



University of Oxford

Medical Sciences Division

Department of Experimental Psychology

Prelims Undergraduate Course Handbook

2023

Statement of Coverage

This handbook applies to Prelims students starting in Michaelmas Term 2023 on our undergraduate degrees in Experimental Psychology, or Psychology, Philosophy and Linguistics. The information in this handbook may be different for students starting in other years.

This handbook is a supplement to the General Undergraduate Handbook and is designed to give you all the course-specific information you will need in your first year.

Disclaimer

The Examination Regulations relating to this course are available at:
To follow in Oct23

If there is a conflict between information in this handbook and the Examination Regulations then you should follow the Examination Regulations. If you have any concerns please contact the Academic Office at academic.office@psy.ox.ac.uk.

The information in this handbook is accurate as at October 2023, however it may be necessary for changes to be made in certain circumstances, as explained at www.ox.ac.uk/coursechanges webpage. If such changes are made the department will publish a new version of this handbook together with a list of the changes and students will be informed.

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1. Experimental Psychology

The Department of Experimental Psychology offers the following degrees in Experimental Psychology at undergraduate level:

- BA in Experimental Psychology (3 years)
This degree meets the full qualification descriptor for the UK's Framework for certifying Higher Education Qualifications (FHEQ) Level 6 on the University Awards Framework and the Quality Assurance Agency (QAA) Subject Benchmark Statements for Experimental Psychology. The length of this course requires nine terms of full-time study to complete.
- MSci in Experimental Psychology (4 years)
This degree meets the full qualification descriptor for FHEQ Level 7 on the University Awards Framework and the QAA Subject Benchmark Statements for Experimental Psychology. The length of this course requires 12 terms of full-time study to complete.

You will initially be entered for the 4-year degree, and you will need to decide by Hilary Term of Year 2 whether you wish to carry on into the fourth year or to leave at the end of the third year with a BA.

BPS Accreditation

Both degrees are accredited as conferring eligibility for Graduate Basis of Chartered Membership of the British Psychological Society, provided students achieve the minimum standard of a Second Class Honours (2:2) and pass the empirical psychology project.

1.1. Course Aims and Objectives

1.1.1. Aims

The QAA (taken from 2019 Framework Document)
<https://www.qaa.ac.uk/docs/qaa/subject-benchmark-statements/subject-benchmark-statement-psychology.pdf>

The benchmarking statements describe how courses are designed to provide psychological literacy via several defining principles that guide a degree course in psychology. Degrees in psychology:

- aim to produce a scientific understanding of the mind, brain, behaviour and experience, and how they interact with the complex environments in which they exist
- include knowledge and the acquisition of a range of research skills and methods for investigating experience and behaviour, culminating in an ability to conduct research independently
- develop an understanding of the role of empirical evidence in the creation and constraint of theory, and also in how theory guides the collection and interpretation of empirical data

- present multiple perspectives in a way that fosters critical evaluation and reflection
- develop knowledge, leading to an appreciation of theory and research findings, including relevant ethical and sociocultural issues
- lead to an understanding of real-life applications of theory to the full range of experience and behaviour and the application of psychological understanding to real-world questions.

1.1.2. Subject knowledge and understanding

1.1.2.1. The acquisition and demonstration of conceptual knowledge within core areas, together with an understanding of the empirical bases of the discipline, are necessary features and describe both our honours level BA and MSci degree course. The ability to extrapolate and comprehend the applications of knowledge within and across areas of psychology is also a feature of each course.

1.1.2.2. The following list of core areas reflects the current scope of psychology. For each of the core areas, a list of examples is provided. These examples are not intended to be either prescriptive or exhaustive and it is recognised that their role in degree courses varies from provider to provider and over time.

1.1.2.3. Courses address knowledge both of the areas identified and of the links between them, as well as an understanding of the use of psychological theory to answer real-world questions. Ethical, conceptual, cultural and historical aspects are also included.

- **Biological psychology** for example biological bases of human and non-human animal behaviour, hormones and behaviour, behavioural genetics, neuroscience, typical and atypical neuropsychology, comparative and evolutionary psychology.
- **Cognitive psychology** for example attention, perception, learning, memory, thinking, problem-solving, decision-making, metacognition, language, consciousness and cognitive neuropsychology.
- **Developmental psychology** for example typical and atypical development across the life-span, including childhood, adolescence and aging, attachment, social relations, cognitive and language development and cultural development.
- **Individual differences** for example personality, psychometrics, intelligence, cognitive style, emotion, motivation, mood, positive psychology, physical and mental health (including social, biological and cognitive processes), and diversity.

