

**Faculty of Liberal Arts and Professional Studies
York University**

Degree-Level Expectations for Programs

Program:	Philosophy
Degree Type:	B.A.
Degree(s):	Specialized Honours, Honours, Bachelor
Department/School:	Philosophy
Submission Date:	

Instructions:

1. On page 1, please complete the information regarding:
 - the name of the program (e.g. Criminology; Public Administration; Sociology; etc.);
 - the degree type of the program (e.g. BA; BDEM; BAS; BHRM; BPA; BSW; etc.);
 - the degree options offered through the program (e.g. *Specialized Honours (120 credits); Honours (120 credits); Bachelor (90 credits); etc.*); and
 - the name of the Department/School that offers the program.
2. For each of the six (6) University Undergraduate Degree Level Expectations (UUDLEs) listed in the chart below, please:
 - a) define the relevant degree-level expectations (i.e. describe what is demonstrated by students who are awarded the degree);
 - b) describe the relevant program learning objectives/student learning outcomes for each degree-level expectation (i.e., what students should know and/or be able to do by the end of the program); and
 - c) align the relevant courses and assessment methods/activities with the program learning objectives/student learning outcomes. *Note: when a program has a long list of electives, the Unit may include the details on the specific requirement (i.e. students have to choose X courses from the list of Y electives) in the chart below and append the full list of applicable elective courses at the end of this document.*
3. For each program offered by the Department/School, please submit (via email) one completed *Degree-Level Expectations for Programs* document.
 - Email address for submissions: apccps@yorku.ca
 - Submission deadline: **July 31, 2012**

	<p>a) Degree-Level Expectation <i>This degree is awarded to students who have demonstrated the following:</i></p>	<p>b) Program Learning Objectives (with assessment embedded in outcomes) <i>By the end of this program, students will be able to:</i></p>	<p>c) Appropriate Degree Requirement & Assessment <i>Align courses and assessment methods/activities with the program learning objectives.</i></p>
<p>1. Depth and Breadth of Knowledge</p>	<p>A systematic understanding of the main areas of Philosophy. Familiarity with current thinking on these topics, as well as with the most influential historical antecedents.</p>	<p>Demonstrate competence in reasoning and logic.</p> <p>Demonstrate understanding of:</p> <p>a) the relevance of the major historical debates in Philosophy.</p> <p>b) ethical issues and the main philosophical theories treating them.</p> <p>c) the concept of mind and cognition as discussed in contemporary philosophy.</p> <p>Relate philosophical questions and theories to work in neighbouring disciplines, such as Linguistics, Psychology, Political Science and Law.</p>	<p>All majors are required to take either 2100 (Introduction to Logic) or 2200 (Critical Reasoning). Honours and Specialized Honours students are required to take 2100.</p> <p>All majors are required to take at least one of 2015 (Plato and Aristotle), 2020 (Descartes, Spinoza and Leibniz) or 2025 (Locke, Berkeley and Hume). Honours and Specialized Honours students are required to take at least two of these courses.</p> <p>All majors are required to take either 2070 (Introduction to Ethics) or 2075 (Introduction to Applied Ethics). Specialized Honours students are also required to take 3020 (Ethics).</p> <p>Honours students and Specialized Honours students are required to take at least one of 2080 (Perception, Knowledge and Causality), 2170 (Freedom, Determinism and Responsibility) or 2240 (Introduction to the Philosophy of Mind). Specialized Honours students are also required to take at least one of 3030 (Epistemology) or 3035 (Metaphysics).</p> <p>Electives among which majors choose include many courses in philosophy of law, philosophy of language, philosophy of psychology, etc.</p>

	<p>a) Degree-Level Expectation <i>This degree is awarded to students who have demonstrated the following:</i></p>	<p>b) Program Learning Objectives (with assessment embedded in outcomes) <i>By the end of this program, students will be able to:</i></p>	<p>c) Appropriate Degree Requirement & Assessment <i>Align courses and assessment methods/activities with the program learning objectives.</i></p>
<p>2. Knowledge of Methodologies</p>	<p>The ability to identify the structure and evaluate the strength of arguments. The ability to read philosophical texts with comprehension, and to evaluate different interpretations of them.</p>	<p>Read difficult texts with comprehension.</p> <p>Identify and critically assess complex chains of argument.</p> <p>Think creatively and constructively about alternative points of view.</p> <p>Identify problems and issues within their own beliefs and within the beliefs of others.</p>	<p>All majors are required to take either 2100 (Introduction to Logic) or 2200 (Critical Reasoning). Honours and Specialized Honours students are required to take 2100.</p> <p>Most courses require a lot of reading and writing, whether it be essay answers on examinations or papers. Writing assignments often involve interpretation of difficult texts, and almost invariably require construction and critical evaluation of arguments.</p>

