

*Chapter VII*

**Faculty of Philosophy**

---

## **Degrees and Diplomas offered by the Faculty of Philosophy**

---

**Diploma in Philosophy and Arts, DPA**

**Higher Diploma in Philosophy and Arts**

**Baccalaureate in Philosophy, BPhil**

**Licentiate in Philosophy, LPhil**

**Doctorate in Philosophy, DPhil**

\*\*\*

### **Dean of the Faculty**

Reverend Thomas Casey SJ, BA, BD LPh, STL, D.E.A (Paris), PhD (UCD)

### **Lecturers**

Reverend Dr Thomas Casey SJ, BA, BD LPh, STL, D.E.A (Paris), PhD (UCD)

Dr. Philip Gonzales, BA, MA, M.Phil., PhD (Katholieke Universiteit Leuven)

Reverend Dr Patrick Gorevan, DPh (UCD)

Dr Gaven Kerr, BA, MPhil, PhD (Queens)

Dr Denise Ryan BA, MA, DPh, LPhil (Maynooth University)

---

## Understanding Modules and Credits

---

Modules of courses required for the courses taught in the Faculty of Philosophy are described in the following pages.

Each course is divided into units known as *modules*. Module-descriptions follow the conventions of the Bologna Process, a Europe-wide system of measuring educational attainment in order to permit the recognition of qualifications and facilitate movement of students.

**Module Name:** Each module has a formal name or description.

**Module Code:** For administrative purposes, each module has a code made up of letters and numbers. The letters are abbreviations of subject-areas, e.g. PY. Courses with PY in the module code are taught by Department of Philosophy in Saint Patrick's College.

The first digit of the three-digit number indicates the year of the programme in which the module is typically offered, e.g. 321 is a Third Year course. As some courses are taught on a cyclical basis, a course with first number 2 may be required in third year and vice-versa. The remaining numbers are for purposes of identification only.

**Module Lecturer or Co-ordinator:** The person teaching the module. Where there is more than one lecturer, the co-ordinator is responsible for the direction of the course.

**Faculty:** The Faculty of Philosophy responsible for this module.

**Module Level:** In the Bologna system, student progress is measured on a scale of 1-10, e.g. Honours Leaving Certificate (Level 5), Honours Bachelor's Degree (Level 8), Masters (Level 9), Doctorate (Level 10).

**Credit rating:** Each module carries a number of CREDITS or ECTS (European Credit Transfer System). Credit rating is calculated by the amount of time devoted to the module. A course of two formal lectures weekly for one semester, with tutorials, assignments and independent study, is rated at 5 ECTS. Shorter courses (e.g. one lecture per week for one semester) are rated at 2.5 ECTS. A year's work at Bachelor's level is the equivalent of about 60 ECTS Credits.

---

## Dean's Overview

---

The Philosophy Faculty at St. Patrick's College was delighted to welcome Gaven Kerr and Philip Gonzales, both married laymen with children, who joined us in the summer of 2019. Hiring them was a major statement of intent on the part of St. Patrick's College Maynooth: that we want to be at the cutting edge of a philosophy that is both faithful to the Catholic tradition and also responsive to the challenges of contemporary culture. Dr. Gonzales and Dr. Kerr are energetic and ambitious. Their publications to date show that they are more than capable of serious research.

Gaven Kerr, with a PhD in philosophy from Queen's University Belfast, directed by Professor James McEvoy, has published numerous articles in peer-reviewed journals (*The Thomist*, *American Catholic Philosophical Quarterly*, *International Philosophical Quarterly*, etc.), and also two books with Oxford University Press. Both books deal with the thought of Saint Thomas Aquinas: *Aquinas's Way to God: The Proof in De Ente et Essentia* (Oxford University Press, 2015), and *Aquinas and the Metaphysics of Creation* (Oxford University Press, 2019). Dr. Kerr is currently completing a third book on Aquinas. In addition to Aquinas, he is also conversant with Plato, Aristotle, Augustine, the Church Fathers, Scotus, Descartes, Locke, Hume, Kant, as well as 20<sup>th</sup> century philosophy, especially analytic philosophy and also continental philosophy with particular reference to Heidegger.

Philip Gonzales, with a PhD from the Catholic University of Leuven, directed by Professor William Desmond, has a particular interest in the thought of Erich Przywara, the Jesuit philosopher and theologian, but is also familiar with the philosophies of Saint Augustine and Saint Thomas Aquinas. He tries to re-imagine Christian metaphysics for a postmodern context. Dr. Gonzales is the author of numerous book chapters and several articles. He has also published the book *Reimagining the Analogia Entis: The Future of Erich Przywara's Christian Vision* (Eerdmans, 2019). He has an edited volume forthcoming: *Philosophical Modernity: Cyril O'Regan and Christian Discourse after Modernity*.

