

2013/2014



# Philosophy & Literature

**Undergraduate** Handbook

Combined Honours Degree Course in Philosophy and Literature



# Welcome

This Handbook provides a brief guide to the Combined Honours Degree Course in Philosophy and Literature at Warwick. It should be read together with the Undergraduate Handbooks issued by the Department of Philosophy and the Department of English and Comparative Literary Studies. The latter handbooks contain more detailed information about specific regulations, examination requirements, deadlines, etc. For information about specific modules that form part of your degree course, the best sources of information are the module webpages in the Undergraduate sections of the two departments' websites:

For Philosophy: <http://www2.warwick.ac.uk/fac/soc/philosophy/undergraduate/>

For English: <http://www2.warwick.ac.uk/fac/arts/english/undergraduate/>

## Contact Us

If you have questions about any of the matters addressed in this Handbook, don't hesitate to contact either of the degree convenors directly by email or telephone.

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The **home department** for the Philosophy and Literature degree is **Philosophy**. This means that for general queries relating to matters such as online module registration, examination arrangements, or student records, your first point of contact is the **Philosophy Undergraduate Secretary**:

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## Section 1: Introduction to the Philosophy and Literature BA

During the last century or so, developments in philosophical studies and in literary studies – especially within the English speaking world – have led their practitioners in markedly different directions. Philosophy has been transformed through developments in Logic, Mathematics and the Sciences, while developments in Literary Criticism have often seemed to lead away from concern with issues traditionally thought of as ‘philosophical’, and to be antipathetic to contemporary philosophical analysis. Largely as a consequence, important thinkers in whose writings ‘philosophical’ and ‘literary’ elements are closely interconnected tend to be neglected in undergraduate courses, where they fail to receive the sustained and rigorous critical examination appropriate to their work.

We have no wish to disregard these developments in philosophical and literary disciplines; rather, we wish to examine how far Philosophy and Literature, as they are now studied in the English-speaking world, can be studied coherently together at undergraduate level. We are one of the few Universities in the UK trying to do this.

### Four Founding Principles

We have at least four fundamental convictions about the proper nature of the enterprise which have governed our shaping of the philosophy and literature course.

- » First, there must be a significant element of ‘combined’ work, where students come together with tutors from both disciplines to explore these disciplines’ interrelationships.
- » Second, such ‘combined’ work must rest on some grounding in Philosophy and Literature as independent disciplines. If the bridge we are trying to build to connect the two disciplines is to carry significant intellectual weight, it must both meet in the middle and be firmly grounded on each side.
- » Third, there are a number of different possible approaches to the study of Philosophy and Literature, and different students may have different preferences; thus there should be flexibility built into the course by way of options to accommodate this.
- » Fourth, the course should give students the opportunity to study thinkers whose work is of both philosophical and literary interest.

The second of these points in particular deserves further comment. We are concerned to bring together two distinct and highly developed disciplines without watering either of them down to fit in with the other. The distinctive feature of the course is the combined study of Philosophy and Literature, where you will be taught jointly by members of both departments, in order to approach the relationship between the two disciplines while not minimizing their independent character.

## A bit of history

The Phil/Lit degree at Warwick has a unique history. It was founded by the philosopher Martin Warner (B.Phil., Oxon) in 1969, when the university was only a few years old, and he taught on the course until his retirement in 2005. Since its founding, the degree has maintained its characteristic ambition to bring both disciplines into close contact, using each to interrogate the other, while maintaining a sense of their disciplinary uniqueness. One of the innovations of the degree was team teaching, in which member of each department jointly led seminars. This pedagogical practice continues into the present.

In 1985, partly on the strength of the Phil-Lit undergraduate degree, the university established its Centre for Research in Philosophy and Literature (now Philosophy, Literature and the Arts), to stimulate and focus research into the relations between the two disciplines. It has hosted the visits of many eminent scholars working in the area, among them Stanley Cavell, Jacques Derrida, Julia Kristeva, Jean-Francois Lyotard, Martha Nussbaum, Paul Ricoeur, Edward Said, Susan Stewart, and Gianni Vattimo. The Centre has gained an international reputation for its research programme. It also contributes to a large postgraduate community, with MA and PhD programmes in Philosophy and Literature and a range of graduate conferences and colloquia, making for a unique and lively intellectual atmosphere. Phil/Lit students are encouraged to participate in the life of the Centre. See the Philosophy Department calendar for events listings.

