

28 June, 2021

Dear PPE Humanities students,

Welcome – or welcome back – to the PPE Humanities programme!

This document serves to confirm and clarify various features of the programme.

## 1. The PPE Humanities committee

Any general query about the PPE Humanities should go to the **convenor**.

Any query specific to one of the three subjects should go to the representative of that subject:

*Philosophy representative & programme convenor*

Dr Ryan Nefdt  
[ryan.nefdt@uct.ac.za](mailto:ryan.nefdt@uct.ac.za)

*Economics representative:*

Dr Refilwe Lepelle  
[refilwe.lepelle@uct.ac.za](mailto:refilwe.lepelle@uct.ac.za)

*Political Studies representative:*

Dr Vinothan Naidoo  
[vinothan.naidoo@uct.ac.za](mailto:vinothan.naidoo@uct.ac.za)

## 2. PPE Humanities Curriculum 2021

Timetable information is retained here, despite the move to online/remote teaching in 2021.

**Note:** the set curriculum structure of the BSocSc (PPE) assumes that you meet the entry requirements for each course in each of the three subjects, in order to advance from first year to third year courses.

*First year: 8 semester courses*

(a) ECO1010F Microeconomics	2/3/4/5
(b) ECO1011S Macroeconomics	2/4/5/M
(c) PHI1010S Ethics	5
(d) PHI1024F Introduction to Philosophy	5

(e) POL1004F Introduction to Politics	7
(f) POL1005S Introduction to Politics B	7
(g) STA1000S Statistics 1000	See <b>Note 1</b> overleaf.
(h) One of the following (see <b>Note 2</b> overleaf):	
MAM1010F Mathematics 1010	1/3/4
MAM1000W Mathematics 1000	1/3

**Note 1:** The registration process requires that you select a period for STA1000S. To satisfy the process, please choose any period that does not clash with your other commitments. In fact, the period is misleading, because STA1000S works differently from your other courses: students make use of online learning and have the option to attend face to face workshops.

**Note 2:** In (h) above, you are asked to choose from two mathematical courses of varying rigour:

- MAM1010F is standardly taken by Commerce students. It emphasises areas of commercial interest, including applications to economics.
- MAM1000W is standardly taken by Science students who need or wish to study a full first year of maths. It extends over the entire year, not only the first semester, so PPE students who take it will have five courses in the second semester. Consider MAM1000W if you love maths and are willing to work very hard at it while also attending properly to your other subjects. And if you truly delight in the mathematical sciences, then as a MAM1000W student you may also choose to take STA1006S Mathematical Statistics I instead of STA1000S. Course description from the Statistical Sciences website: ‘The aim of STA1006S is to provide students who intend to major in Mathematical Statistics with a solid foundation in the mathematical aspects of statistics required in the training of a professional statistician. The material for STA1006S places more emphasis on the theoretical and mathematical aspects of Statistics than STA1000S. As a result, the course will be taught at a much faster pace than STA1000S. The breadth and depth of the STA1006S syllabus means that the course demands from the students a hard working attitude and an effective study strategy.’

### *Second year: 8 semester courses*

All possible second year options are listed below, but please note that available options will vary each year, depending on course timetables. In any given year, it is unavoidable that **some options will be unavailable** because of timetable clashes with required courses. If you are very keen to take options that clash, and have a plan to deal with the overlap, you will need to seek permission from both departments via a Timetable Clash Concession form ([http://www.humanities.uct.ac.za/sites/default/files/image\\_tool/images/2/UGtimetable%20clash%20concession%202014.pdf](http://www.humanities.uct.ac.za/sites/default/files/image_tool/images/2/UGtimetable%20clash%20concession%202014.pdf) - or google ‘UCT timetable clash’).

