions of some authors. In this examination, the notion of being (το ειναι , το ου, *Esse* or *Sein*) and its relation to the fundamental question are of special importance. Besides, the course will consider whether the term 'being' is univocal or analogical and its implication to metaphysics as a discipline. To facilitate this analysis, the course will investigate whether there is a fundamental relationship between thought, language and reality. Also, the course will examine the relationship between being, one, truth and good i.e. being and its transcendental properties. Lastly, themes in contemporary Anglo-American philosophy will be considered.

PH 216 PHILOSOPHY SEMINAR I

(NSH: 52L0T0P0S80H24R0F4A16W16C)

Admission: Open

Aim & Description: To facilitate reading and understanding, through presentations and discussions, of particular authors or topics in philosophy. The student will offered a choice of seminars by the Department at the commencement of the second semester.

PH 219 MODERN & CONTEMPORARY PHILOSOPHICAL TEXTS

(NSH: 52L0T0P0S80H24R0F4A16W16C)

Admission: Open

Aim & Description: This module aims at introducing the student to a selection of modern and contemporary philosophical texts. The expectation is that students read and struggle to understand the texts for themselves with the help of the lecturer. The texts chosen will vary from year to year according to what has been covered in other modules and the preference of the lecturer.

PH 217 PHILOSOPHY OF RELIGION

(NSH: 52L0T0P0S80H24R0F4A16W16C)

Admission: Requires PBS1605 (Metaphysics)

Aim & Description: The starting point of this module is the plausibility of philosophical or natural theology, that is, the possibility of the affirmation or postulation of the

existence of God (the Supreme Being) and divine attributes by pure reason. Hence, the module will examine the arguments (ontological, cosmological, argument from design) for the existence of God and their criticisms especially the Kantian criticisms. Further, the module will consider the problem of evil and its challenge to the question of God's existence. In addition, questions about the meaningfulness of religious experience, the use of religious language and the meaning of human existence will be considered.

**BACHELOR OF ARTS IN PHILOSOPHY
BA (Phil.)**

Qualification Type	Program me ID	NQF Level	Field	Minimum Credits	DoE Registration
National First Degree	50162	7	007 Human & Social Studies	360	19.11.2010

Programme Admission Criteria

The BA (Phil.) requires a Matriculation Exemption of 21 points or its equivalent. Applicants must have a mark of at least E (40% - 49%) Higher Grade in English. As this is the language of instruction at the Institute, students must be able to comprehend and converse well in English. Applicants may be required to pass a proficiency test. Marks for applicants from other countries will be converted to a comparable scale. Students who have successfully completed the Advanced Certificate in General Philosophy programme with an aggregate mark of 65% or more may be permitted to enrol for the third year of the degree programme. The Exemptions Committee shall consider on a case by case basis the situation of those applicants with equivalent or non-South African qualifications and offer further guidance in accordance with the Institute's RPL Policy and Procedures (PG 6.3, see also PG 4.2.2) and other applicable regulations from relevant agencies of State as these relate specifically to Higher Education.

Programme Duration

Students are usually required to attend lectures on a full time basis. Under normal circumstances the BA (Phil.) degree requires three years of full time study. Students who wish to study on a part-time basis are also accommodated.

Exit Level Outcomes

The student will be expected to have gained:

- ❖ *An ability to think logically in a philosophic fashion*
- ❖ *an ability to comprehend and digest and present basic philosophical positions*
- ❖ *an ability to assess the basic logical implications of philosophical positions*
- ❖ *an understanding of the ways in which social, political and ethical policies are built on philosophical presuppositions*
- ❖ *an ability to present constructively critique arguments by offering cogent counter arguments*

- ❖ *an awareness of the contribution of philosophy in understanding the problems and issues of contemporary Africa*
- ❖ *an ability to critically analyze and synthesise information*
- ❖ *a broad general humanistic education in philosophy, history & literature*

Credit Components:

Students are expected to successfully complete all the modules that are offered. However it is accepted that, for a variety of reasons, not all students will be able to take all the modules. Irrespective of these possible exceptions, in order to graduate a student must have the minimum number of Credits necessary for the Degree as shown below.