## Section 2: Structure of the Course

The course is designed in such a way that over the full period of your studies you will have some choice of how to allot your time across the two disciplines, with a minimum distribution of roughly 10% of your time in combined study of Philosophy and Literature and at least 30% of your time in each of Philosophy and English Literature. There is also an option in your final year to study in another discipline. The major part of the 'combined' study, which is the distinctive feature of the Warwick degree, is concerned to examine texts that are both of philosophical and literary interest, some prescribed and some chosen in your third year for an independent research project.

Descriptions of individual modules can be found on the websites of the two departments.

### First Year

In your first year, you must take a set of compulsory modules, comprising 75% of your studies, and one option. Each module is allotted a certain 'weight' or credit, in CATS, such that in each year a student should complete modules worth a total of 120 CATS. The compulsory first-year modules are:

- PH107 *Problems in Philosophy and Literature: jointly taught in Term 1* (12 CATS)
- EN122 *Modes of Reading: Terms 1 and 2* (30 CATS)
- PH135 *Introduction to Philosophy : Terms 1 and 2* (30 CATS)
- PH126 *Logic I: Term 2* (12 CATS)
- PH130 *Meaning and Communication: Term 3* (6 CATS)

A 30 CATS option must be chosen from among these modules:

- EN101 *The Epic Tradition*
- EN121 *Medieval to Renaissance English Literature*
- EN123 *Modern World Literatures*
- PH102 *Introduction to Ancient Philosophy*
- PH132 *Ideas of Freedom*

### Choosing your first year option

In order to help you to decide which option to choose, you may wish to attend the first one or two lectures from a number of different options (you don't need to seek permission for this – just show up to the lecture). You should inform the relevant department of your choice of

option as soon as possible, ideally by the end of Week 1. This is especially important with English options: if you choose an option in English, the English Department asks you to **stop by the English Reception office (5th Floor Humanities Building) by noon on Friday of Week 1** to state your choice of option.

Note that *Introduction to Ancient Philosophy* and *The Epic Tradition* are both options engaging specifically with the Classical world, which some Phil/Lit students have found particularly valuable.

## Honours Years

### Second Year (Honours)

In your second year you must take the following compulsory modules and options accounting for another 75 CATS. The compulsory modules are:

- PH201 *History of Modern Philosophy* (30 CATS)
- Aesthetics: Art, Beauty & The Sublime (15 CATS)

The options should be distributed in the following way:

- Options at Honours level in English (60 CATS)
- Option at Honours level in Philosophy (15 CATS)

Philosophy and Literature students have in the past been required to take EN201 *The European Novel*; this is no longer a compulsory module, but it is one of the modules in English that Phil/Lit students may particularly want to consider, given the philosophical concerns of many of the texts it examines.

### Third Year (Honours)

In your third year you must take one compulsory module and options accounting for a further 90 CATS (30 CATS from each department and 30 CATS from any department). The compulsory module is:

- PH 304 *Textual Studies*: jointly taught in Terms 1 and 2 (30 CATS)

The options should be distributed in the following way:

- Option at Honours level in English (30 CATS)
- Option at Honours level in Philosophy (30 CATS)
- Option at Honours level in any department (30 CATS)

## Module and Examination Registration

When you arrive in October and at the beginning of each new academic year, you will need to

register for your modules using the e:vision Module Registration (eMR) system. The system is typically open for the first two weeks of the autumn term; to access it you need to sign in via [start.warwick](http://start.warwick.ac.uk) (<http://start.warwick.ac.uk>) and then select the module registration link. Please see the Philosophy Department and English Department handbooks and webpages for further details about registration.

## Studying at Honours level

As you prepare for second and third year study, keep in mind the following points.

You should prepare for the year ahead before you leave the university for the summer vacation. Collect reading lists and attend any preliminary summer term meetings for your next year's modules. For Textual Studies, you should begin thinking about texts and topics you would like to explore for your final-year essay over the summer.

If you choose an option outside of English and Philosophy in your third year, you must ensure with the outside department that you are eligible to take the module. You can consult departmental webpages to see what is on offer and to see whom to contact for information about which modules are open to outside students.