- **Social psychology** for example social cognition, attribution, attitudes, group processes and intergroup relations, culture, close relationships, social constructionism, self and identity, and leadership.

1.1.2.4. **Research methods** are integral to psychology and our students obtain a sound knowledge of, and a proven ability to use, a range of both qualitative and quantitative methods appropriately. Knowledge and understanding of how to obtain and analyse evidence is best acquired and demonstrated through extensive and progressive empirical work in laboratory and naturalistic settings through all stages of a degree.

1.1.2.5. Psychology students learn the basic principles of sound data collection. Given the broad theoretical scope of psychology, rigorous specialist training is required to engender a critical understanding of the role of experimental design, the choice of research methods employed, and the analytic approach taken, for testing psychological theories.

1.1.3. Skills

1.1.3.1. Psychology is distinctive in the rich and diverse range of attributes it develops, drawing on skills that are associated both with studying the humanities (for example, critical thinking and essay writing) and other sciences (hypothesis-testing and numeracy).

1.1.3.2. In addition, the nature of the discipline, and the kinds of learning opportunities that it provides, allows students to develop and practice a range of generic skills which can be underpinned by their own formal knowledge of psychological processes. For example, communication skills can be enhanced by knowledge of theories of learning, critical thinking can be underpinned by knowledge of cognitive biases, and teamwork can be supported by knowledge of group processes.

1.1.3.3. Subject skills are those that relate closely to the subject knowledge and/or are an integral part of any psychology degree, forming part of psychological literacy; these skills are described in paragraph 4.4. Generic skills are transferable skills that are not so closely tied to the subject matter of psychology; these are covered in paragraph 4.5. While the distinction between subject and generic skills is not clear-cut, psychology training allows subject-specific understanding to lead to enhanced generic skills, as noted in paragraph 4.2. In addition, many of the subject-specific skills, including research design, methods and measurement, and statistics, have direct application in professions outside psychology, and many of the generic skills are essential in the work of a professional psychologist.

1.1.4. Subject-specific skills

1.1.4.1. On graduating with our honours BA or MSci degree in psychology, students are able to:

- apply multiple perspectives to psychological issues, recognising that psychology involves a range of research methods, theories, evidence and applications
- integrate ideas and findings across the multiple perspectives in psychology and recognise distinctive psychological approaches to relevant issues
- identify and evaluate patterns in behaviour, psychological functioning and experience
- generate and explore hypotheses and research questions drawing on relevant theory and research
- carry out empirical studies involving a variety of methods of data collection, including experiments, observation, questionnaires, interviews and focus groups
- analyse, present and evaluate quantitative and qualitative data and evaluate research findings
- employ evidence-based reasoning and examine practical, theoretical and ethical issues associated with the range of methodologies
- use a variety of psychological tools, including specialist software, laboratory equipment and psychometric instruments
- apply psychological knowledge ethically and safely to real-world problems
- critically evaluate psychological theory and research
- carry out an extensive piece of empirical research that requires them individually to demonstrate a range of research skills, including planning, considering and resolving ethical issues, analysis and dissemination of findings.

1.1.5. Generic skills

1.1.5.1. On graduating with our BA or MSci degree in psychology, students are able to:

- communicate effectively. Effective communication involves developing a cogent argument supported by relevant evidence and being sensitive to the needs and expectations of an audience. This is accomplished through specific demands to write both essays and scientific reports, and through experience in making oral presentations to groups
- demonstrate numerical reasoning skills
- be computer literate, displaying at the very least skill in the use of word processing, databases and analytic software packages
- retrieve and organise information effectively. Psychology graduates are familiar with collecting and organising

stored information found in library books and journal collections, and online, critically evaluating primary and secondary sources

- recognise what is required for effective teamwork and articulate their own strengths and weaknesses in this regard. The complexity of the factors that shape behaviour and social interaction will be familiar to psychology graduates and will make them more aware of the basis of successful and problematic interpersonal relationships
- take responsibility for their own learning and skill development; this will include effective personal planning, self-reflection and project management skills, so they become more independent and pragmatic as learners.