NQF	4	5	6	7	Total	Comment
Degree		122	122	140	384	min 360, max 420

MODULE DESCRIPTIONS

COMPULSORY MODULES

**First Year
Semester 1**

HU 101 ENGLISH LANGUAGE I

(NSH: 52L0T0P0S80H24R0F4A16W16C)

Admission: Open

Aim & Description: This first semester course aims at the general improvement of English language skills with a special emphasis on reading and writing in philosophic contexts.

Three sections will be offered to ensure that individual attention can be provided where required.

As an excellent command of English is essential to the study and practice of philosophy in English, this revised module plays a more central role in the first semester and year of the programme. It carries a full and equal credit weight with the other modules and is meant for the development of effective English language skills in reading, writing and speaking.

Here, as in the other modules, a major focus and emphasis is on practice and learning by doing. Students must be conscious of developing basic skills that will be required in all aspects of the programme in years one through three. This module and its successor English Language II offers the student a golden opportunity to develop the basic and effective English language skills needed in this programme and in any other academic programme in English.

Students will be responsible for completing both in and out of class assignments.

PH 101 INTRODUCTION TO PHILOSOPHICAL PRACTICE

(NSH: 52L0T0P0S80H24R0F4A16W16C)

Admission: Open

Aim & Description: The aim of the new first semester module is to introduce the student to the practice of philosophy. It combines the content of the former “Introduction to Philosophy”, the “History of Ancient” and “History of Medieval Philosophy” modules.

It will do so through the reading and discussion of basic and representative philosophic texts chosen for their general interest and for their simplicity and clarity of language. One of the main aims is to acquaint the student entering the study and practice of philosophy with the essential difference between philosophic and other kinds of questions. The students are challenged to read deeply and to write simply, clearly and coherently about both ideas and experiences.

PH 102 LOGIC & CRITICAL THINKING
(NSH: 52L0T0P0S80H24R0F4A16W16C)

Admission: Open

Aim & Description: This module aims at developing the ability to think in a philosophic manner and will seek to foster the development of a coherent and logically sound manner of thinking and writing.

While it will introduce the student to the basics of formal logic, the main focus will be on training students to think and express themselves logically in practice.

More specifically, it will seek to enhance the students' ability to understand and analyse the arguments of others; to critique arguments in a positive and constructive manner, to present coherent and logically sound counter arguments, and to develop a capacity for clear expression. Assessment will be by assignments designed to develop these skills and by a final examination.

PH 103 ANCIENT AND MEDIEVAL PHILOSOPHICAL TEXTS
(NSH: 52L0T0P0S80H24R0F4A16W16C)

Admission: Open

Aim & Description: To acquaint the student with the thinking of selected ancient and medieval philosophers.

Texts of major philosophers from the classical and medieval periods will be read and critically examined.

The student will be expected to have read and thought about the texts selected. In class questioning and discussion of the texts will be supplemented by lectures on the text and the general thinking of the philosopher.

First Year
Semester 2

HU 102 ENGLISH LANGUAGE II
(NSH: 52L0T0P0S80H24R0F4A16W16C)

Admission: Open

Aim & Description: This second semester module is the continuation of English Language I and seeks to further develop the basic skills that have been learned there. As in English Language I, the class will be divided into three small groups so as to ensure that each student is taught at an appropriate level and that they can be given individual attention and assistance.

This module seeks to accomplish its aim of developing and fostering English language skills by both classroom instruction, intensive practice through in-class and homework assignments.

HU 104 CRITICAL READING SEMINAR
(NSH: 52L0T0P0S80H24R0F4A16W16C)

Admission: Open

Aim & Description: This module is intended to continue the development of basic philosophic skills initiated in the First Semester modules: “Critical Thinking”, “English Language I and II”.

Philosophy students must be able to read philosophical texts. That means that they must be able to read deeply in a nuanced fashion and with an ability to respond critically to what is being said in a text. In any philosophy programme, this basic (and invaluable) skill will be continually fostered and gradually developed.

This module will attempt to provide the student with any remedial help required in the acquisition of this skill and to work toward a level of competence appropriate to undergraduate academic work in philosophy.

It will accomplish this task through a careful consideration of texts in a wide variety of genres chosen as befitting to this level. As well as a variety of simple, clearly written and readily comprehensible philosophic works, short stories, novels, poetry and plays, newspaper editorials and articles will also be used.

Students will be required to read the texts (provided) on their own and come to class prepared to discuss and/or give oral presentations. Written papers will also be required on selected texts and themes.

