

*Chapter IX*

**Faculty of Philosophy**

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

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**Baccalaureate in Philosophy, BPh**

**Licentiate in Philosophy, LPh**

**Doctorate in Philosophy, DPh**

**Higher Diploma in Philosophy  
Diploma in Philosophy  
Diploma in Philosophy and Arts**

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### **Dean of the Faculty**

Michael W Dunne, DPhil (Gregoriana), FRHistS

### **Secretary of the Faculty**

Mette Lebech, DPhil (KULeuven) (NUIM)

### **Lecturers**

Rev Donal Daly SVD, DPhil  
Professor William Desmond (Adjunct Honorary Professor)  
Michael W Dunne, DPhil (Gregoriana), FRHistS  
Amos Edelheit PhD (NUIM)  
Rev Dr Patrick Gorevan (NUIM)  
Dr (Des) Susan Gottlöber (NUIM)  
Mette Lebech, DPhil (KULeuven) (NUIM)  
Cyril McDonnell, PhD (NUIM)  
Stephen McGrogan, BSc, MA, PGCE (SPCM)  
Donal McMahan, MA, HDE (SPCM)  
Rev Simon Nolan OCarm, BA, BD, LPh, MDiv, ARIAM (SPCM)

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## Baccalaureate in Philosophy

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The Baccalaureate in Philosophy (BPh) is a full-time degree open to any student who satisfies the entry requirements of second level education (Irish Leaving Certificate or its equivalent) for an undergraduate degree.

The programme entails eight hours of lectures and one tutorial per week in year one, and seven hours of lectures and one tutorial per week in year two. Students will be required to achieve a pass on the first year's courses before being admitted to the second year.

### Year I

- Introduction to Philosophy
- Epistemology
- Moral Philosophy
- Philosophy of Religion I
- Greek Philosophy
- Metaphysics I
- Medieval Philosophy
- Logic
- Philosophical Anthropology

### Year II

- Metaphysics II
- Philosophy of Religion II
- The Elective Courses in the First Semester of the relevant year
- The Philosophy of Aquinas
- Political Philosophy
- The Elective Courses of the Second Year
- Minor Dissertation

This degree is open to students of the National University of Ireland, Maynooth who study for the *Higher Diploma in Philosophy* or who take Philosophy and a cognate subject for the Honours BA. They are required to produce a BPh thesis, which must be of similar length to the BA thesis but on a different topic. The essay should be on a topic of Christian philosophy and reflect wide reading and personal reflection. Prospective candidates should contact the Philosophy Office before the end of the second semester in their degree year. In order to be admitted to the BPh examinations, Higher Diploma students must do Epistemology in Year I, as well as the required electives in Year II, and the extended essay.

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## Licentiate in Philosophy

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In order to be admitted to the Licentiate in Philosophy (LPh) a candidate shall have followed, and taken the examinations in, the required postgraduate courses over two years and submitted a dissertation that demonstrates ability for scientific study in philosophy.

Successful candidates for the MA (Mode 2) examination in the Faculty of Philosophy, NUI Maynooth may also be admitted to the Licentiate. They are required in addition to present a Minor Thesis, on a separate topic from the MA thesis but of comparable length. The thesis should focus on an area of Christian philosophy. Prospective candidates should contact the Philosophy Office by the end of January of their degree year.

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## Doctorate in Philosophy

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The principal requirement for the award of the Doctorate in Philosophy (DPh) is a major dissertation which proves the candidate's capacity for scientific investigation and which makes a real contribution to philosophy. Candidates may also be required to follow a specified range of qualifying courses.

Candidates for the DPh must have achieved a grade of at least *Magna cum Laude* / Second Class Honours, Grade I / B in the LPh or its equivalent.

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## Higher Diploma in Philosophy

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This is a two year full-time course, designed to provide students who already possess a third level qualification, with a qualification in Philosophy. The course is open to any student who satisfies the entry requirements, viz. a third-level qualification in any subject or combination.

The programme will involve eight hours of lectures and one tutorial per week in year one, and seven hours of lectures and one tutorial per week in year two. Students will be required to achieve a pass on the first year's courses before being admitted to the second year.

Higher Diploma students wishing to attempt the BPh must also do Epistemology in Year I, as well as all six elective courses in Year II, and the dissertation.