## Options choice and pre-registration

Both the Philosophy Department and the Department of English and Comparative Literary Studies issue information at the beginning of Term 3 about the modules that will be available as options in the following year. You will be asked to state your preferences for English options and to pre-register for Philosophy options during Term 3. Look out for the details about deadlines for making these choices. In English, you are not guaranteed a spot in the option module(s) of your choice, but the English Department does its best to accommodate these preferences. Usually the enrolment for Philosophy modules is not restricted, if you have pre-registered for the module. If you do not pre-register, however, a place on the module cannot be guaranteed.

Note that in your third year, the English and Philosophy *Dissertation* modules (EN320 and PH313) are available to you as options (though students are not permitted to do both of them simultaneously). The dissertation gives you a chance to pursue research reflecting your specific interests; with the agreement of your faculty supervisor, a dissertation is also an opportunity for combined literary and philosophical study. If you are interested, you should read the information on these module webpages carefully and should have a topic formulated by the end of Year 2.

For the most current information available about modules offered by the English and Philosophy departments, please check the Undergraduate sections of their department websites.

## How do we combine Philosophy and Literature?

With regard to the interrelations of the two disciplines, the first year combined module, *Problems in Philosophy and Literature*, opens the field of enquiry with a jointly taught seminar

specifically offered to Philosophy and Literature students. In the second year, *Aesthetics: Art, Beauty and The Sublime* is a Philosophy module looking towards the arts (including literature). In the final year the Textual Studies module, also jointly taught, builds on the disciplinary and combined study that has gone before and examines texts and questions which are illuminated through philosophical and literary inquiry.

## Section 3: Skills and Abilities

As you work for your degree in Philosophy and Literature, it may help you to reflect from time to time on some of the skills and abilities you are developing. By the time you graduate you should both have a sound knowledge of philosophy's traditions and of significant works in the main literary genres, and the skills to make use of this knowledge creatively, critically and rigorously. More specifically, there are a number of interconnected capacities we would expect a Phil/Lit graduate to have developed, arising in varying ways from different aspects of your studies and – especially – from their interrelations; they include:

### Analysis

The ability to analyse critically a position, and to judge what is central and what is peripheral; ability to analyse an argument into its premises, steps, conclusion; ability to recognise criteria for assessment and to test theses and interpretations against the evidence; ability to assess the merits of rival arguments; ability to push an argument back to its first principles and forward to its further consequences; ability to impose a logical order on material; ability to distinguish between logical and rhetorical force; ability to discriminate and relate the differing elements of a text in terms relevant to its genre.

### Synthesis

The ability to make imaginative connections, including those necessary to understand unfamiliar situations, cultures and texts; ability to see the relevance of an idea or hypothesis for the development of a different idea or hypothesis; ability to apply breadth of resources in pushing an argument, theory, or interpretation forward, including the ability to make cogently defended judgments about what constitute relevant resources.

### Independence of mind

The ability to extend an argument in novel directions; ability to think creatively and interpret sensitively, taking account of contemporary scholarship, theories and assumptions without being dominated by them; capacity to study and research independently, locating, marshalling and evaluating material from a wide range of sources (including on-line sources); ability to enter imaginatively into alien perspectives (historical, cultural and/or textual) and use them to assess

contemporary perceptions and orthodoxies; capacity and preparedness to follow the argument wherever it leads, and if this proves uncomfortable to review one's assumptions.

## Communication

The ability to communicate complex ideas in accessible, cogent and concise prose; capacity to deploy appropriately a sophisticated understanding of the way English has been and can be used; ability to seek out and use relevant bibliographical material; ability to present material at the level and with the detail appropriate to the purposes of the delivery; ability to communicate complex ideas in oral presentation and discussion; ability to engage articulately in group discussion and shared projects; ability to defend ideas in discussion with cogent argumentation and to judge when to revise them in the light of pertinent criticism; ability to engage the interest of others in your arguments.

You will find yourself developing other skills, abilities and capacities over the next three years too.

'Transferable skills' to develop in which employers are particularly interested include the following: independent study and research skills; analytical and critical skills; writing skills; oral presentation skills; group-work skills; and of course IT skills. Computer skills, including the ability to gauge the quality of different internet sources and use them responsibly, are an essential factor in almost any job offered by graduate employers.

