Department of Politics, Philosophy and Religion

Dissertation Handbook
Dissertation Co-ordinators:

PPR.399                     Dr. Ngai-Ling Sum (n.sum@lancaster.ac.uk)
PPR.393 & PPR.394           Dr. Astrid Nordin (a.nordin@lancaster.ac.uk)

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Introduction
The aim of the dissertation modules is to encourage students to work independently and to explore a topic in depth. It should be considered the high-point of the work produced by a student, showcasing the skills and knowledge that the student has built up over their three years of study. In PPR the dissertation counts as 30 credits. All single major and combined major students may take the dissertation as an option and – given that writing a dissertation can be a valuable and rewarding exercise – we encourage students to consider this option.

Aims
1. To promote your intellectual independence.
2. To provide deep engagement with issues related to your subject area and discourses in ways that call upon a range of intellectual skills.
3. To develop your skills in structuring and making arguments, presenting evidence, and communicating complex ideas.
4. To engage your research and/or information-handling skills through a sustained study.
5. To promote an effective learning culture.
6. To support career management and the formation of claims to employability.

We view the dissertation as a capstone to the other courses you have done, and an opportunity for you to draw together the skills and understandings that you have developed in the form of an extended, self-managed piece of work with tutorial supervision. We think that all our majors and joint majors should be able to demonstrate that they can manage a complex project that integrates learning from many sources. It gives you the opportunity to draw together your learning and exploit your strengths in designing, carrying out and writing up a research project that centres upon your academic interests. It also allows you to demonstrate to potential employers that you are capable of conducting a self-guided project and organising and presenting the findings of that project.
Outcomes
By the end of the course, you should have:

1. Developed your ability to engage in specific and in-depth analysis of your chosen topic.
2. Developed your skills in analysis and conceptual explication and/or the analysis of empirical evidence.
3. Developed your skills in clear and concise writing and in the effective presentation of an independent argument or piece of analysis.
4. Acquired the ability to break down a complex topic into its component aspects and to coordinate the various elements of a complex argument or piece of analysis.
5. Had the opportunity to develop your skills in word-processing and in information retrieval, making use of the library and IT resources.
6. Had the opportunity to improve your skills in time management and in the independent organisation of your own work.
7. Had the opportunity to begin the transition to independent research in your chosen field if you are thinking of going on to postgraduate study.
Employability: Reflection for students

By Joseph Buglass
FASS (Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences) Enterprise Officer

A dissertation can massively heighten your employability but many students often don’t see the benefits because they fail to reflect before, during and after their experience. Don’t let this happen to you!

Reflection
Reflection means deeply considering something we might otherwise not give much thought to. It’s a critical skill for any student because it allows you to think strategically and make informed decisions about your future. Based around asking intelligent questions reflection contains a number of elements:

- **Making sense of experience** - we analyse experience, actively attempting to ‘make sense’ or find the meaning in it.
- **Standing back** - It’s hard to reflect when we’re caught up in an activity. Standing back gives a better perspective on an experience, issue or action.
- **Repetition** - Reflection involves ‘going over’ something several times, in order to get a broad view and check nothing is missed
- **Deeper honesty** - Through reflection, we can acknowledge things that we find difficult to admit normally.
- **‘Weighing up’** - Reflection involves being even-handed, or balanced in judgement. This means taking everything into account, not just the most obvious.
- **Clarity** - Reflection can bring greater clarity. This can help at any stage of planning, carrying out and reviewing activities.
- **Understanding** - Reflection is about learning and understanding on a deeper level. This includes gaining valuable insights that cannot be taught.
- **Making judgements** - Reflection involves an element of drawing conclusions in order to move on, change or develop an approach, strategy or activity.

Employability
Your employability is made up of the following:

- The skills and experience you’ve developed and gained
• The evidence you have collected of those skills and experiences (Evidence is king!)
• Your ability to communicate it all in a job winning way to employers

Dissertation

Your dissertation is a perfect showcase for your skills, evidences your experience and provides you with an opportunity to develop both written and spoken communication skills. Realising and reflecting on this before you choose your dissertation topic will pay dividends later on.