(a) ECO2003F Microeconomics II	2/5/M
(b) ECO2004S Macroeconomics II	2/5/M
(c) ECO2007S Cooperation and Competition	2/4
(d) PHI2041S Great Philosophers	4
(e) PHI2042F Political Philosophy	2
(f) POL2038F Comparative Politics	7

(g) At least one of the following:

POL2002F Political Theory	9
POL2039F Politics of International Economic Relations	6
POL2042S Comparative Public Institutions	8
POL2043S South African Politics	5

(h) If there is a remaining course, it is to be chosen from the following:

ECO2008S Development Economics	6
PHI2012F Philosophy of Psychology and Mind	4
PHI2016S Philosophy of Art and Literature	2
PHI2037F Applied Ethics	3
PHI2040S Philosophy of Science	3
PHI2043F/S Business Ethics	3/4
PHI2044F Philosophy of Mathematics	1
PHI2045S Philosophy of Race	5

*Third year: 6 semester courses*

All possible third year options are listed below, but please note that available options will vary each year, depending on course timetables. In any given year, it is unavoidable that **some options will be unavailable** because of timetable clashes with required courses. If you are very keen to take options that clash, and have a plan to deal with the overlap, you will need to seek permission from both departments via a Timetable Clash Concession form ([http://www.humanities.uct.ac.za/sites/default/files/image\\_tool/images/2/UGtimetable%20clash%20concession%202014.pdf](http://www.humanities.uct.ac.za/sites/default/files/image_tool/images/2/UGtimetable%20clash%20concession%202014.pdf) - or google 'UCT timetable clash').

(a) ECO3025S Applied International Trade Bargaining	3
(b) PHI3023F Logic and Language	7

(c) At least one of the following:

POL3029F Politics of Africa and the Global South	4
POL3030F Conflict in World Politics	6
POL3037F South African Public Policy Analysis	7
POL3038S Urban Politics and Administration	7
POL3045S Global Governance	6

POL3046S South African Political Thought 4

(d) Remaining courses to be selected from this list:

ECO3009F Natural Resource Economics	1
ECO3016F History of Economic Thought	3
ECO3020F Advanced Macro and Microeconomics	2/3
ECO3021S Quantitative Methods in Economics	2
ECO3022S Advanced Labour Economics	6
ECO3023S Public Sector Economics	7
ECO3024F International Trade and Finance	8
PHI3024S Metaphysics and Epistemology	7

### 3. Frequently asked questions

*May I take extra courses?*

If you are a first or second year PPE student, then adding a course in a semester will involve taking five subjects that semester. To do this, you'll need permission from the PPE convenor, who follows the practice of the Humanities Faculty.<sup>1</sup> The stronger your academic record, the more willing the Humanities Faculty is to grant permission. If your academic record is impressive – for first year students, very high Matric marks; for second year students, an average of at least 75% for the previous year's courses – then the PPE committee will be inclined to support your request to the Faculty.

If you are in your third year of the PPE, then adding a course will involve having four subjects in a semester, for which you do *not* need permission from the Humanities Faculty.

Please *think carefully* before requesting or deciding on extra courses: ask yourself whether you could instead read independently in a subject, or perhaps (if the lecturer gives permission) merely attend lectures. It is the Humanities Faculty's experience that the average mark of students taking extra courses tends to decline by around 5%. Sometimes the drop is even more dramatic. Moreover, the PPE Humanities curriculum is already quite demanding. So you should take an extra course only if you have been coping well so far and you know that you will have plenty of extra time and energy to cope with the additional demands. Please also keep a very firm eye on how you're doing and on the course drop deadlines. Drop the extra courses within the deadline if you feel that your performance is suffering.

*May I take a course outside the PPE curriculum instead of a course in it?*

The PPE Humanities committee formulates and reviews the curriculum. Our considerations include UCT's course offerings and the need for PPE students to:

- choose from an intellectually rigorous set of courses making up a well-packed degree;

---

<sup>1</sup> If you're adding an 'H' course – i.e. a course that extends across the whole year, but weighs only as much as an 'F' or 'S' course – then you can do this without permission.