PH 106 ETHICAL THEORY & ITS APPLICATION
(NSH: 52L0T0P0S80H24R0F4A16W16C)

Admission: Open

Aim & Description: This second semester module seeks to introduce the student to the nature of ethical theory largely through the consideration of practical ethical questions and various attempts at applying such theories in concrete everyday situations and contexts. Special attention wherever possible will be paid to African issues and contexts.

This module continues the work begun in the modules “Introduction to Philosophy” and “Critical Thinking” (taught in the first semester). It is designed to be taught in close co-operation with “An Introduction to the Human Person” in the same semester.

The primary focus will be on learning to think in an informed, philosophic, consistent, coherent and systematic way about ethical issues. A series of short written assignments and in class (and/or tutorial) presentations will be the basis of evaluation.

PH 107 PHILSOPHICAL ANTHROPOLOGY
(NSH: 52L0T0P0S80H24R0F4A16W16C)

Admission: Open

Aim & Description: The aim of this module is to lay a basic foundation for the study of and the doing of philosophy by bringing the student into a broader and deeper awareness of what it is to be a human being.

This course is seen as a supplement to the “Introduction to Philosophical Practice” in that it examines what is one of the most basic of all philosophic questions: who is the human being?

Second Year Semester 1

PH 210 EPISTEMOLOGY

(NSH: 52L0T0P0S80H24R0F4A16W16C)

Admission: Open

Required for: PBS1605 (Metaphysics)

Aim & Description: The questions concerning human capacity to know and the validity of human knowledge are somewhat controversial. Hence there are various perspectives and approaches with regard to the act of knowing. Taking into consideration the different epistemologies - classical, modern and contemporary - the course will examine the dynamicity of human knowledge as an activity. Further, the course will examine the subject-object relationship in the act of knowing. In addition, the possibility of the "objectivity" of human knowledge and the dilemma of the sceptic will be considered. Lastly, the course will examine how "inter-subjectivity" is the privileged platform for arguing for the objectivity of human knowledge

PH 211 AFRICAN PHILOSOPHY TODAY

(NSH: 52L0T0P0S80H24R0F4A16W16C)

Admission: Open

Aim & Description: The aim of this module is to explore the ways in which philosophy today contributes to an understanding of issues of concern to people on this continent. These may include ethical, religious, social, political or environmental issues of special concern to Africans. Students will be responsible for reading and thinking about the issues selected. An interactive participative approach will be supplemented by lectures.

PH 216 PHILOSOPHY SEMINAR I

(NSH: 52L0T0P0S80H24R0F4A16W16C)

Admission: Open

Aim & Description: To facilitate reading and understanding, through presentations and discussions, of particular authors or topics in philosophy. The student will offered a choice of seminars by the Department at the commencement of the second semester.

HU 215 POST COLONIAL AFRICAN LITERATURE

(NSH: 52L0T0P0S80H24R0F4A16W16C)

Admission: Open

Aim & Description: To introduce the student to key writers in English-speaking Africa focusing on the short story and the novel.

The students will be required to read texts with a view to identifying themes of significance and interest. Informed and thoughtful participation in classroom discussions, written assignments and lectures will be employed as strategies designed to accomplish the aim of the module.

Second Year Semester 2

PH 215 METAPHYSICS

(NSH: 52L0T0P0S80H24R0F4A16W16C)

Admission: Open

Aim & Description: Bearing in mind the classical definition of metaphysics as ‘the science of being *qua* being’, this module will critically examine the metaphysical positions of some authors. In this examination, the notion of being (το ειναι , το ου, *Esse* or *Sein*) and its relation to the fundamental question are of special importance. Besides, the course will consider whether the term ‘being’ is univocal or analogical and its implication to metaphysics as a discipline. To facilitate this analysis, the course will investigate whether there is a fundamental relationship between thought, language and reality. Also, the course will examine the relationship between being, one, truth and good i.e. being and its transcendental properties. Lastly, themes in contemporary Anglo-American philosophy will be considered.

PH 213 PHILOSOPHY OF NATURE

(NSH: 52I0T0P0S80H24R0F4A16W16C)

Admission: Open

Aim & Description: The course aims to show how the philosophical thought of Aristotle’s *Physics* may still be relevant in the context of modern science, following the programme of William Wallace OP in his attempt to model nature, incorporating the successful findings of modern physics and chemistry. After a critique of this process, the course aims at introducing the student to physical evolution (the Big Bang Theory) and biological evolution (Darwin’s Theory of Natural Selection) and raises the philosophical issues concerning these, and to contemporary ideas of holistic evolution, according to the view of Ken Wilber.