With these two high-calibre philosophers on board, the Faculty is actively networking with philosophers around the world, working to attract promising postgraduate students, and preparing to raise its voice in the Irish public square. Additionally Drs. Kerr and Gonzales have assembled a stellar line-up for a conference in Maynooth in the spring of 2021, entitled "The Future of Christian Thinking". Given all these evolving projects and their work during this academic year just ended (2019 to 2020), both of these men have already begun to enhance the academic and ecclesial mission of Saint Patrick's College.

---

# 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**

|                |  |
|----------------|--|
| <i>Breadth</i> | 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. |
| <i>Kind</i>    | 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**

|                    |   |
|--------------------|---|
| <i>Range</i>       | Analyse philosophical arguments, show flexibility of thought, and synthesise information.       |
| <i>Selectivity</i> | Summarize and explain difficult ideas and concepts, furnishing convincing supporting arguments. |

### **Competence**

|             |  |
|-------------|--|
|             | Write philosophical papers that are coherently argued and thoroughly documented. |
| <i>Role</i> | Critically reflect upon the importance and the limits of philosophy.             |

|                          |  |
|--------------------------|--|
| <i>Learning to learn</i> | Complete learning tasks in a manner that demonstrates careful attention to logic, language, and the nuances of arguments.      |
| <i>Insight</i>           | 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 HDP and DPA Programmes in the academic year 2020-2021 (subject to review):

| MODULE CODE | MODULE TITLE                             | LECTURER | SEMESTER | CREDITS |
|-------------|--|----------|----------|---------|
| PY 145      | Introduction to Philosophy*              | Gonzales | 1        | 5       |
| PY 125      | Fides et Ratio*                          | Ryan     | 1        | 5       |
| PY 139      | Academic Writing & Research*             | Kerr     | 1        | 5       |
| PY 130      | General Ethics                           | Gorevan  | 1        | 5       |
| PY 215      | Foundations of Analytic Philosophy+      | Kerr     | 1        | 5       |
| PY 214      | Philosophy, Politics and Religion        | Gonzales | 1        | 5       |
| PY 152      | The Philosophy of Gabriel Marcel         | Casey    | 1        | 5       |
| PY 153      | The History of Modern Philosophy         | Kerr     | 1        | 5       |
| PY 124      | Logical Reasoning and Critical Thinking* | Ryan     | 2        | 5       |
| PY 149      | The History of Contemporary Philosophy   | Gonzales | 2        | 5       |
| PY 148      | Philosophical Theology+                  | Gonzales | 2        | 5       |
| PY 151      | The Philosophy of Aquinas                | Kerr     | 2        | 5       |
| PY 150      | Issues in Ethics                         | Kerr     | 2        | 5       |
| PY 212      | Academic and Personal Reflection+        | Casey    | 2        | 5       |

The 4 modules above with an *asterisk* (\*) are exclusive to 1st years. The 3 modules above with a *cross* (+) are exclusive to 2<sup>nd</sup> years. All other modules are in common to both years.

The following modules will be offered for the HDPa and DPA Programmes in the academic year 2021 to 2022 (subject to review):

| MODULE CODE | MODULE TITLE                             | LECTURER | SEMESTER | CREDITS |
|-------------|--|----------|----------|---------|
| PY 125      | Fides et Ratio*                          | Ryan     | 1        | 5       |
| PY 139      | Academic Writing & Research*             | Kerr     | 1        | 5       |
| PY 139      | The History of Ancient Philosophy        | Gonzales | 1        | 5       |
| PY 145      | Introduction to Philosophy*              | Gonzales | 1        | 5       |
| PY 121      | Classical Metaphysics                    | Gorevan  | 1        | 5       |
| PY 144      | The Philosophy of Søren Kierkegaard      | Casey    | 1        | 5       |
| PY 146      | Epistemology                             | Kerr     | 1        | 5       |
| PY 142      | The Philosophy of Saint Augustine        | Gonzales | 2        | 5       |
| PY 141      | The Philosophy of Science & Nature       | Kerr     | 2        | 5       |
| PY 147      | The Philosophy of the Human Person       | Gonzales | 2        | 5       |
| PY 140      | The History of Medieval Philosophy       | Kerr     | 2        | 5       |
| PY 212      | Academic and Personal Reflection +       | Casey    | 2        | 5       |
| PY 124      | Logical Reasoning and Critical Thinking* | Ryan     | 2        | 5       |
| PY 135      | Phenomenology                            | Gorevan  | 2        | 5       |

The 4 modules above with an *asterisk* (\*) are exclusive to 1st years. The module above with a *cross* (+) – PY 212 – is exclusive to 2<sup>nd</sup> years. All other modules are common to both years.