You might find it worth asking yourself at the end of your first and second years how these skills and abilities have been developing, and taking appropriate action in the following year. How you apply them, at University and beyond, will be up to you.

## Section 4: Student Support

Students can be intellectually adventurous when they know there is a community of interested and supportive people around them. For Phil/Lit students we try to provide this support in a number of ways.

### Personal tutors

On entering the University you will be assigned to a personal tutor, whom you should contact straightaway and certainly before the end of the first week of term.

Your personal tutor is a member of staff who can offer academic and personal advice, and act on your behalf in many internal University matters. If, for any reason, your work is discussed by your teachers or – more significantly – by a Board of Examiners, your personal tutor should be able to speak for you. Your tutor is regularly consulted by both administrative and academic staff on all manner of matters that may concern you, so it is important that you meet your personal tutor within the first week of term. Should there be any difficulty about this you should inform one of the convenors of the course (Eileen John and Emma Mason) without delay. Similarly, either of the convenors may be approached on any matters relating to the Phil/Lit programme on which your personal tutor is not fully briefed. Should you wish to change your personal tutor you should approach either one of the convenors or the Senior Tutor in Philosophy.

Your personal tutor can advise you in your selection of options, and should also be told of any personal matters that might affect your academic work or position at the University. Keep in regular contact with your tutor and make sure you meet him or her at least once a term. In cases of illness, unsuitable accommodation, shortage of money or inability to work, you should get in touch with your personal tutor as soon as possible. If well-informed, he or she may be able to help and will be able to speak on your behalf if problems arise.

### Mentors

To each incoming student we assign a mentor, who is a second or third year Phil/Lit student who helps orientate the newcomer in the first weeks of class; thereafter they are asked to remain available to offer help and advice. All mentors will be invited to the introductory meeting for first years on the first day of term so initial contacts can be made.

## Staff/Student Liaison Committee (SSLC)

The Staff/Student Liaison Committee is made up of a Convenor of the Degree Course and two students from each of the three years of the course, elected by students in the appropriate year. The business of the committee is to provide a forum where students can raise matters to do with modules, lectures, examinations, etc., and where suggested changes in regulations can be discussed before being sent to the appropriate Committees and other relevant bodies. It is an excellent tool in ensuring good communication between staff and students. You may wish to consider putting your name forward to serve on the committee. Students who serve get first-hand insight into the running of the course and contribute directly to improving it.

## Careers

Phil/Lit graduates have, over the years, gone on to a stunning variety of careers, from medicine and journalism to aid work and law enforcement. Some are writing novels, others are working for charities. Many have gone on to do graduate work and are now teaching at school or university level. Whatever your future plans may be, do make use of the services provided by the Careers Service, located in University House, and look out for department-based surgeries.

<http://www2.warwick.ac.uk/services/scs>

## Section 5: Requirements, Assessment and Examination

### Lecture and seminar attendance

Attendance at all seminars and lectures is expected. Please make sure you familiarize yourself with the sections in the two departments' Undergraduate Handbooks describing further the penalties that can be imposed for unsatisfactory attendance and performance in modules.

If you have good reason for failing to attend classes or meet deadlines for the submission of coursework you should make every effort to inform your module tutor or personal tutor in advance.

### Non-assessed work

Most modules involve certain other requirements by way of essays, exercises, group work, presentations, etc., which will be explained at the start of the module in question. In Logic 1, for example, regular homework exercises will be assigned which are essential for mastering the material in the module. This work does not count toward your mark in the module, but it is intended to give you the necessary preparation to do well in your exams and assessed essays.

### Essays

Essays are a very important part of assessment in both English and Philosophy. Both departments provide information about the expected presentation of essays in their Undergraduate Handbooks and departmental webpages. Make sure that you follow this information.

### Examinations

Exams for Philosophy and English modules begin in week 5 of Term 3 (normally mid-May). The exam schedule will be published at the beginning of Term 3. Please consult the Undergraduate Handbooks of the two departments for further information about exam arrangements, exam boards, and exam regulations.