Some questions to ask:
• What experience/topic would be of most value to me?
• What do I want to do after my degree?
• What do I want to get out of this experience?
• How can my dissertation experience help me achieve this?
• What do I enjoy/dislike about my degree?
• What essential skills/experience do I currently lack?
• Is there any way I can gain even more value from this?
• What/which organisations would I like to work for?
• What area of my degree am I truly passionate about?
• How can I use my dissertation to develop myself?

Reflection during dissertation

Your dissertation will see you interacting with people and organisations who may well play a role in your future. Ask yourself:
• How do I keep in contact with these people/organisations?
• How can I achieve more than just my dissertation?
• How can I add value to the people/organisations that are helping me and make a good impression for the future?
• What else can I gain from this situation?
• Is there anything extra I can do that will help me in the future?
• What evidence of my skills/experience can I gain/collect from this?
• Am I showing myself to be professional and mature in my interactions?

Reflection after dissertation

Remember an employer is looking for someone who can:
• Do the job
• Fit in with the organisations culture and values
• Add value beyond the job description

The academic style of communication is not always suitable for the non-academic world – you need to communicate the skills and experience gained during the researching and writing of your dissertation in a particular way. Remember organisations are interested in people who can demonstrate:

• Value added be it monetary, time saving, efficiency, new thinking
• Strategic thinking
• Communication and persuasion, negotiation skills (both written and spoken)
• An ability to work under pressure and to deadlines
• An ability to work with others in partnership
• Research and information gathering skills
• Self motivation and demonstration of great initiative
• Project management skills

Ask yourself:

• How can I demonstrate these attributes?
• What evidence can I take from my dissertation to show I have these attributes?
• Would I employ me based on my current performance?
• What did I do well?
• What could I have done better?
• How can I ensure I do better next time?
• What did I enjoy?
• What did I find difficult?
• What do the results of my dissertation say about me?
• Am I making the most of what I have done?
• Am I using the best and highest examples?

Example:
Jenn completed her dissertation during a time of upheaval within her family. During that time she conducted masses of research, and interviews. At least one of the organisations she worked with have asked to see her research and have suggested there may be a job for her. She was commended on her dissertation by her supervisor and received a high 2:1 for it. Jenn has made full use of her dissertation – she can evidence the following:

• High quality work under stressful circumstances
• Project management skills (her dissertation) in difficult circumstances
• Excellent communication and persuasion skills
• High degree of commercial awareness (her dissertation is of use to a non-academic organisation)
• Receiving a commendation for her research and information gathering skills
• Her performance has led to one organisation to consider headhunting/recruiting her

By communicating in this way she will capture a potential employer’s interest
You will be able to demonstrate exactly the same skills if you put some effort into your dissertation. The difference between those who extract the most value from this opportunity and those who don’t is:
Those getting the most value have thought strategically about their dissertation and what it can do for them. This means they reflected before, during and after!

Remember reflection is a key skill for you – practice and develop it every opportunity you get!
The Dissertation Modules

There are three dissertation modules:

- PPR 399 - The standard dissertation

- PPR 393 - The dissertation module for those who wish to undertake Field Studies

- PPR 394 – The dissertation module with External Collaboration for those who wish to incorporate work with external agencies.

At the dissertation meeting in Lent term of second year you will be given more information on all three options.
Co-ordinator: Dr. Ngai-Ling Sum

Course Description: This module provides an opportunity for students to choose a topic related to some aspect of Politics and International Relations, Philosophy and Religious Studies which particularly interests them, and to pursue it in depth. The topic may be related to work that is being done on a formally taught course, or it may be less directly linked to course work. The intention is that students will develop their research skills, and their ability to work at length under their own direction.

Students write a dissertation of 9,000-10,000 words. They are expected to start thinking seriously about the dissertation towards the end of the Lent term of their second year, and to submit a provisional topic by the end of that term. Work should be well advanced by Christmas in the third year. The completed dissertation must be submitted by the first week of the Summer term in the third year. To help students prepare for work on the dissertation, there will be an introductory talk on topics relating to doing one’s own research and planning and writing a dissertation plus a follow up session in the third year.

Learning Outcomes: On successful completion of this module students will be able to:

- Give a sustained critical discussion of one substantial theme or line of argument that is in part or whole constitutive of the chosen topic;
- Use the resources of the library to develop their own critical thinking;
- Present their thinking in a coherent and engaging way through a sustained piece of writing.

