



Faculty of Humanities

Fakulteit Geesteswetenskappe
Lefapha la Bomotheo



Department of Philosophy

BSocSci Honours (PPE) (Philosophy, Politics and Economics) degree

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BSocSciHonours (PPE)

Admission Requirements:

A BSocSci (Philosophy, Politics and Economics) degree.

Average of 70% is required in all three majors/fields of specialization, namely Philosophy, Political Science and Economics.

Curriculum:

Core compulsory modules:

FIL 711 Ethics and Social Philosophy (20 credits)

Key issues or themes in ethics and social philosophy. The aim of this module is to equip students with the necessary epistemological skills to enable them to analyse and critically evaluate arguments advanced by the 'modern greats' at the interface of economic, political and moral activity. Thus the focus is on skills necessary to study the political structure and philosophical and economic principles of modern society in an integrated manner.

FIL 714 Research Paper (30 credits)

Research essay on an appropriate topic in Philosophy or Political Sciences or Economics as approved by the relevant head of department.

Electives / Selected Modules:

Apart from the core modules, one module should be selected from the current Honours curriculum of the Department of Philosophy (20 credits) and the Department of Political Sciences (20 credits) each. A further two modules should be selected from the current Honours curriculum of the Department of Economics (30 credits in total).

Current Curricula to choose from:

Department of Philosophy (choose ONE module)

PHIL 710 History and Philosophy

The focus in this module is on questions such as: Is being a person the same thing as being human? Is what makes us human essential to us and, if so, what sense do we make of the term 'dehumanising'? In contrast to theories common in the West - which explain 'dehumanising' as failing to honour or properly account for something essentially human - a number of African philosophers advance personhood as something which must be achieved, something which may be developed to greater or lesser degrees, or something we can fail at. These accounts suggest specific frameworks for considering the normative pressure associated with humanness and invite context specific interpretations of the meaning of harm inflicted on persons by racism, slavery and colonialism. Can theoretical constructs such as Ubuntu, Odera Oruka's 'human minimum', decolonisation and decoloniality contribute to restoring a person's 'lost' humanity? If so, how do considerations of 'being human' or 'inhuman' impact the practice of democracy in Africa today? How does being considered in/human affect economic development in Africa? These are some of the issues that will be addressed in discussions of the works of Odera Oruka, Kwasi Wiredu, Mogobe Ramose, Leonhard Praeg, Pantaleon Iroegbu, Michael Eze, Ifeanyi Menkiti, Kwame Gyekye, Bernard Matolino, and others.

PHIL 712 Trends in Contemporary Philosophy

This module starts with a close reading of two seminal texts by Sigmund Freud, 'Three Essays on the Theory of Sexuality' and 'Mass Psychology and Analysis of the Ego', and proceeds by linking Freud's thinking to contemporary issues such as sexuality and queer theory ('Three Essays') or the nature of political power ('Mass Psychology and Analysis of the Ego'.) We also explore key themes, concepts and debates in the Philosophy of History by looking at texts by Nietzsche, Foucault, Agamben and Rancière. The Philosophy of History is not primarily concerned with what actually happened in the past but with the conditions of possibility responsible for what was in- and excluded in historical discourses or historiographies. When the past is interrogated as a construction, what typically comes under suspicion are notions related to 'origin', 'development', 'progress' and/or 'teleology'.