### **Progression**

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

---

# Baccalaureate in Philosophy

---

*Course Director: Rev Dr Thomas Casey SJ*

*The Baccalaureate in Philosophy (B Phil)* is a full-time Level 8 Award. The programme provides an opportunity to study Philosophy in the Christian and Western Intellectual Traditions.

**Rationale:** The programme aims to:

- Foster knowledge and understanding of key areas of Philosophy and the Christian Intellectual Tradition;
- Develop the capacity to make informed, evaluative judgements about the arguments, approaches and methods within the different areas of the philosophical and Christian Intellectual Traditions;
- Foster the skills of clear logical thought and presentation, careful analysis of ideas and imaginative deployment of argument;
- To develop students' ability to fashion thoughts and concepts with precision, rigour and clarity to enable students to assess the source and nature of values;
- Develop appreciation of some fruitful interconnections between Philosophy and other areas of Intellectual Thought;
- Develop intellectual curiosity and the capacity for independent thought and critical reflection.

## **Entry**

The programme is a one year full-time award, designed to build upon study already undertaken in appropriate subject-areas and at an appropriate level. In particular, the following pathways apply:

- Completion of the *Higher Diploma in Philosophy and Arts/Diploma in Philosophy and Arts*
- Completion of a primary award in Philosophy alone or as a cognate subject (minimum of 50%).

Candidates are required to present for interview, either in person or by video link, before undertaking the programme.

Prospective candidates should contact the Pontifical University Office for further details.

### **Programme Level Learning Outcomes**

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

#### *Knowledge and Understanding*

- Demonstrate a detailed and systematic knowledge and understanding of key texts, events, doctrines, theories, interpretations and arguments relating to the study of Philosophy and the Christian Intellectual Tradition, at least some of which is at, or informed by, the forefront of the disciplines
- Show awareness of a range of approaches/interpretations where applicable

#### *Intellectual and Cognitive Skills*

- Select and organise material from a wide range of complex primary and secondary sources
- Demonstrate intellectual flexibility through the appropriate use of a range of methodological approaches
- Conduct a detailed critical analysis of texts, theories or arguments
- Construct a strongly sustained argument, which may also show the implications of the findings for further study of the subject.

#### *Practical and Transferrable Skills*

- communicate clearly and concisely in written formats of varying types and lengths
- present well-structured thought orally
- debate complex issues in an open-minded but rigorous way
- abstract and synthesise relevant information from a range of sources including books, journal articles, library and internet resources
- manage time and undertake tasks without assistance

### **Programme Structure**

The programme is comprised of core modules combined to a total 60 credits. These core modules are designed to enable study in areas central to philosophy in the Christian tradition. They include *Academic and Personal Philosophy, Major Essay, Readings in Philosophy in the Christian tradition.*

**Indicative Programme Structure**

*Please note: The Programme of Study must be arranged in consultation with the Dean of Philosophy*

| Module Title  | Code | Semester | Total ECTs |
|---|------|----------|------------|
| <b><i>Compulsory Core Modules</i></b>   |      |          |            |
| Readings in Philosophy in the Christian tradition   | TBC  | 1        | 5          |
| Research Paper  | TBC  | 2        | 5          |
| Academic and Personal Philosophy  | TBC  | 2        | 5          |
| <b><i>Optional Modules</i></b>  |      |          |            |
| Elective Stream 1 (From suite of Modules in the Pontifical University or Maynooth University) | TBC  | 1 / 2    | 10         |
| Elective Stream 2 (From suite of Modules in the Pontifical University or Maynooth University) | TBC  | 1 / 2    | 10         |
| Elective Stream 3 (From suite of Modules in the Pontifical University or Maynooth University) | TBC  | 1 / 2    | 10         |
| Introduction to a Contemporary Academic Language  | TBC  | 1 / 2    | 10         |
| Praxis and Theory (Volunteering with Reflection)  | TBC  | 1 / 2    | 10         |

---

# Licentiate in Philosophy

---

*Course Director: Rev Dr Thomas Casey SJ*

The *Licentiate in Philosophy* (PhL) is a full-time Level 9 Award. It is a specialised licentiate in the systematic study of Philosophy.