Assessment: 100% coursework: 9-10,000 word dissertation. The final mark will be based on the dissertation itself. Students will be expected to attend the introductory talk and follow up session but their attendance will not be assessed.

Teaching Method: Students will be allocated a supervisor in the Summer term of their second year, and will consult their supervisor on an individual basis.
Course Description: The aim of this module is to allow students to pursue independent in-depth studies of a topic of their choice, within the scope of their scheme of study. The topic may be related to work that is being done on a formally taught course, or it may be less directly linked to course work. Students will develop their employability and research skills, and their ability to work independently at length under their own direction with input from an academic supervisor. The field work element will enhance students’ ability to reflect on the impact of academic work. One option is to incorporate a study trip organised by the University, such as the LUSU Involve Overseas Programme, but students may also discuss other forms of field studies with their supervisor.

Students are expected to start thinking seriously about the dissertation towards the end of the Lent term of the second year, and to submit a provisional topic by the end of that term. Work should begin during the Summer term of the second year and a draft plan must be approved by the end of the Summer term. Work should be well advanced by Christmas in the third year. The completed dissertation must be submitted by the first week of the Summer term in the third year. To help students prepare for work on the dissertation, there will be an introductory talk on topics relating to doing one’s own research and planning and writing a dissertation plus a follow up session in the third year.

Learning Outcomes: On successful completion of this module students will be able to:

- Independently formulate a research question under academic supervision.
- Independently plan and execute an independent research project that incorporates an element of data collection in the relevant field.
- Reflect on the role field study in academic research.

Assessment: 100% coursework: 9-10,000 word dissertation. Students will be expected to attend the introductory talk and follow up session but their attendance will not be assessed.

Teaching Method: Supervisory meetings will take place at regular intervals throughout the research project.
PPR.394 Dissertation with External Collaboration

Co-ordinator: Dr. Astrid Nordin

Course Description: The aim of this module is to allow students to pursue independent in-depth studies of a topic of their choice, within the scope of their scheme of study. The topic will be formulated in dialogue with one or more external collaborator(s) and may be related to work that is being done on a formally taught course, or it may be less directly linked to course work. Students will develop their employability and research skills, and their ability to work independently at length under their own direction with input from external collaborators and an academic supervisor. The external collaboration will enhance students’ ability to reflect on the impact of academic work. One option is to incorporate work done through the Richardson Institute Internship Programme, but students may also discuss other forms of collaboration with their supervisor.

Students are expected to start thinking seriously about the dissertation towards the end of the Lent term of the second year, and to submit a provisional topic by the end of that term. Work should begin during the Summer term of the second year and a draft plan must be approved by the end of the Summer term. Work should be well advanced by Christmas in the third year. The completed dissertation must be submitted by the first week of the Summer term in the third year. To help students prepare for work on the dissertation, there will be an introductory talk on topics relating to doing one’s own research and planning and writing a dissertation plus a follow up session in the third year.

By explicitly incorporating an element of collaboration with external actors and stakeholders it is intended to enhance the employability and impact thinking of participating students.

Learning Outcomes: On successful completion of this module students will be able to:

- Independently formulate a research question in dialogue with external collaborators and under academic supervision.
- Independently plan and execute an independent research project with a view to produce knowledge that is useful to stakeholders.
- Reflect on the impact of academic research on stakeholders and in the wider community.
- Interact with external collaborators in a productive manner.

Assessment: 100% coursework: 9-10,000 word dissertation. Students will be expected to attend the introductory talk and follow up session but their attendance will not be assessed.

Teaching Method: Supervisory meetings will take place at regular intervals throughout the research project. Students will also develop mechanisms for feedback from external collaborators in a form that is suitable to the individual project.
Is doing a dissertation for me?

The dissertation is a large and sustained piece of work, and as such it requires continuous effort on your part. It is for this reason that we begin preparation for the dissertation before the third year. Diligent and prudent students will recognise that much of the groundwork for the dissertation can be laid over the summer before the beginning of the third year. It is important to stress that the dissertation is a 30 credit unit. This means that it is equivalent to the kind of module that would be taught over roughly twenty-weeks. It therefore follows that dissertations cannot (and should not) be considered the kinds of work which can simply be produced at the last minute. The marking criteria for a dissertation take into consideration the amount of time which is supposed to be spent on the piece. Every year there are a number of students who do not take the advice about the effort required to produce a dissertation seriously – make sure that you are not one of them!

