

Humanities Divisional Board

Approved by officers on behalf of the Board on 11 June 2019

Title of Programme/ Name of Regulation

Bachelor of Philosophy

Brief note about nature of change:

Class Attendance Requirement Changes

Location of change

In *Examination Regulations 2018* (<http://www.admin.ox.ac.uk/examregs/2018-19/bachofphil/>)

Effective date

For students starting from MT 2019

For first examination from 2020-21

Detail of change

New text underlined, deletions struck-through:

1.21. Candidates will be required to attend the B.Phil Pro-seminar ~~in~~ throughout the first year of their studies (i.e. the year in which their names are first entered on the Register of B.Phil students). In addition, candidates will be required to attend ~~two~~ one graduate classes in each of the first ~~four~~ three terms of their studies and two graduate classes in the fourth term of their studies.

Explanatory Notes

Previously, BPhil students attended the Pro-Seminar in their first term of study and were required to take two additional graduate classes per term for the first four terms of study.

However, following extensive discussion in GSC, Panel and Faculty Board, the faculty has decided that the BPhil students would greatly benefit from having more Pro-Seminars which would extend their breadth of knowledge of some basic issues in philosophy. Moreover, the introduction of a history of philosophy Pro-Seminar would be welcome with a view of increasing students' achievements in the assessed history of philosophy essays (something that was also commented upon in a recent external examiner's report).

As a result, it was decided to extend the current provision by introducing a weekly 2-hour Pro-Seminar in each term of the first year of the BPhil (covering theoretical philosophy in MT, practical philosophy in HT, and history of philosophy in TT). The theoretical class will cover issues in metaphysics and epistemology (4 weeks), and in philosophy of mind, logic and philosophical logic, philosophy of language, and philosophy of science (4 weeks). The

practical class will cover issues in ethics and meta-ethics (4 weeks), and in political philosophy and aesthetics (4 weeks). The history class will cover issues in ancient and medieval philosophy (4 weeks), and in early modern and modern philosophy (4 weeks).

At the same time, the class attendance requirement will be maintained for BPhil students: i.e. they are required to attend two graduate classes per term during the first four terms of their studies. However, each term's Pro-Seminar class will now count as a graduate class for class attendance requirement purposes, so BPhil students will only be expected to attend two graduate seminars in the fourth term of their studies. During the first year of their study they will take the Pro-Seminar plus one more graduate class in each term.