	<p>a) Degree-Level Expectation <i>This degree is awarded to students who have demonstrated the following:</i></p>	<p>b) Program Learning Objectives (with assessment embedded in outcomes) <i>By the end of this program, students will be able to:</i></p>	<p>c) Appropriate Degree Requirement & Assessment <i>Align courses and assessment methods/activities with the program learning objectives.</i></p>
<p>3. Application of Knowledge</p>	<p>The ability to develop their own views on topics of fundamental and enduring importance, and to defend their views effectively in argument.</p>	<p>Understand the relevance of philosophical ideas and theories, and apply them to new situations.</p> <p>Understand and analyze complex arguments and treat them in a creative, sympathetic and critical way.</p> <p>Articulate positions of their own on complex issues and defend them in argument.</p> <p>Appreciate and profit from criticism and investigation of their own deeply held beliefs.</p>	<p>Assignments typically involve interpretation of difficult texts and the construction/evaluation of arguments.</p> <p>As Philosophy is a subject with a long history, these arguments often involve the application of existing theories to new problems or the reassessment of those theories in light of new developments.</p> <p>Many assignments involve training in the use of scholarly reviews and primary sources, along with the development of a (suitably but not overly) cautious attitude towards material available on the internet.</p>

	<p>a) Degree-Level Expectation <i>This degree is awarded to students who have demonstrated the following:</i></p>	<p>b) Program Learning Objectives (with assessment embedded in outcomes) <i>By the end of this program, students will be able to:</i></p>	<p>c) Appropriate Degree Requirement & Assessment <i>Align courses and assessment methods/activities with the program learning objectives.</i></p>
<p>4. Communication Skills</p>	<p>The ability to engage in constructive arguments even with people who do not share their beliefs. The ability to express ideas clearly in discussion and to write a sustained argument for a philosophical thesis.</p>	<p>Engage with others as careful, critical, and open thinkers and reasoners.</p> <p>Write carefully reasoned and argued papers on complex issues.</p> <p>Identify the hidden assumptions in personal and societal beliefs.</p> <p>Profit from and appreciate the value of alternative and opposing viewpoints.</p>	<p>Large, lower-level courses typically have tutorials, in which students are encouraged and trained to talk through the questions at issue with the tutorial leader and their peers.</p> <p>In all but the very largest courses (and often even there), instruction normally proceeds via the socratic method. Students are trained throughout to appreciate the value of asking and answering critical but constructive questions.</p> <p>Smaller, upper-level courses typically are conducted as seminars, with a heavy emphasis on class participation and the presentation of individual or collaborative work to the class.</p>

	<p>a) Degree-Level Expectation <i>This degree is awarded to students who have demonstrated the following:</i></p>	<p>b) Program Learning Objectives (with assessment embedded in outcomes) <i>By the end of this program, students will be able to:</i></p>	<p>c) Appropriate Degree Requirement & Assessment <i>Align courses and assessment methods/activities with the program learning objectives.</i></p>
<p>5. Awareness of Limits of Knowledge</p>	<p>An appreciation of alternative positions and points of view, even on topics of great importance to them, and a healthy degree of scepticism concerning any simple solution to a major philosophical problem.</p>	<p>Identify the hidden assumptions in personal and societal beliefs.</p> <p>Understand what sorts of questions can and cannot be answered by empirical means.</p> <p>Understand what sorts of disputes can and cannot be resolved logically.</p> <p>Maintain a healthy level of scepticism about their own beliefs and the beliefs of others.</p>	<p>Critical examination of opposing viewpoints is integral to Philosophy, as is the search for unsupported assumptions and invalid inferences. This is what we do!</p> <p>Courses in moral and political philosophy, as well as courses on gender and sexuality, and on feminist thought, introduce students to a wide range of normative theories and force them to confront questions about whether and how disagreements on such matters can be resolved.</p> <p>Courses in cognitive science and the philosophy of mind and language introduce students to different ways of thinking about the mind and cognition and force them to confront questions about the proper place of logical and empirical methods in the study of these matters.</p>

	<p>a) Degree-Level Expectation <i>This degree is awarded to students who have demonstrated the following:</i></p>	<p>b) Program Learning Objective (with assessment embedded in outcomes) <i>By the end of this program, students will be able to:</i></p>	<p>c) Appropriate Degree Requirement & Assessment <i>Align courses and assessment methods/activities with the program learning objectives.</i></p>
<p>6. Autonomy and Professional Capacity</p>	<p>The ability to think for themselves; to explain their views to others and to defend their views in argument; to comprehend new problems and issues; and to understand the often very different opinions and arguments of others.</p>	<p>Research, write and present papers on complex and contested questions.</p> <p>Make up their own minds on matters of fundamental importance.</p> <p>Understand and engage constructively with people who hold opposing views.</p> <p>Engage in informed discussion of current philosophical debates.</p>	<p>As Philosophy often deals in contested questions, assessment often focuses less on the nature of the answers than on the quality of the arguments. Do they demonstrate real understanding of the positions being criticized? Do they provide real support for the position being defended?</p> <p>Upper-level courses introduce students to the theories and debates currently dominant in Philosophy and prepare them to manage their own future learning and to make informed choices about possible future studies.</p> <p>Training in philosophical reasoning and argument has long been recognized as excellent preparation for tests such as the LSAT, GMAT, etc.</p>