There is an introductory talk about the dissertation modules in the second year and a follow-up session in the third year. All students are strongly advised to attend these meetings.

All single major and combined major students may take the dissertation as an option and – given that writing a dissertation can be a valuable and rewarding exercise – we encourage students to consider this option.

However as we have pointed out, doing a dissertation is not the same as attending a taught course. The self-discipline, organisation and time management needed to successfully complete a dissertation may mean it is not the best choice for every student.

It is your responsibility to plan and complete your dissertation over the year. You will be working independently and studying a topic in depth. Generally we advise that students taking any of the dissertation modules should have:

a) Minimum of 12 (C-) in the relevant subject in Part I
b) Completed all required coursework for Part II modules in Michaelmas term
c) Satisfactory attendance in all PPR modules in Part II
You might consider taking a special subject as one of your modules in 3rd year, rather than the full dissertation. These are assessed solely by a mini dissertation of 5000 words (see Part II courses handbook). Special subjects may also be taken in addition to the full dissertation.

**Choice of topic**

First you should identify the area which you want to focus on in your research. If you have no idea what you want to do you should review the topics that have caught your attention in Years 1 and 2. There may be a topic that you found interesting and engaging and would like to study in depth or a particular writer or theory you would like to know more about. For the dissertation form (at the back of this handbook) we need sufficient information to allocate a supervisor i.e. the general topic and any additional information on the research questions you wish to address. You will also have to decide which dissertation module you wish to take i.e. will your research be literature based or do you intend to undertake fieldwork or to have external collaboration? Guidance will be given in the dissertation meeting in Lent term.

You are welcome to focus on any topic at all as long as: (a) your topic is related to your chosen degree scheme; and (b) your topic is agreed to be suitable and can be managed by a member of staff. Thus whilst we would encourage you to pursue what is interesting to you, we would also ask you to bear in mind that some topics will be entirely unsuitable and others will be beyond the range of expertise provided within PPR. It may be that you have a good proposal suitable for a PhD or a national research team, but too ambitious and so impossible to complete within an undergraduate dissertation. Or it may be that your working topic is much too hard – for anyone, even Nobel Prize winners. Or it may be that your working proposal is too narrow and restricted, and so not up to the standard required at Part II. If your topic is thought to be unsuitable you will be informed and, assuming you have submitted the dissertation form on time, you will have the opportunity to find a new topic in discussion with the dissertation tutor or potential supervisor.

You should aim to finish writing and editing at least a week before the deadline: having computer problems two days before the submission date is not an excuse for handing in your dissertation late.
Overlap
Note that you cannot submit the same work for assessment twice. Writing an essay and a dissertation on the same topic would not be acceptable. If you think there is a danger that your dissertation might overlap with other work you have done, or are going to do, please discuss this with your supervisor to check that there won’t be a problem.

Supervision process

Assignment of a supervisor
A list of the Department’s tutors and areas of interest and expertise is on pages 24ff.

The form for submitting your topic is at the end of this document. This should be returned to Helen Caton, Room B39, County South no later than the deadline on Wednesday 29 April 2015.

If you do not submit the information required by this deadline you may not be able to take the module.

We will use the information on these forms to pair you with a supervisor. The criteria used to assign students to supervisors depends on a number of factors relating to staff availability and duties as well as subject expertise, so we cannot guarantee to pair you with the supervisor that you have proposed.

We hope that your working topic matches these interests and expertise. Your supervisor will help you to develop your topic and to give you verbal feedback during your supervision sessions. Thus, the primary role of the supervisor is to guide you in the completion of the dissertation and to provide you with practical advice.

Tutorials and your supervisor
We expect that you will meet your supervisor throughout the year. We anticipate that you will have at least three tutorials with your supervisor during this time (and a maximum of six). Basically you should at least aim for: an initial meeting in summer term of second year to plan a schedule of work to help you begin thinking and reading for your dissertation during the summer; a second meeting in Michaelmas term of third year to discuss
progress; and a final meeting in Lent term before submission. Supervisors will read and review dissertation plans and some short sections of writing but please note that they will not read full drafts prior to submission.