### Outline of the Programme

#### Year I

- Introduction to Philosophy
- Moral Philosophy
- Philosophy of Religion I
- Greek Philosophy
- Metaphysics I
- Medieval Philosophy
- Logic
- Philosophical Anthropology

#### Year II

- Metaphysics II
- Philosophy of Religion II
- The Elective Courses in the First Semester of the relevant year
- The Philosophy of Aquinas
- Political Philosophy
- The Elective Courses in the Second Semester of the relevant Year

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## Diploma in Philosophy

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The regulations for the NUI Diploma in Philosophy require that students take eight specified courses.

The courses for this Diploma are

- Introduction to Philosophy
- Philosophy of Religion I (First Arts courses)
- Greek Philosophy
- Philosophical Anthropology (Second Arts courses), in the First Semester.
- Moral Philosophy I
- Logic, (First Arts courses)
- Medieval Philosophy
- Metaphysics I (Second Arts courses), in the Second Semester.

Diploma Students must register online using the PAC system.

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## Diploma in Philosophy and Arts

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The *Diploma in Philosophy and Arts* is awarded by the *Pontifical University at Saint Patrick's College*, Maynooth on the successful completion of a two-year, full-time course, covering a range of modules in Philosophy and English, as well as two elective modules.

Modules with the PY code are taken in *Saint Patrick's College*, while the modules with the PH code are taken in Department of Philosophy of the *National University of Ireland, Maynooth*.

### ***Admission to the Course***

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 NUI matriculation syllabus.

Students are assessed at two levels: Ordinary and Diploma.

The course is divided into the following sections:

- Philosophy Modules in *National University of Ireland, Maynooth* (NUIM)
- Philosophy Modules in *St Patrick's College* (SPCM)
- English Modules in *St Patrick's College*
- Elective Modules in *St Patrick's College*

*Chapter X*

**Course Modules**

**for the**

**Primary Degree Programmes**

**and**

**Diploma Programmes**

**in the**

**Faculty of Philosophy**

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## Understanding Modules and Credits

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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 in this Kalendarium 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, eg PY or PH. Courses with PY in the module code are taught by Department of Philosophy in Saint Patrick's College, while courses with PH in the module code are taught by the Department of Philosophy in NUIM.

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.

**Department:** The Department of the Faculty 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 (eg 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.

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## Modules in Philosophy - NUIM

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### *Introduction to Philosophy*

**Module Code:** PH 101  
**Lecturer:** Dr Michael W Dunne  
**Department:** Philosophy  
**Module Level:** 8 (Undergraduate)  
**Credit rating:** 5 ECTS Credits

What constitutes the nature of reality? Is knowledge of the outside world really possible? What is truth, and how does it relate to freedom, justice and beauty? These are just some of the big questions that have preoccupied philosophers from Plato to Wittgenstein. In attempting to grapple with such profound problems, this course will analyse and assess the various solutions suggested by the great thinkers in the philosophical tradition. In so doing, it will provide students with a comprehensive overview of the history of philosophy, and the issues that are fundamental to it.

***Recommended Text:***

Solomon, Robert C, *Introducing Philosophy*, Oxford University Press.

### *Greek Philosophy*

**Module Code:** PH 201  
**Lecturer:** Dr Amos Edelheit  
**Department:** Philosophy  
**Module Level:** 8 (Undergraduate)  
**Credit rating:** 5 ECTS Credits  
**Lecture Hours:** 24 hours

The aim of this course is to give a general introduction to the first philosophers of Western civilization, roughly between the 6th century BCE and the 1st century CE. We shall move on chronologically, from the Presocratic thinkers and their discussions of nature, to the Sophists and their focus on human concerns, and then to Plato and Aristotle, ending with the Hellenistic philosophical schools: the Stoics, the Skeptics, and the Epicureans. But at the same time we shall also move on philosophically, emphasizing philosophical themes, problems, possible solutions, and methods. The lectures can only present the bare outlines of these subjects, raising philosophical and scholarly issues, while the active and

independent reading of selected texts by the students should provide a better understanding of the subjects discussed in the lectures.

**Required Reading:** A variety of readings will be assigned.

### ***Philosophy of Religion I***

**Module Code:** PH 104  
**Lecturer:** Rev Simon Nolan OCarm  
**Department:** Philosophy  
**Module Level:** 8 (Undergraduate)  
**Credit rating:** 5 ECTS Credits  
**Lecture Hours:** 24 hours

This course is intended to introduce students to some topics of philosophical interest in the area of Philosophy of Religion. It begins with a brief account of the distinction between philosophy and religion, knowledge and belief. The topic of religious language will be discussed, with a look at reasons why some consider such language to be meaningless. The use of analogous language in the area of religious discourse will be considered. Then some of the attributes of God will be examined, in particular those of eternity, omniscience and omnipotence. Some ways of providing philosophical proofs for God's existence will be outlined. Other related issues, such as the question of life after death and the possibility of miracles, may also be discussed.