PH 219 MODERN & CONTEMPORARY PHILOSOPHICAL TEXTS

(NSH: 52L0T0P0S80H24R0F4A16W16C)

Admission: Open

Aim & Description: This module aims at introducing the student to a selection of modern and contemporary philosophical texts. The expectation is that students read and struggle to understand the texts for themselves with the help of the lecturer. The texts chosen will vary from year to year according to what has been covered in other modules and the preference of the lecturer.

PH 217 PHILOSOPHY OF RELIGION

(NSH: 52L0T0P0S80H24R0F4A16W16C)

Admission: Open

Aim & Description: The starting point of this module is the plausibility of philosophical or natural theology, that is, the possibility of the affirmation or postulation of the existence of God (the Supreme Being) and divine attributes by pure reason. Hence, the module will examine the arguments (ontological, cosmological, argument from design) for the existence of God and their criticisms especially the Kantian criticisms. Further, the module will consider the problem of evil and its challenge to the question of God’s existence. In addition, questions about the meaningfulness of religious experience, the use of religious language and the meaning of human existence will be considered.

Third Year Semester 1

PH 322 AFRICAN PHILOSOPHICAL ISSUES

(NSH: 52L0T0P0S80H24R0F4A16W16C)

Admission: Open

Aim & Description: This module is designed to continue the philosophical examination of issues of special relevance to Africa and Africans. It thus seeks to explore how philosophy can be applied in the context of this continent.

The issues covered will be chosen by the lecturer(s) and detailed in the specific syllabus for the course.

A combination of participatory in-class discussion and lectures will be employed and the student will be expected to read broadly on the issues and questions covered. Assessment will be by formal paper(s) and examination.

PH 323: ETHICS & LITERATURE

(NSH: 52L0T0P0S80H24R0F4A16W16C)

Admission: Open

Aim & Description: This module explores ethical themes of philosophical significance through the reading and critical examination of selected literary texts. Students ought to be ready to thoughtfully read a number of literary texts and come to class prepared to discuss the ethical issues involved in an informed manner.

PH 324 POLITICAL & SOCIAL PHILOSOPHY

(NSH: 52L0T0P0S80H24R0F4A16W16C)

Admission: Open

Aim & Description: This course examines the norms or principles that establish and justify societies and determine the rights and responsibilities of a society in relation to its own members, of the members in relation to each other and to society as a whole and of a society in relation to other societies. This course considers the application of these principles to such issues as justice, human rights, political & social institutions, and world community.

PH 325 PHILOSOPHY OF SCIENCE

(NSH: 52L0T0P0S80H24R0F4A16W16C)

Admission: Open

Aim & Description: The huge impact of science, not only on the world we inhabit, not only on religion, but also on the world of philosophy, is undeniable. The course goes on to take an historical perspective, beginning with scientific attitude in early Greek philosophy and proceeding to the debates of the present day. It is divided into three parts: the period before the 19th century; the transitional period of scientific advancement; and the development of contemporary philosophy of science and its major contributors.

Third Year **Semester 2**

PH 326: PHILSOPHY SEMINAR II
(NSH: 52L0T0P0S80H24R0F4A16W16C)

Admission: Open

Aim & Description: To facilitate reading and understanding, through presentations and discussions, of particular authors or topics in philosophy.
The student will be offered a choice of seminars by the Department at the commencement of the second semester.

PH 327 A MAJOR PHILOSOPHER
(NSH: 52L0T0P0S80H24R0F4A16W16C)

Admission: Open

Aim & Description: This module aims at providing an opportunity to go deeply into the writings of a particular philosopher of importance.
One or more sections may be offered in any given semester featuring different thinkers of interest presented by different members of the faculty.
The format will be a combination of lectures and seminar discussion. The students are responsible for reading and thinking about the works selected for study, giving seminar presentations and writing a formal academic paper on some aspect of the philosopher's thinking.