It is important to recognise that whilst supervisors are happy to guide your work they are not there to organise and direct it. You will need to set up the meetings with your supervisor. Furthermore, these meetings need to be convenient for both you and your supervisor: supervisors cannot be expected to simply ‘drop everything’ at a moment’s notice to meet with you nor to constantly rearrange meetings which students have failed to attend. Nor can supervisors continuously respond to numerous emails, or give long and complicated answers to questions via email. This is the purpose of meetings. Thus, meetings should be arranged in advance and have a focus. Management of time and scheduling is an important skill to develop if you wish to convince a potential employer that you are the right person for a job.

**Independent work**
A dissertation gives you the opportunity to undertake independent work in line with the University’s – and Department’s – commitment to the importance of intellectual autonomy. Even so, under no circumstances should you work: (a) without a supervisor; (b) without ever contacting your supervisor; (c) without regard for your supervisor’s advice.

The final year Assessment Board will not treat your case with any sympathy if you have disregarded these requirements. For example, if your work gains a low mark, it is completely unacceptable to argue that “I had to work independently without a supervisor”. If you find that it is inconvenient or impracticable for you to meet your supervisor, this will be regarded as an inadequate reason for working alone. You really must stay in contact with your supervisor and act in line with the advice given to you.

**Special circumstances**
We hope that no extraordinary events make the completion of your dissertation work difficult. If special circumstances do arise (such as serious illness), please contact your supervisor or the Dissertation Co-ordinator. Whatever you do, it is important that you tell someone in the department about the difficulties that you are facing **before the deadline for submission.** We will treat your case sympathetically. However, in the interests of fairness to other students, if there are special circumstances we can only take account of matters that can be objectively documented.
**Assessment and return of dissertations**

Your dissertation will be marked by your supervisor and by another academic from the department. The final agreed mark will not be confirmed until the final examination board in week 10 of the summer term. After the examination board you will be able to collect your mark, written comments and the dissertation itself.

**PPR 393 and PPR 394 students only: draft plan**

Students undertaking either of these dissertation modules should submit their dissertation form as described on page 14 and indicate which of these modules they wish to take (PPR 393 Dissertation with Field Studies or PPR 394 Dissertation with External Collaboration). Once a supervisor is allocated students will be informed and should then see their supervisor in order to discuss the submission of a draft plan of no more than 1000 words by the end of summer term. This is required in order that the fieldwork element or external collaboration can be approved and enrolment on the relevant module confirmed. If the draft proposal is not approved students may be able to modify their research plan and enrol on the standard dissertation module PPR 399. This option should be discussed with their supervisor and any change to enrolment should be requested before the end of the summer term.
Research Ethics

It is Departmental practice that all research projects, whether conducted by students or staff, should meet recognised ethical standards. If the research for your dissertation is to involve any data collection from other human beings, however informal, then it is essential that you discuss the implications with your supervisor at the planning stage. This requirement covers any plans to interview/talk to people as part of your research, to conduct discussion groups, send out questionnaires or to collect data online, for example through existing networking sites or by emailing groups or individuals. If your research is entirely literature based, using published work, then you do not need ethical approval but if in doubt check with your supervisor. The main requirement is that you obtain informed consent from any research subjects i.e. ensure that the subject understands what information you will be asking for, how you will be collecting it, how the data will be analysed, stored and used. This will involve writing a straightforward information sheet and a consent form for subjects to sign that should include arrangements for confidentiality/anonymisation. Research involving children necessitates consent from legal guardians (usually parents), as well as agreement from the child. If children are approached through school, a DBS (Disclosure and Barring Service) check will normally be required by the school prior to undertaking the research. This is not intended to discourage you from undertaking this type of research but to ensure you speak to your supervisor early on in order to obtain the necessary ethical approval. See the link on the Ethical Approval form on the next page for more information.

When you undertake any data collection in the field you are doing so as a member of the university which has a duty of care towards you. You should behave in a professional manner when conducting research and take sensible precautions in order to keep yourself safe. There is guidance on this on the FASS website
http://www.lancs.ac.uk/fass/resources/ethics/procedures.htm
Department of Politics, Philosophy and Religion

Ethical Approval Form for BA Dissertation

This form must be completed for each Dissertation involving the collection of data from human participants that you undertake as an undergraduate student in the Department of PPR. It must be approved and signed by your Supervisor PRIOR to any data collection and a completed copy given to the Dissertation Coordinator.