1.2. Course Structure

Our course allows you to study intensively within the discipline of psychology. The curriculum is designed to introduce you to the principal perspectives and methods of inquiry in scientific psychology and then to allow and encourage you to pursue a study of core areas of psychology intensively and in considerable depth. This is achieved as follows.

Prelims

For all students this first year is referred to as the PPL Prelims.

Your first year is intended to give you a general introduction to three subjects and the lectures give you a broad overview of the subject. You will attend lectures and typically have tutorials in each subject.

You take the Prelims Examinations at the end of your first year in Trinity. Each student chooses three subjects from:

- Introduction to Psychology
- Introduction to Philosophy
- Introduction to Linguistics
- Introduction to Neurophysiology
- Introduction to Probability Theory and Statistics

For students taking the Experimental Psychology (EP) path, the typical combination is:

- Introduction to Psychology
- Introduction to Neurophysiology, and
- Introduction to Probability Theory and Statistics

Statistics is compulsory for all Experimental Psychology students.

Final Honours School

For the remaining terms you work for the Final Honours School (FHS) of Experimental Psychology which is divided into a **Part A** course in

your second year, a specialised **Part B** course in your third year where you can choose to exit at the end of the year with a BA. For those staying on for the fourth year, **Part C** is the Masters level part of the course.

Formal examinations are held at the end of each year and count towards your Finals as outlined in the below table:

Experimental Psychology											
Prelims (does not contribute to FHS)			FHS Part A 40% (3-yr) or 20% (4-yr) of FHS			FHS Part B 60% (3-yr) or 40% (4-yr) of FHS			FHS Part C 40% (4-yr) of FHS		
Choose 3 out of 5 Subjects (Statistics is compulsory)			All areas examined in four papers			Four examinations taken from a combination of the below. Combination determined by degree and BPS requirements, with further details outlined in later Course Handbooks.			Two examinations		
Prelim Exams			Psychology	Cognition	Perception	FHS Part A Exams			FHS Part B Exams	FHS Part C Submissions	
			Philosophy	Behavioural Neuroscience	Developmental Science						
			Linguistics	Social Psychology	Individual Differences and Clinical Psychology						
			Neurophysiology	Core Practicals	Core Practicals						
			Statistics	Experimental Design and Methods	Experimental Design and Methods						
			Library Dissertation	Advanced Options	Advanced Lab Portfolio						
Current Opinions Review			Research Project			Library Dissertation			Advanced Lab Portfolio		
First Year			Second Year			Third Year			Fourth Year		
Michaelmas	Hilary	Trinity	Michaelmas	Hilary	Trinity	Michaelmas	Hilary	Trinity	Michaelmas	Hilary	Trinity

Part A

Throughout the year you will attend lectures covering six core areas of psychology, and have tutorials per area organised by the department. In addition, there are **Core Practicals** to give you practical experience of the methods used in psychological experiments and lectures on the design and analysis of these experiments. Core practical classes take place over a full afternoon each week for three weeks.

Part B

For those of you choosing to exit with a BA you will sit the examination for four advanced papers in your third and final year, choosing from:

- Advanced Option Courses
- A Library Dissertation
- A Research Project
- An Advanced Lab Portfolio, composed of two Advanced Lab Practicals (either Experimental Group Projects or other Skills Practicals)

For those of you choosing to continue on to the fourth year for the MSci, you will sit the examination for four advanced papers in your third year, choosing from:

- Advanced Option Courses
- A Library Dissertation
- An Advanced Lab Portfolio, composed of two Advanced Lab Practicals (either Experimental Group Projects or other Skills Practicals)

There are both lectures and tutorials for each Advanced Option course which are designed to explore particular areas of the subject in considerable depth. The **Advanced Labs** run for one afternoon for four weeks per practical, allowing you to investigate an experimental topic in depth.

Part C

For those choosing to complete the MSci degree your fourth year will consist of an Extended Research Project and a Current Opinions Review. The majority of the year will see you integrated into a research lab working on your project. Students will be expected to be working primarily on their research project which will include time reading, planning a study, conducting a study, analysing and reporting results. In addition time will be spent discussing with your Project Advisor and any related research team members. The fourth year will normally involve much more self-directed time allocation (with the advice of the Project Advisor).