- gain a solid background in all three participating subjects (POL, PHI, ECO), including courses that deal only with one subject and courses that encourage thinking across these subjects; and
- have the opportunity to specialise in some of these subjects.

We regard a PPE Humanities degree as a guarantee of these features. Since we wish to protect the integrity of the programme, we will consider requests from students to take courses in ECO, PHI and POL other than what is already allowed for in the PPE curriculum, but we will NOT allow students to register for courses outside of these three subject areas.

*Can PPE students take semesters abroad?*

Yes. The PPE Humanities committee is willing to support applications from PPE students with strong academic records, and to provide credit and exemption for appropriate courses taken at other universities. For credit and exemption requests, please email the convenor, attaching the outlines of potentially suitable courses, including details of topics covered and required coursework. This will then be considered by the PPE Humanities Committee.

*As a PPE student, do I automatically end up with a major in all three subjects?*

No. You end up with a PPE degree, and if you do sufficiently well, you are awarded a distinction in PPE studies. Depending on your subject choice in the degree, you can *also* major in one or more of the three subjects. (The Humanities undergraduate book sets out majoring requirements for each subject.) Occasionally our students major in all three subjects. In order to do so, they need to choose their subjects carefully, including seven – rather than six – third year subjects. The reason is that at third year level, majoring in PHI and POL requires two courses each, while majoring in ECO requires three courses. It is worth adding that while students sometimes think it is somehow necessary to take three majors, this is not *at all* true: rather, in making curricular choices, you should focus on your interests and your study or career plans.

Your subject majors are not mentioned on your degree transcript; rather, your transcript will identify you as a PPE student. However, you can of course note on your CV or to any interested parties that you have also attained majors in particular subjects during the course of your PPE degree. And if you do so well in these subjects that you achieve distinctions in them, then these subject distinctions will be officially recorded.

*I know someone who applied for the PPE Humanities programme but did not meet the required entrance requirements and was accepted into the general degree programme instead. Can they move to PPE? If so, how?*

It is indeed possible to move from a general degree to a PPE after a successful year of study. To explain: every course in the PPE curriculum is also available to general Humanities degree students. The 'PPE' degree label serves as a shorthand guarantee that one has a solid background in Philosophy, Politics and Economics and has potentially done more extensive work in some or all of those. None of these courses, though, is closed to general Humanities degree students.

General Humanities degree students who are keen to enter the PPE programme should take the standard PPE curriculum in their first year (assuming they meet the requirements to register for all these courses). If they *pass all* these courses for the year and are keen to continue with the PPE route, then they may email the PPE convenor at the end of the year to request a transfer to the PPE programme.

General degree students pursuing the PPE curriculum who decide that they don't like some of the subjects and don't wish to continue with them (quite often, students take to one of the PPE subjects but not another) can of course stay in the general degree, which offers far more majors and courses than the relatively highly constrained PPE degree.

In short, students who are not accepted to the PPE but rather to the general degree have no cause for dismay. If the first year of following the PPE curriculum goes consistently well and they like the courses, they can apply to switch to the PPE programme for the second year; or, if they find that they would like a different and broader range of options, they can stay in the general degree.

*I know someone who is a student at another university, and wants to transfer into the PPE Humanities programme here. Is this possible?*

Yes. Students who wish to transfer should email the PPE convenor with their latest transcript. The most important factor is your university performance so far. We will consider a request only if the student has passed a full load of courses in the previous year. Beyond that, the better a student has done, the more inclined we are to accept the student to the PPE programme.

Variations in curricula across universities sometimes mean that newly arrived students need to catch up on certain courses. Such students are expected to be proactive in thinking about how to manage the challenges of catching up. This can make for challenging decisions. Students may need to consider questions such as: In which order should I take certain courses? Do I wish to request a concession from a department to take its courses in an unorthodox sequence? Shall I request a concession to take courses whose timetables clash, and if so, how shall I propose to manage this clash? Will I try to take some (compressed) summer or winter term courses? Should I extend the degree into a fourth year?