**Rationale:** The aim of the programme is to enable students to deepen their knowledge and introduce them to research in Philosophy in the Christian Tradition.

## **Programme Level Learning Outcomes**

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

### *Knowledge and Understanding*

- Demonstrate an advanced knowledge and understanding of key texts, events, theories, interpretations and arguments relating to the study of Philosophy within the Christian Tradition, at least some of which is at, or informed by, the forefront of the disciplines
- Utilise different methods for approaching philosophical texts
- Identify fruitful questions in different areas of philosophy
- Address philosophical questions on the basis of the Christian Philosophical tradition

### *Intellectual and Cognitive Skills*

- Analyse precisely and assess critically primary and secondary sources
- Assess philosophical theories and methods on the basis of different positions within philosophy
- Carry out an independent and well-defined research project under supervision and in accordance with ethical norms for academic integrity

### *Practical and Transferrable Skills*

- Assess questions from a critical perspective
- Apply knowledge to complex problems
- Communicate research orally and in writing
- Communicate philosophical insight both to peers and to a wider audience

## **Entry Requirements**

- Applicants whose mother-tongue is not English should provide evidence of possessing the necessary level of English, both written and spoken. The requirements correspond to the standards demanded by Maynooth University.

- Applicants should provide certificates to establish that they have received a Baccalaureate or Bachelor's degree in Philosophy from a recognized institution. Students who have done their philosophical studies in a civil Faculty of Philosophy can only be admitted if their preparation meets the requirements for an Ecclesiastical Faculty of Philosophy. Where a deficiency exists, certain modules must be taken to satisfy the ecclesiastical undergraduate requirement.
- Applicants must normally have been awarded at least an upper second or equivalent in their Bachelor's degree in Philosophy.
- Applicants should provide a letter of recommendation showing evidence of their character and integrity. In the case of seminarians or priests, this letter should be provided by their Ordinary or College Rector; in the case of religious or consecrated persons, this should be provided by their Superior or Study Director; in the case of lay students, this should be provided by an ecclesiastical person who knows the candidate well.
- Applicants should provide a personal statement accompanying their application, in which they provide reasons for applying to study for a Licentiate, the prior preparation (undergraduate study) and skills (e.g. knowledge of philosophy, organizational and critical thinking abilities, etc.) they possess, and the goals they have, including both short-term aims for the programme, and long-term goals for their work after the proposed degree.
- Applicants should undergo an interview with two members of staff, which will normally be based on the personal statement they have submitted as well as upon their academic history.
- Applicants should provide evidence that they have a funding plan for their studies.

### **Programme of Study**

Candidates are required to follow, and take examinations in, the required postgraduate courses over two years and submit a dissertation that demonstrates an ability for systematic study in philosophy.

Candidates must complete at least nine graduate Modules, and a minor dissertation, the topic of which must be first approved by the director and reader of the dissertation.

Modules are chosen from the suite of modules available at the appropriate level (Level 9/10) through the Faculties of Philosophy and Theology at the Pontifical University, and the Department of Philosophy, Maynooth University.

The Programme of Study must be arranged in consultation with the Dean of Philosophy.

### **Requirements for being awarded the Licentiate in Philosophy (LPh) degree:**

- If candidates do not already have some proficiency in a second academic language, they must acquire at least a reading knowledge of the same, preferably an academic language that is relevant to their area of research. In order to show their reading knowledge, students must pass a translation examination arranged by the Faculty of Philosophy.
- Candidates must complete all degree requirements within three years after their admission to the programme.
- This minor dissertation should be between 25,000 and 30,000 words in length (excluding bibliography and appendices). Two copies of the dissertation should be submitted in spiral binding to the Pontifical University Office. After an oral examination on the thesis with two members of the Faculty, and once the thesis is finally approved (before which certain amendments may be required), one hard copy should be deposited in the Pontifical University Office. An electronic copy must be submitted for public access in the John Paul II library.
- Candidates must pass the following examinations:
  1. The regular examinations required in each course.
  2. A written examination demonstrating that they can read a second language, ancient or modern, as appropriate.
  3. An oral examination of 30 minutes duration, based on their thesis, before two members of the Faculty.

---

# Doctorate in Philosophy

---

*Course Director: Rev Dr Thomas Casey SJ*

*The Doctorate in Philosophy (DPh)* is a full-time Level 10 Award. The award of the Doctorate requires the submission of a substantial body of original research which makes a real contribution to the progress of philosophy. This research takes the form of a thesis that is assessed by a small committee of examiners appointed by the Pontifical University, and by an oral examination. The thesis may be published or submitted for access in the John Paul II library.