You must allow time to make any amendments suggested by the Supervisor and report any significant changes to the project to them as soon as possible.

In completing this form, please consult the FASS Ethical Guidelines: http://www.lancs.ac.uk/fass/resources/ethics/procedures.htm

Name of student and major (Politics, Philosophy, Religious Studies or Combined):

Name of Supervisor:

Dissertation title:

Summary of Dissertation:
You should include the following:

- Overall aim(s) of your research
- Intended participants: number, recruitment, issues of vulnerability, etc.
- Proposed Consent Form
- Proposed research method(s)

Where will the research be carried out?

Do you have permission from the organisation(s) or gate keeper(s), concerned?

Will you be exposed to any risks in conducting the research (e.g. collecting data in potentially dangerous environments)? If yes, please indicate how you will minimise this risk.
What measures will be taken to safeguard the confidentiality of the data?

Who will have access to the data?

Please attach a copy of the Participant Information Sheet and Consent Form that you may use (examples attached).

Declaration:

The information on this form is accurate to the best of my knowledge and belief, and I accept full responsibility for its accuracy.

Signature of student: 

Date: 

Approval of Supervisor: 

Date: 
WRITING YOUR DISSERTATION

Length of dissertation
The maximum length of your dissertation is 10,000 words excluding appendices and references/bibliography. Since this is a maximum it is not a requirement that you should produce this number of words. A good dissertation may well be shorter because length and quality is not the same thing. You should not exceed this word length. The 10 per cent rule does not apply to dissertations.

Structure of your dissertation
Your text should be divided into separate chapters which deal with distinct aspects of your argument and evidence. There are no hard and fast rules but as you have an absolute maximum of 10,000 words you will probably have 3 or 4 chapters in addition to the introduction and conclusion. Within each chapter you might use subheadings to divide the material further and to make your arguments/discussions clearer.

Introduction: You should set out what you intend to do in the dissertation, why the topic is important and why you think you have a distinctive line you wish to discuss. You might, for example, want to explain that the focus of your work is distinctive or why a subject could be explored by the availability of a certain range of evidence.

Conclusion: The conclusion should be summative drawing the threads together and showing how the final argument follows logically from the previous chapters.

The introduction and conclusion will probably be significantly shorter than the main chapters (perhaps 1,000 or 1,500 words each).

Two word-processed versions
We will require two word-processed or typed copies of your dissertation, one of which will be retained by the Department (the other will be returned to you at the end of your course). This means that a hand-written dissertation is not acceptable.

In addition you will be required to submit your dissertation online through the MOODLE website. Details on how to do this are available from Helen Caton.
Binding
You are welcome to have your dissertation bound, although this is not strictly necessary. A staple in the top left hand corner will do. However, you should ensure that the dissertation is well-presented and that it does not fall apart.

Layout Guide
You should print on one side of an A4 page with at least 1.5 line spacing with a 2.5 cm margin at the top, bottom and both sides.

- Pagination
Each page should be numbered.

- Style
The style, format and accuracy of the text and its presentation are your responsibility as author and will be assessed as such by the Examiners. The text and its arrangements should be checked before and after completion of typing and time allowed for this.

- Quotations
It is essential that all indebtedness to previous work and for the quotation of published work or other material used should be indicated clearly, fully and explicitly. Failure to do this may lead to the failure of the dissertation on grounds of plagiarism.

Your dissertation should be arranged in the following order:

- Cover Sheet
You should use the dissertation submission coversheet to submit your dissertation. This can be found on the dissertation site on MOODLE or a copy can be obtained from Helen Caton, B39 County South. Use one for each copy of the dissertation submitted and please do not bind the coversheet into the dissertation.
• Title and author
Include the title of your dissertation; your name as author; place of production (namely Department of Politics, Philosophy and Religion, Lancaster University); and year of production.

• Acknowledgements
It is a courtesy to express thanks for assistance given in preparation of the research (e.g. for access to schools, private archives, etc.), as well as for individual consultations, including those with your dissertation supervisor.

• Abstract
150-200 words summarising your work. Abstracts describe the questions you discuss, and summarise your conclusions. Journal articles usually have a short abstract at the beginning, so check any journal in your subject area to see how they are written.

• Table of contents
List individual chapters with titles, any appendices, references/bibliography with a starting page number for each section.