Students from other universities wishing to enter UCT's PPE programme should not only contact the PPE convenor, but *also* apply to UCT for the PPE programme. Such students are fully responsible for identifying and meeting UCT's application deadlines.

*I'm not interested in some of the PPE subjects / I'm very interested in non-PPE subjects. Can I transfer out of the PPE to a general Humanities degree?*

Yes. The PPE convenor doesn't need to sign you out of the programme. The Humanities Faculty office can help you transfer to the general degree and provide curricular advice.

*Does the PPE Humanities committee also deal with the PPE Commerce degree?*

No; they are very different programmes, and have different convenors. The PPE Commerce curriculum can be found on the Commerce Faculty website. The convenor for the PPE Commerce programme is Dr Refilwe Lepelle ([refilwe.lepelle@uct.ac.za](mailto:refilwe.lepelle@uct.ac.za)).

#### 4. Requirements for related UCT Honours programmes

Below is information on entry to UCT Honours programmes in four areas:

- Economics;
- Philosophy;
- Political Studies; and
- Philosophy, Politics and Economics.

##### *(a) Economics*

- A Bachelor's degree or equivalent qualification with a major in Economics. Applicants must achieve an average of at least 65% in their final year undergraduate economics courses. Students who have not taken courses in Quantitative Methods or Econometrics will be required to demonstrate appropriate proficiency in these areas.
- Students completing Economics-based specialisations at UCT will require at least 60% for ECO3020F (Advanced Macroeconomics and Microeconomics), ECO3021S (Quantitative Methods in Economics) and another third-year level economics course to be considered for a place in the Honours programme.

For more information, students should consult <http://www.economics.uct.ac.za/eco/Honours-in-Economics>

##### *(b) Philosophy*

Honours applicants should have a major in Philosophy, and a strong record in the subject. The Philosophy Department considers not only the applicant's academic performance, but also a writing sample. For more information, see <http://www.philosophy.uct.ac.za/philosophy/postgraduate/degrees> and to download a brochure, see <http://www.philosophy.uct.ac.za/philosophy/postgraduate/brochure>

##### *(c) Political Studies*

Admission to the Department's programmes is selective and can be highly competitive. The Department admits only those candidates that it judges are likely to complete the degree programme successfully.

Criteria taken into consideration for admission include:

- academic excellence, indicated by good performance in previous studies;
- academic potential, indicated by improving performance into and across the final year of previous study; and
- political, policy or work experience where it is relevant to the programme for which a candidate seeks admission.

Honours applicants who do not achieve a minimum of a 70% average in the third year of undergraduate studies at UCT are unlikely to be selected for our specialisations. Conditional offers may be made subject to achieving satisfactory results in the final semester.

Please see the website for more detailed information:

<http://www.politics.uct.ac.za/pol/postgraduate/apply/courseworkdegrees>

### **Admission to Honours degrees:**

For admission at Honours level, students must have a BSocSc or a BA degree (or equivalent qualification). External candidates and UCT students must apply formally via Admissions.

### **Programme specific requirements for Honours**

Honours in International Relations: Specific additional entry requirements for this specialisation are a past academic history in International Relations, Political Studies/Science or a strong academic background in a related discipline.

Honours in Justice and Transformation: Applicants should ideally have a major in, or some exposure to, Politics as an undergraduate subject. However, depending on which area of concentration the applicant is interested in, the following additional study backgrounds may be taken into account when assessing applications:

- **Transitional Justice**                      Majors in Politics, History, Law, Philosophy, Sociology, Literature
- **Human Rights**                         Senior courses in Law, LLB
- **Conflict Resolution**                 Majors in Politics, Psychology, Law, Social Anthropology, Sociology
- **Social Justice in Transformation**                 Majors in Politics, History, Law, Sociology, Social Anthropology, Psychology, Development Studies

Honours in Politics: major in Political Studies or a strong academic background in a related discipline (e.g. Public Administration, Sociology, Psychology, Economics, Criminology, Law, History or Philosophy).

