

Philosophy & Ethics

UCAS Code: Combined Honours only (please see website for details)

Duration: 3 years | Full-time | Hope Park | 2026/2027

Placement year opportunities available



Course Overview

The Philosophy and Ethics course at Hope explores life's biggest questions and the nature of morality: on what basis do we judge things as good or evil? It challenges you to examine your assumptions, opinions, and worldview. Key questions include: Do we need to believe in God for life to have meaning? What does it mean to be human? Do we have free will, or is life determined?

This philosophy and ethics course uses primary texts by philosophers like Plato, Aquinas, Descartes, Hume, Kant, and Nietzsche. You will learn to analyse and evaluate arguments. Also, you'll enhance your ability to express your ideas clearly. You will learn the basics of philosophy. As you advance, you'll study topics like religion, political philosophy, and applied ethics. You'll also explore modern issues like human personhood, artificial intelligence, ecology, and animal rights.

Studying in Liverpool provides a rich cultural context for exploring the human condition through art, performance, and social life. The course at Liverpool Hope is contemporary and timely, particularly in applied ethics and the study of religion in the modern world.

This philosophy and ethics course gives you the skills to tackle ethical and ideological challenges today. You'll prepare for many jobs that need critical thinking and the ability to handle complex, conflicting ideas.

Entry Requirements

This course follows the standard University entry requirements. Please see the website for further information.

Fees and Additional Costs

The tuition fees for 2026/2027 are £9,790 for full-time undergraduate courses.

On top of tuition fees, you will also need approximately £200 to purchase key textbooks that will be used throughout your studies.

You will also need to consider the cost of your accommodation each year whilst you study at university.

Visit our accommodation webpages for further details about our Halls of Residence: www.hope.ac.uk/halls

Applicants will need access to a computer if course delivery is switched to online. The University has a laptop lending service if remote study is necessary.



**LIVERPOOL
HOPE
UNIVERSITY**

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Philosophy & Ethics Curriculum

Year One

Your first year lays the foundation for the philosophy and ethics course, introducing key concepts in moral philosophy, human nature, and knowledge.

Ethics, Freedom, and Human Nature

This module begins with normative ethics, including utilitarianism, virtue ethics, and deontological ethics, discussed in the context of animal ethics. A study visit to Chester Zoo will explore the morality of zoos and animal conservation. You will also study meta-ethics, including emotivism, ethical egoism, ethical naturalism, and ethical non-naturalism (intuitionism).

Knowledge, Value, and Life's Meaning

This module explores philosophy of knowledge (epistemology), including empiricism, rationalism, and transcendental idealism, drawing on thinkers such as Plato, Aristotle, Descartes, Locke, Hume, Berkeley, Kant, and feminist epistemologists like Sandra Harding.

Year Two

In the second year, you will build on first-year foundations and explore philosophy of religion, aesthetics, politics, environmental issues, and applied ethics in greater depth.

Themes in Philosophy of Religion

This module examines the relationship between faith and reason, exploring the limits of language when addressing the infinite and contemporary perspectives on God, time, and human experience.

Phenomenological Aesthetics

Explore philosophical aesthetics and the influence of phenomenology on the study of art.

Political Philosophy

Engage with debates on justice, representation, and government. This module covers liberty, democracy, socialism, anarchism, global justice, feminist thought, and our ethical obligations to others.

Environmental Ethics

Study contemporary issues such as valuing the nonhuman environment, climate change, and rewilding.

Applied Ethics

Building on first-year normative and meta-ethics, this module addresses prominent ethical issues including abortion, euthanasia, capital punishment, sexual ethics, homosexuality, pornography, love, and fidelity.

Year Three

The Limits of Personhood

Examine what defines a person and how identity persists over time. This module explores early modern theories of personal identity, including those of Locke and Hume, and contemporary debates in the philosophy of mind, such as the relationship between mind and brain, artificial intelligence, and the human/animal boundary.

God after the Death of God: Modern and Contemporary Philosophy of Religion

Explore the continuing relevance of Nietzsche's "death of God" and the nature of religion in modern thought. You will study continental and phenomenological perspectives on God, examining key thinkers such as Heidegger, Derrida, Levinas, Irigaray, and Meillassoux.

COURSE STRUCTURE

Teaching on this degree is structured into lectures, where all students are taught together, seminars of smaller groups of around 15-20 students, and tutorials which typically have no more than 10 students. You will also utilise online resources such as the University's Virtual Learning Environment, Moodle, and you have an opportunity to have a one-to-one meeting with your tutor each week.

For the Philosophy & Ethics part of your combined honours degree, in your first year of study there are approximately 6 teaching hours each week, which reduces to approximately 5 teaching hours each week in your second and third years. On top of teaching hours, you are also expected to spend a number of hours studying independently each week, as well as studying in groups to prepare for any group assessments you may have.

ASSESSMENT AND FEEDBACK

During your three years of study, you will have a number of assessments, including portfolios, essays, group presentations and written exams. In your final year, you will complete a dissertation on a research topic of your choice.

You will receive your feedback via the University's Virtual Online Learning Environment (Moodle), and you are also welcome to discuss the feedback with your tutors.



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