• References
List all sources referred to in your dissertation at the end. You must ensure that the entries to your References or Bibliography cover all - and only - material quoted or cited in the text of your dissertation. You may use any academic referencing system as long as this is used consistently and correctly. For more details on the two main systems of referencing – the ‘Harvard’ system (reference is inserted in brackets in the text, giving only the author’s name, year of publication, and page and the Chicago method (footnotes or endnotes) see links on PPR website under resources for current students [http://www.lancaster.ac.uk/fass/ppr/current/undergrad.htm](http://www.lancaster.ac.uk/fass/ppr/current/undergrad.htm)

• Appendices
Appendices should be used sparingly. It might be appropriate to include an appendix for a questionnaire you have used, sections from primary texts or illustrations that you discuss in the text (for example a dissertation discussing advertisements in printed media might have examples in the appendix).
Staff Academic Interests and Expertise

Note: Only staff available to supervise dissertations 2015-16 are listed

PHILOSOPHY

Brian Garvey: Philosophy of science; philosophy of biology; philosophy of mind; evolutionary psychology; cognitive science; psychoanalytic thought; theory of evolution.


Rachel Cooper: Philosophy of science and medicine, philosophy of psychiatry, nature of disease, metaphysics and epistemology of medicine, classification in science.

John Foster: Environmental ethics; moral philosophy; philosophy of environmental politics; philosophy in education; philosophy and literature; Mill; Hume; Schopenhauer.

Matthew Johnson: Conceptions of human wellbeing and flourishing; Needs and capabilities; Invasive cultural practices; Contemporary Marxism, intervention and development; relationship between toleration and recognition and multiculturalism and value pluralism; ‘Big Society’.

Mairi Levitt: Bioethics, genetics and medical technologies, health policy, empirical ethics, public understanding of science, religion and education.

Neil Manson: Consent; informed consent; paternalism; autonomy and addiction; deception and lies; spin; media ethics; ethics of privacy; ethics of advertising; vice of curiosity.

Christopher Macleod: Political Philosophy (methodology, liberal thought, genocide and crimes against humanity); Moral Philosophy (utilitarianism, metaethics); History of Philosophy (John Stuart Mill and the 19th century). (Only available in Lent term 2016*).

Alison Stone: Aesthetics; cultural theory; poststructuralism; feminism, identity politics, body, history of Philosophy, Foucault, Freud, Marxism, ethical philosophy, environmental philosophy. (Only available in Lent term 2016*).

Cain Todd: Aesthetics, aesthetic judgement, philosophy of fiction and literature, imagination, the emotions.

Nick Unwin: Philosophy of the mind, ethical theory, metaphysics, theory of knowledge and philosophy of science, philosophy of language, Locke and Kant.
Stephen Wilkinson: Bioethics and medical ethics: especially human enhancement, human reproduction, and the donation (including sale) of organs and tissue.

POLITICS AND INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS

Patrick Bishop: Political theory; enlightenment thought; public administration; community consultation; e-government; public policy process.

Karolina Follis: European and global border politics, migration, asylum, human rights, the politics of citizenship and non-citizenship, EU enlargement and neighbourhood policy, post socialism, historical memory and remembrance practices, ethnographic research methods, political anthropology.

Mark Garnett: UK politics, political parties, political ideology, conservatism, political culture.

Basil Germond: European security; international security; maritime security and maritime affairs; critical geopolitics; geopolitical discourses; borders and frontiers; securitization, navies.

Robert Geyer: International political economy, European Union politics and policy, social and health policy, complexity, politics and public policy, Scandinavian politics and policy.

Julie Hearn: Latin America, Sub-Saharan Africa; migrants, NGOs, aid, trade unions, civil society, social movements.

Matthew Johnson: Conceptions of human wellbeing and flourishing; Needs and capabilities; Invasive cultural practices; Contemporary Marxism, intervention and development; relationship between toleration and recognition and multiculturalism and value pluralism; ‘Big Society’.

Sossie Kasbarian: Diaspora studies; contemporary Middle East; nationalism and ethnicity; minority communities; identity; citizenship and belonging. (Only available in Lent term 2016*).

Mark Lacy: International relations theories (from realism to critical theory); new security threats (including cybersecurity, climate change, terrorism); art and technology; critical theory and radical politics (from Frankfurt School to Debord and the Situationists through to contemporary thinkers like Hardt and Negri, Virilio, Zizek).