### Special Examination Requirements

If you have any special requirements for examinations for whatever reason, please discuss these with your personal tutor as soon as possible and in any case before the beginning of Term 2, so that appropriate arrangements can be put into place. Note that for most special arrangements you will be asked to produce a medical certificate or equivalent. Students whose first language is not English are permitted to use a bilingual dictionary during most University examinations. If you wish to be granted this permission, see the appropriate Examinations Secretary in good time before your examinations.

## First year examinations

First year students need to pass each of their modules in order to proceed to the second year. *Problems in Philosophy and Literature* and *Modes of Reading* are examined by assessed essays, and all other modules are assessed by exams at the end of the year.

Information on the structure of examinations (e.g., how many sections, how many questions), as well as information on assessed essay deadlines and submission regulations, will be posted on module webpages and the English and the Philosophy undergraduate webpages—please consult these regularly, especially at the end of Term 2 and the beginning of Term 3. Please see the Philosophy Undergraduate Handbook for details on what happens when a student does not pass all of their first year exams.

## Second and third year assessment and examination (Honours level)

**Assessment methods in English.** English modules are tested either through assessed essays (100% assessed) which fall due in the course of the year or through year-end exams (100% examined). Some modules are tested through a combination of both (in which case the weighting is usually 50% assessed and 50% examined). See the English Department website and Undergraduate Handbook for information on specific modules.

**Assessment methods in Philosophy.** Most modules in Philosophy offer a choice of assessment by essay or formal examination, including the two honours-level modules that are compulsory for Phil/Lit students (*Aesthetics: Art, Beauty & The Sublime* and *History of Modern Philosophy*, both taken in your second year). For instance, for your 30 CATS *History of Modern Philosophy* module, it is possible to have 15 CATS worth of the module assessed by examination and 15 CATS assessed by essay. When you register for a Philosophy module at the beginning of the year if there are assessment options you should register to sit the examination. However, at the beginning of Term 2 you will be asked by the Philosophy Department to complete a form confirming your assessment methods and may apply to be assessed by essay in Philosophy modules at this point.

In Philosophy a '50% rule' normally applies that requires at least 50% of your Honours - level Philosophy work should be assessed by examination. please keep this in mind when you make your choice of assessment methods for Philosophy modules.

Deciding whether to write an exam or an essay in Philosophy is sometimes difficult. Writing assessed essays is not an easy way out – a higher standard of work is expected than is possible in three hours under examination conditions – and you should think carefully about what you propose to write before committing yourself to assessed essays.

**The Board of Examiners.** The Board of Examiners meets twice: once, in a limited capacity, at the end of your second year to consider your second year results, and then again at the end of your third year, in June, in its full capacity, to consider all the results from your Honours level modules in order to award you a classified degree. Note that your second year results are not definitive until confirmed by the Final Year Board of Examiners. The Board consists of two

external examiners appointed from outside the University of Warwick (one a Philosophy, the other a Literature, specialist), the Chair and Secretary of the Examining Board for Philosophy, the Chair and Secretary of the Examining Board for English, the Convenors of the Phil/Lit degree, and the module convenors from the Departments of Philosophy and English for all second and third year compulsory modules.

## Section 6: Essay Writing

This section steers you to basic information on how to write essays to the standards expected by both departments. Full advice on essay writing and scholarly citation is provided on the English Department's website:

[http://www2.warwick.ac.uk/fac/soc/philosophy/undergraduate/current\\_students/advice/essays](http://www2.warwick.ac.uk/fac/soc/philosophy/undergraduate/current_students/advice/essays)

The Philosophy Department gives guidelines and a brief sample of citation practice in the Academic Advice section for Undergraduates on its website at:

<http://www2.warwick.ac.uk/fac/soc/philosophy/student/ug/advice/essays/>

### What you should be aiming for in an essay

Your essay will be read by someone familiar with the texts about which you write and you are writing the essay for that person, not as a general preface to a popular edition. The purpose of an essay is different from that of an examination answer; in an essay you are expected to treat the subject more deeply and thoroughly. An essay should show evidence of substantial reading and thought (but there is no virtue in length merely as such). Your resources in writing essays are immensely larger than in answering examination questions; you have the texts before you; critical and historical studies are available for consultation and quotation; facts may be checked from reference books of all kinds. To get off to a good start, choose a topic that especially interests you, have a plan in mind to keep your focus as you write, be precise and clear in your use of language, and make sure to explain and argue for your claims. Correct grammar and spelling are important!