***Recommended Text:***

Davies, Brian, *An Introduction to the Philosophy of Religion*, 3rd edition, Oxford: OUP, 2003.

### ***Moral Philosophy***

**Module Code:** PH 102  
**Lecturer:** Dr (Des) Susan Gottlöber  
**Department:** Philosophy  
**Module Level:** 8 (Undergraduate)  
**Credit rating:** 5 ECTS Credits  
**Lecture Hours:** 24 hours

This course aims to introduce students to moral philosophy by an analysis of ethics, which is defined as 'that which we consider it appropriate to do'. To understand what we mean by that, we investigate:

- what it is to do something (this is done under the heading ‘action-theory’)
- what it is to consider something appropriate (this is done under the heading ‘value-theory’)
- who ‘we’ are (which is considered as ‘community-theory’).

Ethics is contrasted with moral philosophy, which concerns what it is right or wrong to do. The contrast between the two serves to open the discussion of whether there exist objective standards for the criticism of ethics embodied by different cultures, including our own. The practical setting of this discussion is the contemporary context marked by the phenomenon of globalisation.

### *Logic*

**Module Code:** PH 103  
**Lecturer:** Dr Cyril McDonnell  
**Department:** Philosophy  
**Module Level:** 8 (Undergraduate)  
**Credit rating:** 5 ECTS Credits  
**Lecture Hours:** 24 hours

The aim of the course is to introduce students to both classical and modern logic. In pursuit of that aim the course will cover such topics as the nature and scope of logic; the classification of terms and propositions; patterns of immediate inference; the syllogism; hypothetical and disjunctive arguments; fallacies; the basic methods and procedures of modern symbolic logic.

### *Philosophical Anthropology*

**Module Code:** PH 205  
**Lecturer:** Dr (Des) Susan Gottlöber  
**Department:** Philosophy  
**Module Level:** 8 (Undergraduate)  
**Credit rating:** 5 ECTS Credits  
**Lecture Hours:** 24 hours

This course explores topics such as the meaning of personhood, the mind / body problem, personal identity, the meaning of incarnation and being with others. Key texts from historically important thinkers will be featured including texts from Descartes, Hume, and Kant as well as texts from selected 19<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup> century philosophers.

## *Metaphysics I*

**Module Code:** PH 203  
**Lecturer:** Rev Dr Patrick Gorevan  
**Department:** Philosophy  
**Module Level:** 8 (Undergraduate)  
**Credit rating:** 5 ECTS Credits  
**Lecture Hours:** 24 hours

This course gives a historical introduction to the subject of metaphysics, asking the questions

- What is metaphysics?
- What happened as metaphysics was Christianised?
- What happened as metaphysics was Modernised?
- Does metaphysics (still) make sense?

The course is based on the reading of texts by Aristotle, Hildegard of Bingen, Thomas Aquinas, Descartes, Kant, Husserl, Edith Stein, Wittgenstein and Agnes Heller.

**Required Reading:** A variety of readings will be assigned.

## *Medieval Philosophy*

**Module Code:** PH 204  
**Lecturer:** Rev Simon Nolan OCarm  
**Department:** Philosophy  
**Module Level:** 8 (Undergraduate)  
**Credit rating:** 5 ECTS Credits  
**Lecture Hours:** 24 hours

The course begins with the thought of Augustine and Boethius, and concentrates on the most prominent representatives of the period up to c.1450: Eriugena, Anselm, Avicenna, Grosseteste, Bacon, Aquinas, Scotus and Ockham.

**Required Reading:**  
Kenny, A, *Medieval Philosophy*, Clarendon Press, Oxford, 2005.

## ***Philosophy of Aquinas***

**Module Code:** PH 304  
**Lecturer:** Dr Mette Lebech  
**Department:** Philosophy  
**Module Level:** 8 (Undergraduate)  
**Credit rating:** 5 ECTS Credits  
**Lecture Hours:** 24 hours

This course will consider aspects of Aquinas's philosophical thinking in some detail. It will begin by seeking to situate the thirteenth-century thinker within the broader context of the history of medieval thought. As the course proceeds, topics considered will include the nature of metaphysics, truth, God, the human person, happiness and action. The course will conclude with a brief consideration of how Aquinas's philosophical thought has been received and how it has influenced other thinkers up to the present day.