2. Psychology, Philosophy and Linguistics (PPL)

The Department of Experimental Psychology offers the following joint degrees with the Faculty of Philosophy and the Faculty of Linguistics:

- BA in Psychology, Philosophy and Linguistics (3 years)

This can be taken in the following combinations:

- Psychology and Philosophy
- Psychology and Linguistics
- Philosophy and Linguistics
- Psychology, Philosophy and Linguistics (subject to college and departmental approval)

This degree meets the full qualification descriptor for FHEQ Level 6 on the University Awards Framework and the QAA Subject Benchmark Statements for Psychology, Philosophy and Linguistics. The length of this course requires nine terms of full-time study to complete.

- MSci in Psychology, Philosophy and Linguistics (4 years)
This can be taken by those studying Psychology as one of their strands as the fourth year is Psychology only.

This degree meets the full qualification descriptor for FHEQ Level 7 on the University Awards Framework and the QAA Subject Benchmark Statements for Psychology, Philosophy and Linguistics. The length of this course requires 12 terms of full-time study to complete.

For those studying Psychology as one of your strands you will initially be entered for the 4-year degree, and you will need to decide by Hilary Term of Year 2 whether you wish to carry on into the fourth year or to leave at the end of the third year with a BA.

For those on the Philosophy and Linguistics strand you will be entered for the 3-year degree as it is not possible to complete the MSci without taking Psychology.

BPS Accreditation

Both degrees are accredited as conferring eligibility for Graduate Basis of Chartered Membership of the British Psychological Society subject to sufficient psychology coverage, which is important for students planning on a professional career in psychology. See further details on the BPS webpage and the General Programme Handbook.

2.1. Course Aims and Objectives

The aims, objectives and skills for those taking Psychology as one of their strands is described in Section 1.1 above, however Specific Skills for students taking Philosophy and/or Linguistics are:

2.1.1. Aims

Philosophy

An advanced understanding of key questions and problems in contemporary philosophy and their history, including the opportunity to

study 'classic' authors and texts.

Linguistics

- The fundamentals of linguistic description and analysis in Phonetics, Phonology, Morphology, Syntax and Semantics;
- How primary evidence is employed in linguistic and philological analysis and argument;
- Linguistics theories and their development;
- The structure and development of particular languages;
- Bridge topics: interfaces between Linguistics and Psychology (Psycholinguistics) and Linguistics and Philosophy (Logic, Philosophy of Language).

2.1.2. Skills and Other Attributes

Intellectual Skills

Philosophy

- Recognise the logical structure of an argument and assess its validity;
- Construct and articulate sound arguments with clarity and precision;
- Engage in debate with others;
- Formulate and consider the best arguments for different views;
- Identify the weakest elements of the most persuasive views.

Linguistics

- Understand and critically evaluate current theories of language;
- Exercise critical judgement and undertake informed analysis;
- Formulate and evaluate hypotheses and organise primary linguistic data;
- Present written arguments and support those arguments in verbal discussion.

Practical Skills

Philosophy

Students must read with care a wide variety of written academic literature, and reflect clearly and critically on what is read. They must learn to marshal a complex body of information in the form of essays, and write well for a variety of audiences and in a variety of contexts. Students learn to engage in oral discussion and argument with others, in a way that advances understanding of the problems at issue and the appropriate approaches and solutions to them. They learn to work to deadlines in the production of tutorial essays. In lectures and other oral presentations they learn to listen attentively to complex presentations, and identify the structure of the arguments being presented as a prelude to critical evaluation.

Linguistics

- Describe linguistic phenomena in objective terms. Evaluate competing theories of linguistic structure;

- Engage in oral discussion and argument with others, in a way that advances understanding of the problems at issue and the appropriate approaches and solutions to them;
- Use computers in phonetic and syntactic analysis.

Transferrable Skills

- Communicate effectively through both written and oral reports.
- Ability to analyse critically both empirical findings and conceptual ideas.
- Locate, organise and deploy information.
- Think creatively and critically.
- Work independently.
- Develop presentational and co-operative skills.
- Use information technology.
- Time management

2.2. Course Structure

Our course is designed to allow you take almost any combination of Psychology, Philosophy and Linguistics. Students are admitted only for bi-partite combinations but may pursue a tripartite route after Prelims with the permission of their college. However, there is scope even within the bi-partite routes to take one paper from the third subject.