### Quoting others

You should use quotations in such a way that the argument is advanced. Do not use them merely to prove that you are familiar with a particular text (that should be evident from the way you construct the argument). All quotations, from whatever source, should be exact in wording, spelling and punctuation, and if in verse, in line-arrangement. Short quotations, embedded in the main text, should be enclosed in quotation marks. Quotations in verse and longer quotations in prose (more than about 30 words) should stand apart from the main text; they should be indented, without quotation marks, and in typescript they should be single-spaced. All quotations must be identified by adequate reference. For poems, give, besides title and author, the line or stanza number(s) (where possible); for plays, give act and scene; for novels, chapter number. For quotations from all secondary sources (criticism, biography, etc.) give the title of the work or essay (and where appropriate the name of the periodical in which an article or essay appears), place and date of publication and page reference. Titles of books, long poems separately published, plays and periodicals should be italicised. (Words or short phrases in languages other than English should also be italicised). Articles, essays and short poems should be referred to within quotation marks. References should normally be placed in parentheses

immediately after the quotations. If a work is referred to more than once it is not necessary to repeat all the details. At the end of your essay you should list by authors in alphabetical order, with publisher (in the case of books) and date, all works which you have used in the preparation of the essay. Note: failure to give proper reference information can result in your work being judged to contain plagiarised content.

## Essay deadlines

The English and Philosophy Department websites have full information on essay deadlines and on how to submit your essays online. It is your responsibility to be aware of these procedures and to meet these deadlines for each of your modules: <http://www2.warwick.ac.uk/fac/arts/english/currentstudents/undergraduate/essay/deadlines>

[http://www2.warwick.ac.uk/fac/soc/philosophy/undergraduate/current\\_students/exams\\_essays/essays/](http://www2.warwick.ac.uk/fac/soc/philosophy/undergraduate/current_students/exams_essays/essays/)

If you think your circumstances warrant an extension on a deadline, you must request the extension from, in Philosophy, the Department Senior Tutor, and in English, the Director of Undergraduate Studies. These are the only people entitled to grant extensions. The kind of exceptional circumstances that can justify an extension include medical emergencies (supported by a medical certificate) or personal tragedy.

## Penalty for late essays

Essays handed in after the deadline are penalised 5% per day. This rule is applied by both departments.

## Section 7: Plagiarism and Cheating

Plagiarism in essays and cheating in exams are extremely serious matters. Work where plagiarism or cheating has been detected will be penalised, in accordance with departmental practice. Here are links to both departments' statements on plagiarism:

<http://www2.warwick.ac.uk/fac/soc/philosophy/ugstudy/current/academicadvice/exams/plagiarism/> <http://www2.warwick.ac.uk/fac/arts/english/undergraduate/current/essay/cheating/>

The University's Regulation governing cheating is available here: <http://www2.warwick.ac.uk/services/gov/calendar/section2/regulations/cheating/>

### Plagiarism

Essays submitted must be the candidate's own individual work. The University Regulations specify serious penalties for candidates who attempt to deceive examiners by submitting work purporting to be their own which is not. At its most blatant, plagiarism in this context can involve copying phrases or sentences of someone else's work, or closely paraphrasing their words, without acknowledgement, in an assessed essay. Note that drafts and non-assessed work must also have no plagiarised content—use good citation practice throughout the writing process.

### Unacknowledged use of web-based material is plagiarism

Special care must be taken with material posted on the world wide web. All sources can be valuable, and you are encouraged to consult as many as you need, provided that you recognise that all documents, however venerable, must be approached critically. The trouble is that anyone can post anything on the web, whether or not it is well considered, and you must therefore be especially discerning when you read or quote from such documents, since it may be that no one else has ever been critical of them.

Use of web resources in no way excuses you from the scholarly responsibility of making proper references to work of authors whom you cite and, as far as you are able, of understanding what they say. Cutting and pasting material from web-sources without acknowledgement is extremely poor practice: if such material finds its way into the final draft of an assessed essay, it will be judged to be plagiarism. Plagiarism counts as cheating, and could cause a student to forfeit his or her degree altogether.