***Recommended Text:***

McDermott, Timothy (ed), *Thomas Aquinas: Selected Philosophical Writings*, Oxford University Press.

## ***Metaphysics II***

**Module Code:** PH 301  
**Lecturer:** Dr Mette Lebech  
**Department:** Philosophy  
**Module Level:** 8 (Undergraduate)  
**Credit rating:** 5 ECTS Credits  
**Lecture Hours:** 24 hours

This course is a sustained attempt to think systematically through the questions which constitute metaphysics as a discipline.

The themes discussed are:

- the relation between language and reality
- entity, identity, property and accident
- analogy; causality; time; God; truth
- The nature of metaphysics itself is also discussed
- The contributions of a diversity of authors, from a variety of philosophical traditions, are discussed; these include Aquinas, Dummett, Hegel, Heidegger, Leibniz, Putnam, Rorty and Wittgenstein.

## ***Philosophy of Religion II***

***Module Code:*** PH 302  
***Lecturer:*** Dr Cyril McDonnell  
***Department:*** Philosophy  
***Module Level:*** 8 (Undergraduate)  
***Credit rating:*** 5 ECTS Credits  
***Lecture Hours:*** 24 hours

This course will examine the treatment of the question of God in some major thinkers beginning in the seventeenth century and coming down to the present day, and discuss how this laid the basis for the emergence of the philosophy of religion.

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## **Elective Modules in Philosophy - NUIM**

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Students chose from a range of Elective Courses offered each year by members of the Department of Philosophy. The following Elective Courses are offered for the Academic Year 2010-2011. Each Elective Course carries 2.5 ECTS

### ***Philosophy of the Natural Sciences***

**Module Code:** PH 313  
**Lecturer:** Dr Amos Edelheit  
**Department:** Philosophy  
**Module Level:** 8 (Undergraduate)  
**Credit rating:** 2.5 ECTS Credits

### ***Chinese Philosophy***

**Module Code:** PH 323  
**Lecturer:** Ms Yinya Liu  
**Department:** Philosophy  
**Module Level:** 8 (Undergraduate)  
**Credit rating:** 2.5 ECTS Credits

### ***Introduction to Renaissance Philosophy***

**Module Code:** PH 325  
**Lecturer:** Dr Amos Edelheit  
**Department:** Philosophy  
**Module Level:** 8 (Undergraduate)  
**Credit rating:** 2.5 ECTS Credits

### ***Introduction to Hermeneutics***

**Module Code:** PH 326  
**Lecturer:** Dr (Des) Susan Gottlöber  
**Department:** Philosophy  
**Module Level:** 8 (Undergraduate)  
**Credit rating:** 2.5 ECTS Credits

### ***Politics and Morals in Contemporary Philosophical Thought***

**Module Code:** PH 327  
**Lecturer:** Dr (Des) Susan Gottlöber  
**Department:** Philosophy  
**Module Level:** 8 (Undergraduate)  
**Credit rating:** 2.5 ECTS Credits

### ***Irish Philosophers and Philosophy***

**Module Code:** PH 328  
**Lecturer:** Dr Michael Dunne  
**Department:** Philosophy  
**Module Level:** 8 (Undergraduate)  
**Credit rating:** 2.5 ECTS Credits

### ***Dissertation***

**Module Code:** PH 316A  
**Department:** Philosophy  
**Module Level:** 8 (Undergraduate)  
**Credit rating:** 2.5 ECTS Credits

- Topic to be chosen and approved in Semester I
- Thesis to be submitted in Semester II

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## Modules in Philosophy - SPCM

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### *The Problem of Evil*

**Module Code:** PY 101  
**Lecturer:** Mr Stephen McGrogan  
**Department:** Philosophy  
**Credit rating:** 5 ECTS Credits

Two lectures per week, First and Second Year, First Semester

We look at the perennial problem of evil for belief in God from the formulation of the problem to various proposed solutions. The atheistic views of JL Mackie and William Rowe lead on to the 'basic belief' debate involving the work of Alvin Plantinga. Traditional theodicies from Saints Irenaeus, Augustine and Aquinas are considered; and fideistic perspectives are supplied by Pascal, Kierkegaard and William James. The student is encouraged to reflect on reality in a mature and honest way, critically analysing and arguing for his own philosophical position or solution. The intractableness of the problem is a question which is considered, as is the difficulty of providing any theistic solution whatsoever to it as a philosophical problem.