The structure of the PPL course is designed in different 'strands'. The 'strands' are the bipartite routes of Psychology and Philosophy, Psychology and Linguistics, and Philosophy and Linguistics, and the tripartite route Psychology, Philosophy and Linguistics. Later in the course, when you make decisions about Part A, B and C, you will be advised and decide upon the relative split of Psychology, Philosophy and Linguistics that you are interested in taking (5:3, 4:4 or 3:5).

Prelims

Your first year is intended to give you a general introduction to three subjects and the lectures give you a broad overview of each subject. You will attend lectures and typically have tutorials in each subject.

You take the Prelims Examinations at the end of your first year in Trinity. Each student chooses three subjects from:

- Introduction to Psychology
- Introduction to Philosophy
- Introduction to Linguistics
- Introduction to Neurophysiology
- Introduction to Probability Theory and Statistics

Statistics is compulsory for anyone intending to take Psychology at FHS.

Final Honours School

For the remaining terms you work for the Final Honours School (FHS) of PPL.

For those of you taking the Philosophy and Linguistics route your remaining course sees you studying in your second and third years for your Final Examinations at the end of your third year.

For those of you taking Psychology as one of your subjects, your remaining course is divided into a **Part A** course in your second year, a specialised **Part B** course in your third year where you can choose to exit at the end of the year with a BA. For those moving onto the fourth year, **Part C** is the Masters level part of the course.

Formal examinations are held at the end of each year and count towards your Finals as outlined in the table below.

Part A

Part A is Psychology and is examined at the end of your second year. Philosophy and Linguistics courses run throughout your second and third year but are examined at the end of your third year.

Throughout the year you will attend lectures covering three of the six core areas of psychology, and have tutorials per area organised by the department. In addition, there are **Core Practicals** to give you practical experience of the methods used in psychological experiments and lectures on the design and analysis of these experiments. Each practical class lasts for one afternoon a week.

In order to achieve BPS accreditation you will be required to ensure you choose your core lectures and practicals so that they cover the required BPS curriculum. Please consult the General Handbook for detailed information on how to meet eligibility for Graduate Membership of the British Psychological Society.

Part B

For those of you choosing to exit with a BA you will read a variable number of papers in Psychology, Philosophy and / or Linguistics, selecting from:

- Psychology Advanced Options
- Philosophy and / or Linguistics FHS papers
- An Optional Psychology Dissertation
- If you wish to attain BPS accreditation, a Psychology Research Project or an Advanced Lab Portfolio comprising two Experimental Group Projects.

For those of you choosing to continue on to the fourth year you will read a variable number of papers in Psychology, Linguistics and / or Philosophy, selecting from:

- Psychology Advanced Options
- Philosophy and / or Linguistics FHS papers
- An Advanced Lab Portfolio, composed of two Advanced Lab Practicals (either Experimental Group Projects or other Skills Practicals)
- Linguistics Project or Philosophy Thesis

There are both lectures and tutorials for each Advanced Option course which are designed to explore particular areas of the subject in considerable depth. The **Advanced Labs** run for one afternoon for four weeks per practical, allowing you to investigate an experimental topic in depth.

In Philosophy and Linguistics you will have a mixture of lectures, classes and tutorials per course you take, and these will run throughout your second and third years.

Part C

For those choosing to complete the MSci degree your fourth year will be entirely in psychology and will consist of an Extended Research Project and a Current Opinions Review. The majority of the year will see you integrated into a research lab working on your project. Students will be expected to be

working primarily on their research project which will include time reading, planning a study, conducting a study, analysing and reporting results. In addition time will be spent discussing with your Project Advisor and any related research team members. The fourth year will normally involve much more self-directed time allocation (with the advice of the Project Advisor).

3. Prelims Teaching

Prelims is designed to be a general introduction and broad overview to the subjects and all students take three out of the five subjects detailed below.

All timetables will be uploaded on to the 'EP & PPL Programme Information' Canvas module by Week 0 of term (<https://canvas.ox.ac.uk/courses/224074>). Lectures take place throughout the city and the venues will be listed in the timetables.

You will be enrolled on to the various Canvas modules for each of your courses, and it is here you will find the reading lists and lecture materials. These Canvas modules should appear on your Dashboard during Week 0 of term. If you have any trouble accessing anything please contact the Academic Office at academic.office@psy.ox.ac.uk.

