Jesus College, Oxford

Subject Notes:
PSYCHOLOGY, PHILOSOPHY AND LINGUISTICS

Academic Staff

Fellows

Dr Molly Crockett is the Tutorial Fellow in Experimental Psychology at Jesus College and an Associate Professor of Experimental Psychology at the University of Oxford. Her research interests include the psychology and neuroscience of human altruism, morality, self-control, and economic decision-making.

Professor Ash Asudeh is the Senior Research Fellow in Linguistics and Professor of Semantics. His research interests are in semantics, syntax, cognitive science, linguistic theories and grammatical architecture, language and logic, computational linguistics, and psycholinguistics.

Professor Andreas Mogensen works primarily in moral philosophy, and much of his research to date has focused on moral epistemology. He is also interested in epistemology more generally, as well as political and legal philosophy, metaphysics, and the philosophy of biology.

About the Course

Psychology, Philosophy and Linguistics is a course which allows you to study thought, behaviour and language, and the connections between them. Psychology at Oxford is essentially a scientific discipline, involving the rigorous formulation and testing of ideas. It includes subjects as diverse as social interaction, learning, child development, schizophrenia and information processing.

Philosophy is concerned with a wide range of questions concerning ethics, knowledge and the nature of mind. Philosophy at Oxford has active interests in the philosophy of mind and the philosophy of science, and has very close links with neuroscience and psychology.

Linguistics is the study of language, including structure, meaning, and pronunciation. There are many areas which link two or more of the component subjects, e.g. language learning, generation and interpretation of language, psycholinguistics.

Psychology, Philosophy and Linguistics at Oxford is a flexible course, offering a wide range of choices within all of the branches. Initially you apply to take TWO of the component subjects, i.e. the available combinations are:

- Psychology & Philosophy (CV85)
- Psychology & Linguistics (CQ81)
- Philosophy & Linguistics (VQ51)

In terms 1 and 2, students take three of the following courses leading up to the Preliminary Examination at the end of the second term:

- Psychology
- Philosophy
- Linguistics
- Neuropsychology
- Statistics
From term 3, you may take up study the third subject if you wish (with permission from your college), or continue with the bipartite degree in the two subjects already studied for Prelims. A table showing the course structure for the various options is at: [www.psy.ox.ac.uk/study/undergrad/ppl-course](http://www.psy.ox.ac.uk/study/undergrad/ppl-course)

**Philosophy**

The Philosophy for the Preliminary Examination is the same as in PPE, i.e., Moral Philosophy (Mill), General Philosophy, and Logic Work is divided between lectures (about six per week), and tutorials and classes (two to three per week).

During terms 3-9 leading to the Final Honours School examination, your time will again be divided between attending lectures (about six per week), tutorials (average of one to two per week). Students choosing Philosophy take between three and five courses in Philosophy, and those taking a least three courses have the option to write a thesis in Philosophy in place of an additional paper. A full list is available at: [https://www.philosophy.ox.ac.uk/undergraduate/courses](https://www.philosophy.ox.ac.uk/undergraduate/courses)

The options include bridge papers such as Philosophy of cognitive science and Philosophy of mind (mind-body relations, personal identity, imagination, and the nature of actions and motives).

**Psychology**

In terms 1 and 2, students take courses in Psychology and Statistics. Students choosing Psychology take four of the eight courses in Experimental Psychology in terms 3-5, plus a course in Experimental Design and Statistics (examined by submission of a practical portfolio), followed by one, two or three advanced options in Psychology in terms 6-8.

**Linguistics**

The Introduction to Linguistics course in the first two terms provides a foundation in the basic components of phonetics and phonology (speech and sound patterns), morphology and syntax (word structure and grammar), and semantics (meaning), with an introduction to linguistic theory and the connections between linguistics and other subjects such as sociology and psychology. The course is taught through 14 lectures in General Linguistics, in four modules: Introduction to General Linguistics, Introduction to Psycholinguistics, Introduction to Semantics and Pragmatics, and Introduction to Sociolinguistics. These are supported by 7 practical classes on Grammar and 4 tutorials on General Linguistics. In parallel, students follow 14 lectures in Phonetics and Phonology, which are supported by 10 small-group tutorials.

At the end of the second term, the course is assessed by a 3-hour exam, requiring two essays and two data-oriented exercises.

After the Prelims exam, you may study from three to five special subjects in linguistics. See the Paper XII and Paper XIII options at [http://www.ling-phil.ox.ac.uk/prelims_ppl](http://www.ling-phil.ox.ac.uk/prelims_ppl). Options include the topics mentioned above (in greater depth and to a more advanced standard), other topics such as language change and historical linguistics, or an original research project.