Simon Mabon: International Relations; The contemporary Middle East; The Persian Gulf; International Security; ‘Soft Power’; Peace and Conflict; The Arab Spring; Political Violence; Sovereignty; Political Islam; The ‘Soft Power’ of sport; Cyber sovereignty/security. (Only available in Lent term 2016*).
Amalendu Misra: Dynamics of conflict and peace in deeply divided societies; nationalism and religious radicalism; political violence; South America.

Kunal Mukherjee: South and Southeast Asian politics; contemporary China (especially borderland regions); Contemporary India; violent conflict zones; religion and politics/religious fundamentalism (especially Islamism and Hindu nationalism); religion in international relations; global security (especially transnational terrorism); British multiculturalism, diaspora and identity politics.

Martin Steven: Comparative politics and government (British and European); Political parties and elections; Interest groups and organisations.

Ngai-Ling Sum: (International) political economy; Gramsci, Foucault, Marx, regulation approach; cultural political economy; economic discourses; globalization, global commodity chains; global retailers; corporate social responsibility; global financial crisis; BRIC; China/Hong Kong; Asia-Pacific.

**RELIGIOUS STUDIES**

Brian Black: Indian religion; Hinduism; Buddhism; ethics in Indian traditions; Indian Philosophy, gender in Indian religions.

Andrew Dawson: Religion and modern society; sociology of religion; new religions and alternative spirituality (in the West), religion in South America; spirit possession; contemporary Christianity.

Gavin Hyman: Western philosophy and religious thought; continental philosophy of religion; modern and postmodern theology; atheism: philosophical and historical approaches.

Anderson Jeremiah: Christian Theology; Globalisation and Christianity; Contextual and Practical Theology; Liberation Theologies; Postcolonial approaches in Biblical Hermeneutics and Theology; Recent trends in World Christianity; Christianity: Tradition and Transformations; Issues of Immigration and Diaspora in Christianity; Reverse Mission; Indian Society, Politics and Religion; Dalit Studies; Christianity and other Religions; Interfaith Dialogue; Religion and Politics in South Asia. (Only available in Lent term 2016*).

Kim Knott: Relations between secularism/atheism and religion; media and religion/political ideologies; geographical and spatial approaches to the study of religion; religion in modern Britain: Asian religions, migration, diasporas, ethnicity. (Only available in Lent term 2016*).
Shuruq Naguib: Gender, Islam and feminism; political movements in the Muslim world; Muslim thought (past and present); Islam in Europe and Britain; Islamic studies.

*An asterisk indicates that the lecturers concerned will be on sabbatical leave in Michaelmas term 2015-16. They will be available throughout the 2014-15 academic year and resume supervision in Lent term 2015-16. During the Michaelmas Term 2015-16, students will be assigned other members of staff for consultation.
Significant Dates

Wednesday 13th March 2015  3-5pm  Meeting Management School, LT08
Introductory talk on the three dissertation modules, what is involved in writing a dissertation, information on research ethics and locating sources. Including a talk from Lorna Pimperton, PPR Subject Librarian.

Wednesday 29 April 2015
Hand-in form with details of dissertation title to Helen Caton, Room B39, County South.

Date end of summer term 2015
1000 word dissertation plan emailed to dissertation supervisor for PPR 393 and PPR 394 only (mandatory for confirmation of registration on these courses).

2015-16 Drop-in sessions
These will be timetabled for those registered on a dissertation module (PPR 399, 393 or 394). Come along if you have any general queries about writing up your dissertation.

Monday 18 April 2016
Submission of completed dissertation to B39 County South by 12 noon.

Thursday 23 June 2016
Collect dissertation with grade and comments from B39 County South
PPR Dissertation Module Form

Name:

Student Number:

Lancaster Email address:

Degree Scheme:

Which module? (please tick)  

- □ PPR.399 (dissertation)
- □ PPR.393 (with Field Studies)
- □ PPR.394 (with External Collaboration)

Proposed topic:

Proposed Supervisor (list all those you think might be appropriate to supervise your dissertation from the staff on pp.24-27):

Please detach and return this form no later than Wednesday 29 April 2015 to Helen Caton (B.39, County South)