Honours in Public Policy and Administration: an undergraduate degree in public administration or previous courses completed in public administration, public policy, governance, and related subjects.

### **Undergraduate course selection considerations:**

The PPE specialisation includes Political Studies courses that would enable students to seek a major in the Politics and Governance programme (as given on pages 364-5 of the undergraduate Humanities handbook).

*(d) Philosophy, Politics and Economics*

**General Convener:** Dr G Hull (Philosophy Department)

Politics Advisor: A/Prof Z Jolobe

Economics Advisor: Prof E Nikolaidou

**Specialisation Structure:**

The PPE specialisation is an interdisciplinary specialisation incorporating courses and research in the three disciplines of Philosophy, Politics and Economics. Students entering the specialisation must identify their primary disciplinary focus in order to be placed in a home department. While all PPE students will complete at least one course in each discipline, their research (Honours project or Masters minor dissertation) will be based in their home department, with registration and supervision complying with that department's requirements.

**General Admission requirements:**

For general admission into the specialisation, at both Honours and Masters level, students must have successfully completed:

- A major, or its equivalent, in Philosophy, Politics or Economics,
- At least first year, defined as at least two semester courses at first year level, in each of the other two disciplines (excluding the major)

Acceptance to the specialisation is at the Convener's discretion and requires the recommendation of the Head of the Department in the home department selected by the applicant.

**Admission requirements per home department:**

In addition to the above requirements, there are additional, specific requirements per home department.

***Minimum admission requirements for Economics as home department:***

For Honours: 65% average for ECO3000-level courses, with no course less than 60% for ECO3020F, ECO3021S, and one other ECO3000-level. Acceptance is conditional on passing the pre-Maths and Stats course ECO4112F.

For Masters: Overall average result of not less than 65% must be achieved at Honours level.

***Minimum admission requirements for Politics as home department:***

For Honours: 70% average for at least two senior Politics courses. See Political Studies section in the handbook for further details of criteria taken into consideration in admission.

For Masters: An overall average result of not less than 65% must be achieved at Honours level, plus a strong performance in the Honours research component.

***Minimum admission requirements for Philosophy as a home department:***

For Honours: 70% average for the Philosophy major. Students who do not quite achieve this mark may be admitted to the specialisation at the discretion of the Head of Department.

For Master's: An overall average result of not less than 70% must be achieved at Honours level, plus a strong performance in the Honours research component. Students who do not quite achieve this mark may be admitted to the specialisation at the discretion of the Head of Department.

For further details, see <http://www.philosophy.uct.ac.za/philosophy/postgraduate/degrees>

## **5. Advice for returning students who have failed a first year MAM, STA or ECO course**

Our most commonly failed courses are the first year courses in MAM, STA and ECO. If you have failed one of the courses listed below, please read the information on how to take it again.

### **MAM1010F**

Students who fail MAM1010F can go on to take MAM1010S (periods 1/4) in the second semester or wait until the next iteration of MAM1010F. Note that without MAM1010, you will not be able to take ECO2003 or ECO2004.

### **STA1000S**

Students who fail STA1000S can take STA1000 in either semester of the next year, or in the summer or winter terms (i.e. in condensed form during the mid-year and end-of-year vacations), if they are offered then.

### **ECO1010F**

Students who fail ECO1010F can take the course again in the second semester in the same year: ECO1010S is in period 5.

If a student fails ECO1010F then they can continue to ECO1011S but they must take it concurrently with ECO1010S.

### **ECO1011S**

Students who fail ECO1011S can take it in either semester of the next year. If taken in the first semester, note that ECO1011F is in period 7.

Note that ECO2003F requires ECO1010 (and MAM1010) but does not require ECO1011. However, ECO2004 requires both ECO1010 and ECO1011 (as well as MAM1010).