**Joint Schools**

- Experimental Psychology can also be studied as a separate degree course.
- Jesus College does not offer the Biomedical Sciences degree (which has replaced the PPP options involving Physiology, and the Physiological Sciences course).
Philosophy cannot be studied as a separate subject at Oxford. It can be studied at Jesus College in the following combinations:

- Maths and Philosophy
- Philosophy and Modern Languages
- Politics, Philosophy and Economics (PPE)
- Philosophy and Theology

Linguistics can also be studied in combination with a Modern Language.

**Admissions**

Candidates need to be academically able, with a scientific turn of mind. It is highly recommended for candidates to have studied one or more Science or Mathematics subjects to A-level. Candidates are selected on the basis of academic record (e.g. GCSEs) and potential, as shown by their UCAS reference, performance in the written test and in interviews if shortlisted.

**Written test:** All candidates must take the Thinking Skills Assessment (TSA) in schools on Thursday 2 November 2017. Candidates for courses including Linguistics (i.e. Psychology and Linguistics, Philosophy and Linguistics) must also take the Linguistics Test. This is part of the Modern Languages Admissions Test (MLAT). Both tests are administered by the Admissions Testing Service, and candidates will need to register by 15 October 2017. Please note that separate registration is required for each of the two tests.

More information about the TSA can be found at: [www.tsaoxford.org.uk](http://www.tsaoxford.org.uk)

**Written work:** No submitted written work is required for this course.

In the interview, Tutors are keen to see whether you can evaluate evidence; are able to consider issues from different perspectives; have a capacity for logical and creative thinking.

In a total College entry of about 100 undergraduates, 4 are offered places in a typical year to read either single honours Experimental Psychology or PPL. Offers made to pre-A level candidates will be conditional upon A2 level results (normally A*A*A, with an A grade in at least one science or Maths). Offers made to post-A level candidates will usually be unconditional. English Language or another foreign language to A level or equivalent would be helpful if plan to study Linguistics as part of the PPL course.

**Deferred Entry:** You should be aware that applicants who are offered places for deferred entry will generally be among the strongest of the cohort for their subject. We would not usually offer more than one or two deferred places per subject in order not to disadvantage the following year’s candidates. You must apply for deferred entry at the time of application to Oxford; you cannot change your mind after an offer has been made. Please refer to departmental web sites for subject-specific advice. In some cases, an applicant for deferred entry may be offered a place for non-deferred entry instead. If you require any further advice, please contact the Admissions Officer via admissions.officer@jesus.ox.ac.uk

**Postgraduate Studies and Careers**

The following degrees are available at postgraduate level:

- DPhil or MSc by Research in Psychology
- MSc Neuroscience
- MSc in Research in Psychology
- BPhil or DPhil in Philosophy
- MSt in Ancient Philosophy
- MSt in Philosophy of Physics
- MSt, MPhil or DPhil in Linguistics

Given the nature of the degree, PPL students are able to consider a wide range of careers, including careers in professional psychology, education, research, medicine, the health services, finance, commerce, industry, the media and information technology. Some careers will require further study and/or training after your degree.

If you study Psychology as part of PPL, your degree is accredited as conferring eligibility for the Graduate Basis for Chartered Membership of the British Psychological Society (provided you study sufficient Psychology options and obtain a 2:1 or above). However, it is not generally possible to earn a living as a psychologist if your only qualification is an undergraduate degree in the subject. For nearly all professional jobs in the subject, further qualifications are necessary. At present, some 15-20% of our undergraduates go on to take second degrees (usually a DPhil, PhD or MSc). These are usually based on independent research done under supervision at some academic institution. They are usually preludes to careers in teaching and research in one or another branch of psychology at a university.

**Preliminary Reading and Further Information**

Further information about reading Psychology, Philosophy and Linguistics at Oxford can be found on the department websites as below:

- [www.psy.ox.ac.uk](http://www.psy.ox.ac.uk)
- [www.philosophy.ox.ac.uk](http://www.philosophy.ox.ac.uk)
- [www.ling-phil.ox.ac.uk](http://www.ling-phil.ox.ac.uk)

Information about Admissions is available at: [http://www.ox.ac.uk/admissions/undergraduate/courses-listing/psychology-philosophy-and-linguistics](http://www.ox.ac.uk/admissions/undergraduate/courses-listing/psychology-philosophy-and-linguistics)

**Contact details**

If you have any questions about our entrance requirements, or about applying to study at Jesus College, please contact the Admissions Officer:

- **Tel:** 01865 279721
- **Email:** admissions.officer@jesus.ox.ac.uk
- **Web:** [www.jesus.ox.ac.uk/study-here](http://www.jesus.ox.ac.uk/study-here)

*Last updated: May 2017*