### Penalties for plagiarism

The normal penalty is a mark of zero for the examination paper or essay for which the work was submitted, but on appropriate occasions the penalty can be even more severe. For more detailed specification of what counts as plagiarism in philosophical and in literary essays, you should consult the appropriate Departmental Handbooks and the appropriate University Regulations (see links above). If in doubt always seek the advice of your module tutor, personal tutor, or either of the two degree convenors.

## Section 8: Opportunities outside the classroom

Warwick hosts a wide variety of academic and academic-related events that are of interest to Philosophy and Literature students. Here is our selection of the best.

### Martin Warner Fund for Philosophy and Literature

The Martin Warner Fund was founded in 2005, the year Mr. Martin Warner, one of the founders of the Philosophy and Literature BA degree at Warwick, retired from the University. It is funded by generous donations given by alumni and friends of the degree. The aim of the Fund is to promote the study of Philosophy and Literature at Warwick, with a special (though not exclusive) focus on undergraduate study. It aims to add value to the degree by funding activities that are not eligible for funding from other sources, and that are usually collective in nature. If you would like to apply for funding, you should apply to the convenors of the degree.

<http://www2.warwick.ac.uk/fac/soc/philosophy/undergraduate/degrees/phillit/martinwarnerfund/>

### Phil/Lit Essay Prize

Funded by Phil/Lit alumnus Andy Charman, the Phil/Lit Essay Prize is an annual essay competition open to all students studying on one of the Phil/Lit degrees (BA, MA, PhD). You are asked to write an essay showing how studying Philosophy and Literature impacts on your life. The prizes are very generous. Each year Andy Charman comes to campus for a chance to meet the students and to award the prizes to the winners. Entering the contest is an excellent way to get involved in the degree outside the classroom. <http://www2.warwick.ac.uk/fac/soc/philosophy/undergraduate/degrees/phillit/essaycompetition/>

### Phil/Lit Special Events

Phil/Lit students participate in a number of special events aimed at exploring philosophy and literature outside the traditional classroom setting. In some years a Philosophy and Literature Weekend trip is organised, providing a very enjoyable opportunity for staff and students to get to know each other better in a relaxed atmosphere and to work in depth with an interesting text. In recent years this has taken the form of an improvisation- and performance-based workshop, focusing on, for example, Coleridge's *Rime of the Ancient Mariner* and Beckett's 'Lessness'. Such workshops have also been organised specifically for Phil/Lit first year students, working with, for instance, Gogol's 'Diary of a Madman'.

### Centre for Research in Philosophy, Literature and the Arts (CRPLA)

CRPLA brings together scholars working in a wide range of disciplines in order to promote research across Philosophy, the Humanities, and the Arts. The departments associated with

the Centre's activities include Philosophy, English and Comparative Literary Studies, French, German, Italian and History of Art. CRPLA hosts a very exciting programme of visiting speakers, conferences and colloquia, pursuing interests in the ways philosophy interacts with literature and the arts. These events are informal but also intellectually very rewarding. You are warmly welcome to attend these events. [www.warwick.ac.uk/go/phillit](http://www.warwick.ac.uk/go/phillit)

## Warwick Writing Programme

The Warwick Writing Programme sponsors a wide range of events and visits by internationally renowned writers. Writers who have appeared include Monica Ali, A. S. Byatt, Umberto Eco, Carol Ann Duffy, Geoffrey Hill, Hanif Kureishi, Doris Lessing, China Miéville, Andrew Motion, Salman Rushdie, Jo Shapcott, Mario Vargas Llosa, and Fay Weldon. An archive of recordings and podcasts of events is available. <http://www2.warwick.ac.uk/fac/arts/english/writingprog/>

## Student Societies

There are student societies dedicated to Philosophy and Literature, to Philosophy, and to Literature. The Philosophy and Literature Society organises social events as well as talks and tutoring sessions and you are encouraged to join in their activities and you are strongly encouraged to become a member. <http://www.warwicksu.com/societies/all/phil-lit/>

## Exchange Programmes

The Department of Philosophy participates in exchange schemes with Departments of Philosophy at North American Universities; the two currently in operation are with Queen's University in Ontario and the University of Wisconsin-Madison. This enables 2<sup>nd</sup> year Philosophy students (Single or Joint Honours) to spend a full year studying abroad. Modules and examinations taken at Queen's and Madison count towards the Warwick degree. Applications from first year students who wish to spend their second year at one or other of these universities will be invited towards the end of Term 1, though if you think you might be interested it would be worthwhile discussing the matter with your Personal Tutor before then. There are also Erasmus exchanges available at European Universities. These exchange years add a fourth year to your degree and do not count toward your degree classification; they can be extremely valuable experiences, especially for developing language skills.