PHIL 713 Trends in Contemporary Philosophy

In this module students are introduced to the field of intercultural philosophy. Attention is given to the debate between universalists and particularists; the argument on the centrifugal and centripetal movements of reason; the influence of language in intercultural discourse, and the values of cross-culturalism and transculturalism. We also investigate themes such as Ubuntu, communitarianism, Ibuanyidanda ontology (complementary reflection), epistemic injustice and conversational thinking. One of the central aims is to inquire whether philosophy is truly an activity with one universal standard or whether it is culturally conditioned in a way that nonetheless allows for the possibility of intercultural interactions. Considered as an activity with diverse traditions, some important questions are: Do different traditions of philosophy have a different understanding of what counts as philosophy? As practitioners in different traditions, do we take our methods with us when we cross borders? Can one weave different methods from different traditions together? What is the relationship between reason, morality, and relationality? These are important questions because they provide foundations for our conception of personhood which, in turn, effects the way we think about free will, authenticity, self-knowledge, uniqueness, selfhood, subjectivity, and identity. We explore this domain with reference to the work of Innocent Asouzu, Ram Adhar Mall, Franz Wimmer, Kwasi Wiredu, Mogobe Ramose, Leonhard Praeg, Bruce Janz, Jonathan Chimakonam and Miranda Fricker.

Department of Political Sciences (choose ONE module)

From the BAHONS Political Science Curriculum:

STL 752 Political Policy Studies

An advanced study of policy analysis. Policy analysis is an approach to public policy that aims to integrate and contextualise models and research. Special attention is given to meta-analysis (methods and approaches), meso-analysis and decision-making analysis

STL 753 South African Politics

The study of South African politics with reference to political institutions, the political process, political issues and policy. The emphasis is on recent events and developments in the national

and international political environment. Emphasis is placed on political parties, organisations and institutions, the political system, the development of the political system, system adaptation, transformation and legitimacy, influences on the political environment, elections, political leadership, policy and the development of policy.

From the BAHONS International Relations Curriculum:

IPL 751 International Political Economy

Contemporary political and economic trends that impact on the political economy of the developing world are studied. The focus is in particular on the influence of international financial institutions and regimes on the political economy of the developing world, and on the responses of developing countries.

IPL 753 Foreign Policy

This advanced module makes an in-depth study of the most important theoretical issues in the analysis of foreign policy. It deals with the development of foreign policy theory, the concept "foreign policy" and the related issues of the role of the state and the agency-structure debate. It also makes an in-depth study of a variety of approaches to the study of foreign policy and in so doing attempts to prepare the student for a possible master's dissertation on a topic related to the study of foreign policy.

Department of Economics (choose TWO modules)

MEK 780 focuses on macroeconomics and macroeconomic policy, including the analysis of current events to the theoretical framework necessary to understand those events. Although the course is not overly technical, many models will be presented formally and the student is expected to be able to perform basic mathematical manipulation.

MEK 781 follows from MEK 780, but focuses on macroeconomic development including early theories of economic growth, as well as the roles of geography, the Neolithic transition, institutions, ancestry, Europeans, the persistence of technological advantages and genetic distance, on development. (MEK 780 required)

MIE 780 focuses on real-world applications of microeconomics. We establish an appropriate theoretical foundation, which is examined through a range of applications. We further introduce game theory as a tool for analysing and understanding strategic decision-making, spending some time on behavioural aspects of decision-making.

MIE 781 provides two areas of focus, one on government spending and taxation, another on international economics. For the former, we focus on the role of government, government spending programs and philosophy, as well as the principles of taxation. For the latter, we analyse international trade and international finance environment, taking some time to consider various trade and exchange agreements across the continent. (MIE 780 required)

EKT 713 introduces students to econometrics, preparing them to engage in applied work (Honour's Research Paper). Emphasis is placed on basic economic and statistical theory, along with data analysis via STATA. Students will learn data management (including some programming), as well.

EKT 723 particularly focuses on time series econometrics, including theory and application associated with stationarity, unit roots and co-integration, as well as Error Correction Models (ECM) and diagnostic testing. (EKT 713 required)

PLEASE CHECK in the Faculty of Humanities Postgraduate Calendar (<http://www.up.ac.za/en/yearbooks/2017/HUM-faculty/HO-programmes>) to ensure you know in which semester each module is offered and that you are aware of possible pre-requisites for each module.

Not all other modules are offered in any given year. Please consult the relevant department in this regard.

For further information please contact

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