3.1. Introduction to Psychology

The aim of this course is to introduce you to some of the basic problems, theories and discoveries of psychology. The course is divided into five sections, each one covered in a series of lectures. All the lecturers take care to point out the connections between their own lectures and those of the other sections of the Psychology Prelim.

The course is comprised of:

- ***Developmental Psychology***
The lectures cover how the developing system interacts with and learns from its environment and the various ways in which children's behaviour changes as they grow older. For example typical and atypical development across the life-span, including childhood, adolescence and aging, attachment, social relations, cognitive and language development and cultural development.
- ***Perception***
The lectures cover the physiological basis of vision, the perception of colour and how we use perceptual information as we move around our environment as well as hearing and other sense modalities.
- ***Psychobiology***
The lectures cover the organisation of the brain, and how this affects emotion, motivation, language and thought. For example biological bases of human and non-human animal behaviour, hormones and behaviour, behavioural genetics, neuroscience, typical and atypical neuropsychology, comparative and evolutionary psychology. The lectures conclude with a discussion of chemical communication in the brain and how this relates to the action of various drugs on our behaviour.
- ***Social Psychology***
The lectures cover how people behave and interact in social groups. For example social cognition, attribution, attitudes, group processes

and intergroup relations, culture, close relationships, social constructionism, self and identity, and leadership.

- **Cognitive Psychology**

The lectures cover the way we process information, solve problems, remember past events and think about the world around us. For example attention, perception, learning, memory, thinking, problem-solving, decision-making, metacognition, language, consciousness and cognitive neuropsychology

3.2. Introduction to Philosophy

The purpose of the course is to introduce you to some central philosophical issues and to help you to acquire some concepts and ways of thinking which will be useful if you continue with the study of Philosophy, and even if you do not.

The course has three parts: I General Philosophy, a topic-based introduction to some central issues in philosophy; II Moral Philosophy, studied in connection with J.S. Mill's *Utilitarianism*; and III Logic, studied in a course especially developed by Oxford philosophers. In the preliminary examination you are required to show adequate knowledge in all three. They are examined via two papers: one dedicated to General Philosophy, and one which covers both Moral Philosophy and Logic.

Logic, usually taught in college classes, is the study of patterns of valid inference, and involves some study of a formal system (that found in Volker Halbach's *The Logic Manual*, Oxford University Press). Students are required to do exercises and proofs in a formal system, and also to understand the relation between the elements of the formal system and the kinds of inference and argument used in ordinary language. Even if you do not plan to continue with the study of logic, you are likely to find it useful in further philosophical study to have some familiarity with a formal logical language and the ability to use it to investigate logical relationships and to understand its use by others.

In General Philosophy and Moral Philosophy (usually taught in tutorials or small groups), students are introduced to central issues in philosophy, studied through reading classic texts in conjunction with other writings, including critical responses and modern treatments of the same issues. General Philosophy introduces students to issues such as the foundations of knowledge, scepticism, and the nature of the mind and its relation to the body. Moral Philosophy involves the study of an influential but controversial moral theory, utilitarianism, involving discussions of subjects such as happiness and pleasure, the criterion of right action, the role and foundation of moral principles, and justice. Students learn how to read and to evaluate philosophical writings, how to identify the author's arguments and conclusions, and are encouraged to think critically and write lucidly about the issues discussed.

3.3. Introduction to Linguistics

Introduction to Linguistics provides a foundation in the basic components of phonetics (speech sounds), phonology (systems of sounds in language), morphology (words and their parts), syntax (grammar), and semantics (meaning), with an introduction to linguistic theory and the connections between Linguistics and other subjects such as Sociology and Psychology.

It is taught through a combination of lectures and tutorials or classes:

- Michaelmas Term: 4 lectures per week (1 general linguistics/morphology, 1 phonetics/phonology, 1 syntax, and 1 historical each week), 1 general linguistics tutorial every odd week, 1 phonetics/phonology class per week, 1 syntax class every even week.
- Hilary Term: 3 lectures per week (1 phonetics/phonology, 1 syntax, and 1 semantics/pragmatics each week), 1 phonetics/phonology class per week, 1 syntax class every even week, 1 semantics/pragmatics class every odd week.
- Trinity Term: 2 lectures for the first four weeks (1 psycholinguistics and 1 sociolinguistics each week), 6 general linguistics tutorials (1 per week for the first six weeks).