**Text:**

Davies, Brian, *Philosophy of Religion: A Guide and Anthology*, OUP, 2000.

### *Metaphysics*

**Module Code:** PY 102  
**Lecturer:** Mr Stephen McGrogan  
**Department:** Philosophy  
**Credit rating:** 5 ECTS Credits

Two lectures per week, First and Second Year, Second Semester

The classic readings in metaphysics are examined comparatively in chronological order. The dualist rationalism of Plato and Descartes is contrasted with the empiricism of the British philosophers, Locke, Berkeley and Hume. Aristotle and Aquinas are looked at together as examples of the hylomorphic analysis of being. The course is a preparation for and culminates in the consideration of the revolutionary metaphysical work of Kant. The course is wide enough to allow students to focus on the metaphysics which they regard as

most noteworthy, while the whole course will be unified by the focus on the fundamental notion of substance as contained or alluded to in the writings of these essential philosophers.

***Text:***

Cooper, David E (ed), *Metaphysics: The Classic Readings*, Blackwell, 2000.

### ***The Philosophy of Science***

***Module Code:*** PY 103

***Lecturer:*** Mr Stephen McGrogan

***Department:*** Philosophy

***Credit rating:*** 5 ECTS Credits

Two lectures per week, First and Second Year, First Semester (Second Year of Cycle)

A brief overview of the genesis of science from the world of myth is given initially.

- The scientific method is examined and compared with respect to other disciplines, considered as various avenues to truth.
- The assumptions implicit in scientific laws are investigated, which leads into a discussion of the relationship of science to religious belief.
- The Humean problem of induction is considered with respect to the applicability of laws of nature.
- The question of determinism is treated against some interesting counterpoints involving the existentialist emphasis upon individual freedom.
- The argument between Einstein and Bohr with respect to the Quantum Theory is examined to highlight science's traditional attachment to realism.
- Finally, the abuse of science by social and behavioural 'scientists' is exposed to criticism.

***Text:***

Thompson, Mel, *Philosophy of Science*, Hodder and Stoughton, 2003.

## *Applied Philosophy*

**Module Code:** PY 104  
**Lecturer:** Mr Stephen McGroggan  
**Department:** Philosophy  
**Credit rating:** 5 ECTS Credits

Two lectures per week, First and Second Year, Second Semester (Second Year of Cycle)

The students are encouraged to see the unity of thought and action, philosophy and life. Philosophy as a way of life is examined in the case of Buddhism and in more depth in the case of various existential philosophies, including that of Søren Kierkegaard, Jean-Paul Sartre, Albert Camus and Viktor Frankl. Then the students are confronted with the task of applying ethics to life. After a brief survey of ethical positions, we investigate ethics from a contextual point of view. Philosophies of Art and Education are treated more briefly as examples of the universal applicability of philosophy.

## *Issues in Ethics*

**Module Code:** PY 201  
**Lecturer:** Rev Dr Donal Daly SVD  
**Department:** Philosophy  
**Credit rating:** 5 ECTS Credits

Two lectures per week, Second Year, First Semester

The course will survey some contemporary disputed issues in Practical Ethics. Beginning with a preliminary discussion of right, it will focus on the philosophical arguments surrounding issues connected with the right to life – suicide, abortion and euthanasia. This will include an investigation into the meaning and application of the principle of double effect. Some issues on the question of natural law and the relationship of law and morality will also be discussed.

## *Epistemology*

**Module Code:** PY 105  
**Lecturer:** Rev Dr Donal Daly SVD  
**Department:** Philosophy  
**Credit rating:** 5 ECTS Credits

Two lectures per week, First and Second Year, Second Semester

This module investigates some of the problems involved in human knowing. It begins with an investigation of the relationships between knowledge and belief, in particular religious belief. The solution that Aquinas proposed to this problem will be given special attention. The issue of scepticism will be considered and the basis of the sceptical problem will be examined. The attempts of philosophers like Descartes and Berkeley to deal with the crisis of scepticism will be reviewed. A critical realist position on the questions of the possibility and content of human knowing will be presented, with particular reference to the writings of Bernard Lonergan.

## *Logic*

**Module Code:** PY 106  
**Lecturer:** Rev Dr Donal Daly SVD  
**Department:** Philosophy  
**Credit rating:** 5 ECTS Credits

Two lectures per week, First and Second Year, Second Semester (Second Year of Cycle)

The aim of this module is to introduce students to both classical Aristotelian logic and modern symbolic logic.