**Requirements for entry into the Doctorate in Philosophy (DPh) programme:**

- Applicants whose mother-tongue is not English should provide evidence of possessing the necessary level of English, both written and spoken. The requirements correspond to the standards demanded by Maynooth University.
- Applicants should provide certificates to establish that they have received a Licentiate in philosophy from a recognized institution. Students who have done their philosophical studies in a civil Faculty of Philosophy can only be admitted if their preparation meets the requirements for an Ecclesiastical Faculty of Philosophy. Where a deficiency exists, certain modules must be taken to satisfy the ecclesiastical undergraduate requirement.
- Applicants must normally have been awarded at least an upper second or equivalent in their Licentiate degree.
- Applicants should provide a letter of recommendation showing evidence of their character and integrity. In the case of seminarians or priests, this letter should be provided by their Ordinary or College Rector; in the case of religious or consecrated persons, this should be provided by their Superior or Study Director; in the case of lay students, this should be provided by an ecclesiastical person who knows the candidate well.
- Applicants should provide a personal statement accompanying their application, in which they provide reasons for applying to study for a Doctorate, the prior preparation and skills (e.g. knowledge of philosophy, organizational and critical thinking abilities, etc.) they possess, and the goals they have, including both short-term aims for the programme, and long-term goals for their work after the proposed degree.
- Applicants should undergo an interview with two members of staff, which will normally be based on the personal statement they have submitted as well as upon their academic history.

- Applicants should provide evidence that they have a funding plan for their studies.

**Requirements for being awarded the Doctorate in Philosophy (DPh) degree:**

- Candidates must normally complete at least three years of study, which may include several postgraduate seminar courses and some teaching.
- As the DPh is a full-time academic programme, candidates are expected to be able to dedicate 35–40 hours per week to research and study. Course requirements and library work demand that candidates be on campus for two days per week during the first three semesters of their DPh programme.
- If candidates do not already have some proficiency in a second academic language, they must acquire at least a reading knowledge of the same, preferably an academic language that is relevant to their area of research. In order to show their reading knowledge, students must pass a translation examination that is recognized by the Faculty of Philosophy.
- At the end of the first year, doctoral students should provide sufficient evidence of progress in the preparation of the dissertation to warrant continuance.
- Candidates must provide an annual written account of the progress of their study and research that is to be submitted to the director, reader, and dean.
- Candidates must have their dissertation proposal approved by a director, and subsequently submitted to the dean and faculty for their approval. Once the proposal is accepted, candidates are free to pursue their chosen topic of research.
- The dissertation that is presented must show evidence of in-depth research, the ability to work independently, and must be of a sufficient standard to justify its publication in whole or in part.
- The DPh dissertation should be defended within five years of admission to the doctoral programme.
- Dissertations submitted by 30th November are accepted for examination by early spring. Those submitted by 15th May are accepted for examination in early summer. Examination at any other time may be considered only in exceptional circumstances and by express leave of the Faculty.
- The dissertation shall be presented to the Dean of the Faculty at least two months before the candidate may be admitted to defend it. In exceptional cases the required period may be shortened.
- Three copies of the dissertation are to be submitted in the first instance, and these may be ring-bound. A hard-bound copy, incorporating any

corrections which the examiners may require, must be submitted to the Library following successful defence of the work.

- All dissertations shall remain the property of the Pontifical University.

### **Public Examination**

- The public examination is conducted before a commission composed of three lecturers: the president, the director, and the second reader. It comprises the following elements:
  - A lecture by the candidate for half-an-hour on the topic, arguments and conclusions of the dissertation
  - A defence of the dissertation for an hour against objections.

At the end of the Defence, the Faculty shall vote firstly on whether the degree of doctor is to be awarded and secondly on what mark shall be given. 80% of the final mark is for the written dissertation; 20% of the final mark is for the oral defence. The aggregate mark is not communicated to the student.

### **Publication of the Doctoral Dissertation**

- Before the Doctorate in Philosophy can be conferred, the dissertation, or at least a substantial part thereof, must be published. Publication may take any of the following forms:
  - Appearance as a book, or as an article in a recognised philosophical journal
  - Circulation of copies of the dissertation, or of a major excerpt, in printed form, on disk, microfilm or microfiche, to the main ecclesiastical Faculties of Philosophy.
  - Deposition of a copy of the dissertation and of the disk in the John Paul II Library at St. Patrick's College, Maynooth, together with notification of the fact through appropriate means of inter-library exchange.