In the tutorials, and classes you will learn practical analytical skills through exercises and examples drawn from a wide range of languages, as well as how to read, critically appraise and write about a variety of central topics in linguistics. The course is assessed via two 3-hour exams at the end of Trinity Term.

3.4. Introduction to Neurophysiology

This course is run by the Department of Physiology, Anatomy and Genetics (DPAG), and you join other students from other courses within the Medical Sciences Division. This course may be referred to as the 'Brain' module.

The Neurophysiology Prelim will give you an introduction to the biological basis of sensation, perception and behaviour. The course introduces you to the cellular basis of electrical activity in nerve cells and the transmission of activity between nerve cells and nerve and muscle. You will learn about sensory receptors, and you will gain an understanding of the pathways and basic mechanisms by which sensory information is processed by the brain. You will also learn about how muscle generates movement, and how those movements are controlled by the brain and spinal cord. Finally, you will learn basic information about how the nervous system develops. This is a lecture course with no practical requirement and is intended to be accessible to those who have pursued less science at advanced level at school. As with all courses, lectures are complemented by tutorial teaching. The course gives you a broad grounding in neurophysiological processes without requiring a detailed knowledge of neuroanatomy.

3.5. Introduction to Probability Theory and Statistics

This course provides an introduction to statistics in the behavioural sciences and consists of lectures supported by tutorials as well as basics of programming required to control analysis software. The course focuses on the principles of statistics as applied to the analysis of surveys and experiments and the interpretation of the results of such investigations.

You will consider a range of common techniques, including graphical techniques, for describing data and how to begin to interpret the results of scientific investigations. You will also learn about the types of data that are dealt with in psychology, the common methods for summarizing data, and the advantages and disadvantages of these methods. The course will also cover the principles of probability theory, the common probability distributions that are encountered in statistics and psychology and the relationship between these distributions. You will also learn about the principles of extrapolating from a sample of data to a population.

A major part of the course deals with hypothesis testing, including how to construct hypotheses and the issues that need to be considered when testing hypotheses. You will cover in detail a range of statistical tests that are commonly used in psychology to test hypotheses, including how to apply these methods and how to interpret the results.

4. Research Participation Scheme (RPS)

All EP and PPL (including Philosophy and Linguistics) students should, as a matter of course (but with appropriate ethical guidelines, and allowance for exceptions), participate in the Research Participation Scheme (RPS). Details of the requirements are provided during a mandatory session with the RPS coordinator.

Experiments using the RPS are ready to run from the beginning of term and are offered in Psychology and Linguistics. You are required to participate in the Scheme, but you are not restricted or obliged to sign up for a particular type of experiment.

Experiments will be advertised on the RPS website and information regarding the Research Participation Scheme will be posted in Canvas. Sign up for experiments will be via the web only. Please note: to maintain confidentiality please sign up using your RPS number here: <http://psy-oxford.sona-systems.com/>.

The scheme has been designed so that you learn about methodology and experimental design, from a range of psychological and linguistics research, through participation. Participating in research is an excellent way to learn about doing psychology, especially when participants are fully debriefed, the purpose and plan of the research is explained to them, and they are (later) shown the results of the research they have participated in. All experiments have been approved by the Central University Research Ethics Committee (CUREC).

Any students with medical conditions or disabilities that might restrict their participation in the full range of studies should contact the Disability Coordinator (Senior Academic Administrator). Students taking some forms of medication may also be excused full participation. A Doctor's Note is required in all such cases (this will be treated in strictest confidence). Some studies have restrictions on whether they can use data from participants on some criteria (e.g., right-handed only, native English speakers only); however you should not be excluded from participating if it is safe to do so even if the experimenter is unable to use your data.

5. Prelims Examinations

In Prelims you take three subjects from the following list.

- i. Introduction to Psychology
- ii. Introduction to Philosophy
- iii. Introduction to Linguistics
- iv. Introduction to Neurophysiology
- v. Introduction to Probability Theory and Statistics

For further information on your Prelims exams, including information on papers, marking criteria and what you need to do to pass, you should read the Examination Regulations (*To follow in Oct23*) in conjunction with your Examination Conventions (which are available in the Examinations section of your 'EP & PPL Programme Information' Canvas module (<https://canvas.ox.ac.uk/courses/224074>)).