In pursuit of that aim, the module covers such topics as:

- The nature and scope of logic
- The classification of terms and propositions and some patterns of immediate inference
- Particular attention will be given to the categorical syllogism and the methods of testing them for validity.
- Hypothetical and disjunctive arguments as well as logical fallacies will be briefly discussed.
- Finally, the basic methods and procedures of modern symbolic logic will be covered, particularly the propositional calculus.

## ***Reading 'Fides et Ratio'***

***Module Code:*** PY 107  
***Lecturer:*** Rev Simion Nolan OCarm  
***Department:*** Philosophy  
***Credit rating:*** 5 ECTS Credits

Two lectures per week, First Year, First Semester

The encyclical letter, *Fides et Ratio*, is acknowledged to be one of the most important of Church documents examining the complementarity of faith and reason. The letter not only explores the relationship between belief and reasoning but also, more generally, consists of a profound reflection on the value of philosophy for the Church and for human culture. Through a reading of the text, we shall explore and discuss some of these points, as well as examining the place of philosophy within priestly formation.

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## Modules in Arts - SPCM

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### *The Personal Essay*

**Module Code:** PY 108  
**Lecturer:** Mr Donal McMahon  
**Department:** Philosophy  
**Credit rating:** 5 ECTS Credits

Two lectures and one tutorial a week for one semester, First Year

The object of this module is to encourage the student to write personal essays and, at the same time, to increase his knowledge about language and the technical aspects of writing. Reading and writing what is known today as 'creative non-fiction' should thus help to nourish in the student a lifelong interest in his own as well as other writers' efforts at fashioning texts.

**Main text:** Gross, John, (ed), *The Oxford Book of Essays*, 1991.

### *Autobiography*

**Module Code:** PY 110  
**Lecturer:** Mr Donal McMahon  
**Department:** Philosophy  
**Credit rating:** 5 ECTS Credits

Two lectures and one tutorial a week for one semester, First and Second Year

'Every one has a great deal to say about the Providence of God over him. [. . .] At the last day, every one will feel his own history as special and singular.' (John Henry Newman)

The aim of this module is to explore some of the rich and complex aspects of autobiographical writing – spiritual, philosophical, textual. Readings range from the classical (Newman's *Apologia*, 1864) and religious (including Maynooth autobiography) to the contemporary and secular (John McGahern, *Memoir*, 2005).

## ***Languages and the English Language***

**Module Code:** PY 111  
**Lecturer:** Mr Donal McMahon  
**Department:** Philosophy  
**Credit rating:** 5 ECTS Credits

Two lectures and one tutorial a week for one semester, Second Year

‘We studied the descriptive grammar of modern Polish as well as the historical evolution of the language. [. . .] This opened up completely new horizons for me; it introduced me to *the mystery of language itself*.’ (Pope John-Paul II, *Gift and Mystery*, 1997)

This module, which explores various aspects of the grammar and history of the English language, similarly has as its ultimate purpose to awaken in the student a sense of the mystery of language itself. Among the topics discussed are:

- Further topics in grammar and style
- Elements of general and historical linguistics
- The story of English and Hiberno-English
- Place-names in England and Ireland
- The language of poetry
- English translations of the Bible.

**Main text:** Crystal, David, *The English Language*, second edition, 2002.

## ***Ireland in 1842: History and Literature***

**Module Code:** PY 112  
**Lecturer:** Mr Donal McMahon  
**Department:** Philosophy  
**Credit rating:** 5 ECTS Credits

Two lectures and one tutorial a week for one semester, First and Second Year

This module is based on William Thackeray, *The Irish Sketch Book*, an account of his tour of Ireland in 1842. The text is approached from the point of view of literature (comparing the book with previous and subsequent examples of the genre, considering it as a work in Thackeray’s literary development etc) as well as from that of history (describing the situation of the country in 1842).

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## Elective Modules in Arts - SPCM

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### *Church Latin I*

**Module Code:** PY 113  
**Lecturer:** Mr Donal McMahon  
**Department:** Philosophy  
**Credit rating:** 2.5 ECTS Credits

One lecture per week, First Year, First and Second Semester, c.18 weeks

This is an introductory module in Ecclesiastical Latin.

**Text:** Collins, John F, *A Primer of Ecclesiastical Latin*, 1985

### *Church Latin II*

**Module Code:** PY 114  
**Lecturer:** Mr Donal McMahon  
**Department:** Philosophy  
**Credit rating:** 2.5 ECTS Credits

One lecture per week, Second Year, First and Second Semester, c.18 weeks

This second-year course is a continuation of PY 113.