Belief
Belief
Sexuality
Identity
Atheism
Life & Death
Prejudice
Secularism
Ritual
Good & Evil
Ethics
Karma

Philosophy and Religion
Your favourite subjects. Your way.
“The teaching staff are always on the cutting edge of current research with modules that deal with up to date issues as well as ancient texts, making for an extremely thorough research background. Topics are extremely diverse and challenging but never overwhelming, especially because your lecturers are always there to support you. I have particularly appreciated the support from lecturers and professors when attempting research outside of the syllabus. In a world where sometimes students are taught completely by rote, Sheffield encourages students to think outside the box.” - Emily Foster-Brown. 2015 Graduate, awarded a Sheffield MA scholarship, and then PhD funding, to continue her pioneering studies in religion in video games

WHY PHILOSOPHY AND RELIGION?

Our Philosophy and Religion degree enables you to explore the rich and diverse connections between the two components of the degree. Philosophers from Plato onwards have thought about a divine realm, transcending the changeable everyday world. The contribution of religious thinkers to challenging questions in ethics and political philosophy is beyond question. And the most rewarding feature of the degree is that it enables you to combine study in your preferred areas of philosophy with a wide range of approaches to religion, drawn from different disciplines. The opportunity to look critically at religion from cultural, literary, sociological, political and gender based perspectives greatly enriches our understanding of religion and its role in human life.
“Religion is a prominent and relevant topic within the world right now and the logical thinking skills in philosophy equip you to open up critical issues.”

Emma Stead. Graduate 2016
BA PHILOSOPHY AND RELIGION
UCAS CODE VV56

ENTRY REQUIREMENTS

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Qualification</th>
<th>Requirements</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>A level</td>
<td>ABB</td>
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<tr>
<td>A level + EPQ</td>
<td>BBB + B in EPQ</td>
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<tr>
<td>International Baccalaureate</td>
<td>34 points</td>
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<tr>
<td>BTEC</td>
<td>DDD in relevant subjects</td>
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<tr>
<td>BTEC/A level mix</td>
<td>DD in BTEC, B in A level</td>
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<td>Scottish Highers</td>
<td>AAABB</td>
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<tr>
<td>Access to Higher Education</td>
<td>Access to HE Diploma; 60 credits overall with Distinctions in 30 level 3 credits and Merits in 15 level 3 credits</td>
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COURSE STRUCTURE

We teach different perspectives in philosophy, and interdisciplinary study of religions, helping you to think critically, appreciate diversity, and develop cultural agility. We have no compulsory modules. You select 120 credits each year from Philosophy and from Religion modules, and you can also complement these with modules in other departments. Modules in History, English and social sciences, for example, fit very well with modules in Philosophy and Religion. Our teaching methods include interactive lectures, seminars, team work, student presentations, debates, and fieldwork, and our modules are assessed by a variety of methods, ranging from examinations to essays, or more creative assignments, such as portfolios, posters, presentations, video-blogs, or artwork installations.

MODULES

On this course you can study both Philosophy and Religion modules. You will have a good deal of free choice in your decisions. An equal number of modules may be taken in each subject, while you also have the option of weighting your choices so as to reflect your particular interests. All Philosophy modules are open to Philosophy and Religion students. If you would like to see a full list of the philosophy modules we currently offer, you can download a copy of our Philosophy brochure from [www.sheffield.ac.uk/philosophy/prospectiveugs](http://www.sheffield.ac.uk/philosophy/prospectiveugs)
Philosophy and Religion

We are constantly developing our courses so it is possible that the modules running during your time at Sheffield may differ from those currently available. What follows is a list of some of the first, second and third year modules we have offered in recent years, and which may be of particular interest to students on the Philosophy and Religion degree.

**LEVEL ONE**

**A LIFE WORTH LIVING.** Visions of good life by the Buddha, in the Torah, and by Jesus, Mohammed, John Stuart Mill, and Friedrich Nietzsche.

**THE BIBLE IN POPULAR CULTURE.** Analysing classic and contemporary use of the Bible in TV, film and newspapers.

**DEATH.** What happens to us when we die? What attitude should we have towards death? Are we right to dislike death, or is it a good thing?


**FOUNDATIONS OF BIBLICAL AND CLASSICAL LITERATURE.** Unlocking literary traditions of the Bible along with Greek and Roman mythology.

**THE HISTORY OF ETHICS.** Key ideas of Plato, Aristotle, Hume, Kant, Bentham, Mill, Nietzsche, Rawls and Gilligan, and main types of ethical theory.

**INTRODUCTION TO ISLAM.** An overview of Islam, its central pillars, Koran and Hadith, as well as life of the prophet Mohammed, and major historical events.

**JUDAISM, TEXT AND TRADITION.** Jewish beliefs and practices in the ancient world and today.

**MATTERS OF LIFE AND DEATH.** A range of life-and-death moral dilemmas, which develop skills of analysis and critical reasoning engaging with moral theory.

**PHILOSOPHY OF RELIGION.** Philosophical debates on life after death, heaven and hell, miracles, religion and science, and the nature and existence of God.

"During my time at Sheffield I have expanded my knowledge on religious topics that I never thought I would get the opportunity to study. I chose Sheffield because I could see that the lecturers have a real passion for what they are teaching and I have found that this passion has reflected into my own work.”