6. Important Dates for Prelims

Dates of Full Term can be found here: <https://www.ox.ac.uk/about/facts-and-figures/dates-of-term>

All PPL Students taking Psychology as one of their subjects in Part A, B and C (if applicable) will need to submit their Part A choices by **12noon Friday of Week 6 of Trinity Term** so it is important to consider your preferred pathway early.

Before this **all** students will receive an information talk by the Director of Undergraduate Studies introducing you to the FHS and you will be sent a link to the Chooser Tool during Trinity Term.

Exams are usually held in Weeks 8 and 9 of Trinity Term. These are however subject to change.

7. Recommended Patterns of Teaching

		Dept/Faculty		College		Comments
Paper	Term	Lectures	RPS*	Tutorials	Classes	<i>Figures in this table are in hours unless otherwise stated</i>
Psychology						
For the FPE, the Psychology paper 'Introduction to Psychology' covers Developmental Psychology, Perception, Social Psychology, Psychobiology, and Cognitive Psychology. Students are required to take all elements.						
Introduction to Psychology: Developmental Psychology	MT	6	*RPS hours	3		*All EP and PPL (all strands) students are required to complete participation in research studies advertised on the Psychology Research Participation Scheme (RPS) by the end of the first year of study. The amount of credits/hours required will be outlined in the RPS talk.
	HT					
	TT					
Introduction to Psychology: Perception	MT	6		3		
	HT					
	TT					
Introduction to Psychology: Social Psychology	MT			3		
	HT	6				
	TT					
Introduction to Psychology: Psychobiology	MT			3		
	HT	6				
	TT					
Introduction to Psychology: Cognitive Psychology	MT			3		
	HT					
	TT	6				
Philosophy						
For the FPE, the Philosophy paper 'Introduction to Philosophy' covers logic, moral philosophy and general philosophy. Students are required to take all elements. There are 8 lectures on each of the three elements in Michaelmas Term: you should be sure to attend them. There are no repeats throughout the year.						
Introduction to Philosophy: Introduction to Logic	MT	8	*as determined by college			*A typical pattern is 12 tutorials and 6 two-hour classes, but colleges can make their own arrangements.
	HT					
	TT					
Introduction to Philosophy: Moral Philosophy: Mill, Utilitarianism	MT	8				
	HT					
	TT					
Introduction to Philosophy: General Philosophy	MT	8				
	HT					
	TT					

		Dept/Faculty		College		Comments
Paper	Term	Lectures	RPS*	Tutorials	Classes	<i>Figures in this table are in hours unless otherwise stated</i>
Linguistics						
For the FPE, the Linguistics paper 'Introduction to Linguistics' covers General Linguistics, Phonetics and Phonology, and Grammatical Analysis. Students are required to take all elements.						
Introduction to Linguistics: General Linguistics	MT	16		4		
	HT					
	TT	8		6		
Introduction to Linguistics: Phonetics and Phonology	MT	8			8	
	HT	8			8	
	TT					
Introduction to Linguistics: Grammatical Analysis	MT	8			4	
	HT	8			4	
	TT					
Introduction to Linguistics: Semantics & Pragmatics	MT					
	HT	8			4	
	TT					
Neurophysiology						
Introduction to Neurophysiology	MT	18		8		A total of 15 tutorials over 3 terms should be provided by the college
	HT	8		4		
	TT	4		3		
Probability Theory and Statistics						
Introduction to Probability Theory and Statistics	MT	6			9	
	HT	6			9	
	TT	3			4.5	
Notes:						
In the case of teaching provided by colleges, these figures are Department/Faculty recommendations and individual colleges may choose to vary the pattern or provide different amounts or types of teaching than stated in the recommended patterns of teaching for a variety of reasons (e.g. individual student needs, differing numbers of contact hours depending on tutorial/class group sizes, etc.).						
Tutorials for a paper may not always be given in the same term as the lectures for that paper.						

Workload

Students are responsible for their own academic progress. It is expected that full time undergraduate students will spend on average up to 40 hours per week (eight hours per day). As a guide, PPL Prelim students will typically spend two 2 to 4 hours per day in lectures and one to two hours per day in tutorials, and it is expected that the remaining two to five hours of the day will be spent in private study.

Students should seek support from their College Tutors if they experience unusually high workloads.