PH 329 PHILOSOPHY OF MIND
(NSH: 52L0T0P0S81H24R0F3A16W16C)

Admission: Requires PBH1601 (Contemporary Philosophy)

Aim: This course will begin by discussing the problem of how mental phenomena fit into a physical universe. We will discuss this century's most influential responses to the problem: behaviourism, the identity theory, and functionalism. We will then consider, in some detail, two main obstacles to a physicalist account of the mind: consciousness and mental content. For different reasons, both of these phenomena seem difficult to account for within a physicalist framework; we will look at attempts to accommodate them (and objections to the success of these attempts.) Finally, we will examine in depth the idea, associated with cognitive science, that the mind should be understood as a kind of computer. It is hoped that by the end of the course learners will have a good appreciation of the complexity of the human mind, and an understanding of the basic philosophical solutions offered to the question of the human mind.

HU 325 AFRICAN WOMEN WRITERS
(NSH: 52L0T0P0S80H24R0F4A16W16C)

Admission: Open

Aim & Description: This module provides an introduction to the work of women writing in Africa today.
Students will be expected to read and discuss a variety of works in various genres. The writers covered will vary in accord with the preference of the lecturer.

OCCASSIONAL MODULES

SECOND YEAR & THIRD YEAR PROGRAMMES (Any Semester)

PH 230 READING TUTORIAL ON A TOPIC OR TEXT(S)

Admission: Open

Aim & Description: To allow in special circumstances a second year student to read, discuss and write on a philosophical area or topic not covered or not currently covered in the curriculum under the close supervision of a faculty member.

PH 231 SEMINAR ON A TOPIC OR TEXT(S)

Admission: Open

Aim & Description: To allow in special circumstances second year students to study and an area of philosophy or a topic not covered or not currently covered in the curriculum in a seminar format under the supervision of a faculty member.

PH 232 LECTURES ON AN AREA OR TOPIC OR TEXT(S)

Admission: Open

Aim & Description: To allow in special circumstances lectures on areas and topics not ordinarily included in our second year programme. This module is designed, for instance, to allow us to take advantage of visiting lecturers with expertise outside that of our current faculty.

PH 330 READING TUTORIAL ON A TOPIC OR TEXT(S)

Admission: Open

Aim & Description: To allow in special circumstances a third year student to read, discuss and write on a philosophical area or topic not covered or not currently covered in the curriculum under the close supervision of a faculty member.

PH 331 SEMINAR ON TOPIC OR TEXT(S)

Admission: Open

Aim & Description: To allow in special circumstances third year students to study and an area of philosophy or a topic not covered or not currently covered in the curriculum in a seminar format under the supervision of a faculty member.

PH 332 LECTURES ON AN AREA OR TOPIC OR TEXT(S)

Admission: Open

Aim & Description: To allow in special circumstances lectures on areas and topics not ordinarily included in our second year programme. This module is designed, for instance, to allow us to take advantage of visiting lecturers with expertise outside that of our current faculty.

HU 230 READING TUTORIAL ON A LITERAY GENRE OR TEXT(S)

Admission: Open

Aim & Description: to accommodate students in special circumstances to read, discuss and write on a literary genre, text or texts not covered or not currently included in the curriculum. The work will be closely supervised by a qualified member of the faculty.

HU 231 SEMINAR ON A LITERARY GENRE, TEXT OR TEXTS

Admission: Open

Aim & Description: To allow in special circumstances for the consideration of a literary genre, period, topic, text or texts not covered or currently covered in our regular curriculum in a seminar format.

HU 232 LECTURES ON A LITERARY GENRE OR TOPIC

Admission: Open

Aim & Description: To allow in special circumstances for lectures on genres and topics not ordinarily included in our curriculum.

HU 330 READING TUTORIAL ON A LITERARY PERIOD, GENRE OR TEXT(S)

Admission: Open

Aim & Description: to accommodate students in special circumstances to read, discuss and write on a literary genre, text or texts not covered or not currently included in the curriculum. The work will be closely supervised by a qualified member of the faculty.

HU 331 SEMINAR ON A LITERARY PERIOD, GENRE, TEXT OR TEXTS

Admission: Open

Aim & Description: To allow in special circumstances for the consideration of a literary genre, period, topic, text or texts not covered or currently covered in our regular curriculum in a seminar format.

HU 332 LECTURES ON A LITERARY PERIOD, GENRE OR TOPIC

Admission: Open

Aim & Description: To allow in special circumstances for lectures on genres and topics not ordinarily included in our curriculum.