Sophie Sharkey. Final year student 2016

**LEVEL TWO**

**BIBLE AND LITERARY IMAGINATION.** Reading with Literary Theory, including feminist, post-colonial, ecocritical, Marxist, and social scientific criticisms.

**ETHICS.** Important texts in Moral Philosophy ranging from e.g. Aristotle, Smith, Rousseau, Kant, Mill, and Sidgwick.

**GENDER, RELIGION AND THE BIBLE.** Religious texts on topics like heteronormativity, sex, rape, and incest and drag meet gender studies, queer theory, and feminism.
Department of Philosophy.

GOOD BOOKS. The Bible is an important source of narrative, character and image. This module will analyse film, TV and visual media as well as literary forms, to explore the ways in which creative writers interpret and re-imagine biblical narratives and tropes.

LGBT* STUDIES. Gender and sexuality in history and today, with psychology, culture, media, and theory. Either level 1 or 2.

RELIGION AND THE GOOD LIFE. Philosophical debates concerning the relationship of the divine to the human good life.

TEN COMMANDMENTS. Political, social, economic, and ethical aspects of ancient life, and law codes of the Hebrew Bible.

TOPICS IN ANCIENT PHILOSOPHY. An examination of the contrast between philosophical discussion and rhetorical manipulation.

UNDERSTANDING ISLAM. Reading Quran, Sunna and Hadith, applying these to contemporary issues such as gender, sharia, and democracy.

LEVEL THREE

THE BIBLE AND VISUAL CULTURE. Analysis of biblical stories and characters in art.

CHRISTIAN THEOLOGY. Systematic theology on key topics like God and revelation, biblical authority, and Christology.

DISserTATION. Individual research project on a topic of your choice supervised by staff.

FEMINISM. Philosophical feminism on family, feminine appearance, sexual behaviour, science, culture and language.

FREE WILL AND RELIGION. Philosophical issues about humanity and the omniscient God.

GLOBAL JUSTICE. Applications of notions of justice outside national boundaries. What do the global wealthy owe to the global poor? And do we owe more to our fellow citizens than to those in other countries?

TEXTS OF TERROR. This course confronts a host of biblical narratives that embody the horrific, such as genocide, rape, child abuse/sacrifice, etc., using a variety of contemporary methods in their interpretation.

NEW TESTAMENT TEXTS. Advanced examination of texts and interpretive debates.

PLATO’S SYMPOSIUM. A dramatic discussion of erotic love (erōs), exploring its origins, definition, aims, objects and effects.

THE RADICAL DEMAND IN LØGSTRUP’S ETHICS. A consideration of the ethics of K. E. Løgstrup, who wrote both as a philosopher and a theologian.

RELIGION IN AN AGE OF TERROR. Religious identity, conflict and violence, engaging with theology, philosophy, sociology, ethics and politics.

“I chose Philosophy and Religion degree because it is very versatile and offers a wide range of interesting modules. It enables me to expand my knowledge and view philosophical questions from a more religious perspective.” - Maria Elton. Final year student 2016
TEACHING STAFF

The Philosophy Department at Sheffield presently has around twenty members of staff. There are details of the Philosophy staff, along with information on their research interests, in our Philosophy brochure, which can be downloaded from www.sheffield.ac.uk/philosophy/prospectiveugs.

All members of the Philosophy department contribute to modules available to Philosophy and Religion students. In addition there is specialist input from colleagues in our English and History departments. Members of staff whose interests fit particularly well with elements of the Philosophy and Religion degree, and who may well teach on your Philosophy and Religion degree, include:

**CHRIS BENNETT.** Chris’s main interests are in moral, political and legal philosophy.

**RYAN BYERLY.** Ryan’s central areas of research are Philosophy of Religion, Epistemology and Virtue Ethics.

**KATIE EDWARDS.** Katie specialises in the Bible, gender, sexuality, and cultural studies.

**MARK FINNEY.** Mark’s research interests include Islam and the relationship between religion and conflict. He is also interested in social sciences and the Greco-Roman world.

**ERIC OLSON.** Eric works primarily in Metaphysics and the Philosophy of Mind with a particular focus on personal identity, time and death.

**MINNA SHKUL.** Minna’s interests range from social sciences and religion to questions of equality and diversity.

**ROBERT STERN.** Bob is interested in the History of Philosophy, and particularly in the work of Hegel, Kant and Løgstrup.

**CASEY STRINE.** Casey works on the history, literature, and cultures of the ancient Near East, specialising in the Hebrew Bible and ancient epics.

**MEREDITH WARREN.** Meredith’s speciality is embodied religion, as well as Classical literature, Hellenistic romance novels, and the Gospels.
VISIT OUR WEBSITE AND OPEN DAY TO FIND OUT MORE

This brochure gives you an academic taster for studying Philosophy and Religion at Sheffield. But there is much more to a student’s experience of University than the academic. For further information about Student Support Services, Student Life, Extra Curriculum Activities, Study Abroad, CV building, and Career Service, see www.sheffield.ac.uk/philosophy website or main departmental brochure.

The best way to see what we offer is to visit one of our Open Days. See www.sheffield.ac.uk/opendays for dates and book your place online. We welcome visitors any time, so please email the Philosophy department if scheduled Open Days do not suit you.

For further information, if you have any questions, or if you would like to arrange to visit the department, please contact us:

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