[http://www2.warwick.ac.uk/fac/soc/philosophy/undergraduate/current\\_students/exchange](http://www2.warwick.ac.uk/fac/soc/philosophy/undergraduate/current_students/exchange)

[http://www2.warwick.ac.uk/fac/soc/philosophy/undergraduate/current\\_students/erasmus\\_exchange](http://www2.warwick.ac.uk/fac/soc/philosophy/undergraduate/current_students/erasmus_exchange)

## Section 9: Illness, Personal Difficulties and the Unexpected

If your studies are adversely affected by illness or personal or family difficulties, you should inform your personal tutor without delay. This is particularly important if these difficulties will affect your performance in exams or assessed work. It is your responsibility to bring these circumstances to the attention of the examination board, through your personal tutor.

### Absence through Illness

Always tell your module tutors if you have had to miss lectures or seminars through illness. If your illness lasts less than three days but nevertheless causes you to miss seminars and/or lectures, you should send an e-mail to your personal tutor or to the departmental undergraduate secretary (Philosophy or English). If your illness causes absence of more than three consecutive days from prescribed classes you should, in accordance with University rules, provide a doctor's certificate. Such a certificate is also essential if you miss an examination or a deadline for an assessed essay through illness. Submit a doctor's certificate to your personal tutor or to the appropriate departmental office as soon as possible after your return to health. Normally no allowance can be made for illness (e.g. by extensions to assessed essay deadlines) without a proper certificate.

### Absence for other reasons

If you are absent from class for other reasons, for instance, family illness or bereavement, please inform your personal tutor without undue delay. In the case of missing an examination or an assessed essay deadline for non-medical reasons, it will be important to explain the situation fully to your tutors and to apply for an extension. In the case of English modules, you will need to fill out a Special Cases form. This form is available from the Director of Undergraduate Studies page:

<http://www2.warwick.ac.uk/fac/arts/english/currentstudents/undergraduate/dus>

### Applying for an extension

If through illness or serious personal difficulties you will not be able to complete assessed work on time for the deadline, you must, in advance, inform your personal tutor and also apply in writing to the Philosophy Senior Tutor or to the Director of Undergraduate Studies in English. Extensions are granted depending on the merits of the case. Note that if you submit work late without permission, late penalties will automatically be applied.

### Switching to another course

If you feel that the Phil/Lit course is not for you, you should seek advice from your personal tutor or one of the course convenors without delay. It is sometimes possible to move to another

course, but this depends on the availability of a place on the course you'd like to move to (the English BA cannot always offer availability). Note, also, that moving to another course is usually possible only at the beginning or end of your first year, conditional upon passing the first year examinations.

### Suspending or terminating registration

Sometimes, for personal, health or family reasons, students need to suspend their studies. If you are in this situation, take advice from the course convenors as to the best time for this. It is not normally possible for students to retake honours level modules or exams, so you should bear this in mind when considering the timing of taking a year out (for instance, if you suspended studies in January, you would resume them the following January, not in September).

To be read in conjunction with the Undergraduate Handbooks issued by the Department of Philosophy and the Department of English and Comparative Literary Studies

### Useful Links

Phil Lit BA homepage

<http://go.warwick.ac.uk/phillitba>

Philosophy homepage

<http://go.warwick.ac.uk/philosophy>

English and Comparative Literary Studies homepage <http://go.warwick.ac.uk/english>

Website: [www.warwick.ac.uk/philosophy](http://www.warwick.ac.uk/philosophy)

Email: [philundergrad@warwick.ac.uk](mailto:philundergrad@warwick.ac.uk)

Tel: 024 7652 3421

Fax: 024 7657 2604

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