Politics, Philosophy and Law - Undergraduate Live Chat - PPL: Combining Politics, Philosophy and Law

Our Politics, Philosophy and Law Department will be online to answer your questions on combining Politics, Philosophy and Law.

Hello and welcome to the Live Chat. We’ll be hosting a Q&A session for today’s chat. Please feel free to ask your questions, and we’ll try and answer these for you. Chatting with you today are Dr Patrick Tomlin (Director of PPL), Maureen Tod (PPL Programmes Officer) and Susanna Jackman (Academic Administrator).

Please remember that this is a public chat, so please do not share personal or confidential information. If you have anything that is confidential that you wish to ask, please contact us by email at ppl@warwick.ac.uk.

Warwick’s PPL is based in three world class departments. However, we aim for the PPL degree to be more than the sum of its parts.

Hi there! What do the modules in this course look like? How are the 3 subjects integrated?

Hi
Hi Jackson. Thanks for joining us. Do you have any questions for us about PPL?

I do, yes!

Hi there! What do the modules in this course look like? How are the 3 subjects integrated?

Thanks Sophie. In your first year, you would study:
Intro to Politics
Intro to Philosophy
and either criminal law or tort law

You would also study a bespoke PPL module, which looks at academic debates and real world issues that fall at the intersection of the three subjects.

In addition to this, many of the modules we recommend later in the course fall at the intersection of the three disciplines, and there is also a bespoke PPL dissertation module

I've not heard of this course before. Is it new?

Yes, we are quite new. We have been running for two years now, so none of our PPL students have yet graduated.

Hi there! What do the modules in this course look like? How are the 3 subjects integrated?

There is lots more information on the course structure at https://warwick.ac.uk/fac/soc/ppl/studywithus/structure/

Course Structure
Course Structure for the PPL (Philosophy, Politics and Law) undergraduate degree at the University of Warwick

Thank you Patrick! If you don’t mind me asking, what are the main differences between criminal and tort law?

Hi there! What do the modules in this course look like? How are the 3 subjects integrated?

Our idea is NOT to have three separate subjects (see first pic) but three subjects in which you are encouraged and assisted in exploring the connections. Many of us at Warwick already do this; see for example our Centre for Ethics, Law, and Public Affairs - a research group that crosses politics, law, and philosophy.

Hi, how many people are on the PPL course?
Thank you Patrick! If you don’t mind me asking, what are the main differences between criminal and tort law?

Criminal law is strongly connected to punishment, and importantly the state brings the case (so criminal cases in England and Wales are always called something like R v Smith, because the case is brought against Smith in the name of the queen (R)).

Tort law is about individuals suing other individuals because they have been wrongly harmed. The goal is not punishment, but compensation. Since the two parties are private individuals, the cases are called something like Smith v Jones.

Hi, how many people are on the PPL course?

Hi Charlotte thanks for joining us. The PPL Degree is currently in its 2nd year of intake so we have approximately 70 students across both years. 30 in our first year of intake and 44 in our 2nd year of intake. I hope this helps.

Can I choose to focus on one course, or maybe two courses during the degree?

Thanks! I've already applied, do you know when the PPL department gives out their offers?

Thanks so much Patrick!

we actually made a video about the difference between crim and tort which Susanna is going to share in a second.
Thanks! I've already applied, do you know when the PPL department gives out their offers?

There's no one date when offers are made. We are going through applications as fast as we can, and offers are being made on an ongoing basis. Hopefully, you should find out soon.

Thank you!

Thanks so much Patrick!

The video should be available now. I should also say you can take the other one of tort and crim in the second year so you don't have to choose only one.

Can I choose to focus on one course, or maybe two courses during the degree?

You have to do some of all three subjects for at least two years.

We are currently in the process of changing the degree so you can drop one subject in year 3. This has yet to be officially approved by the university, however.

How much time would we spend in classes?

Hi Tom. In your first year, you would have four modules. Three of them are 2 hours per week lecture, plus a one hour seminar. So each is 3 hours total. In addition, the PPL module is a two hour workshop per week. So that would be 11 hours per week in class. Of course there's also lots of reading, thinking, and discussing to be done outside of class too!

What is the format of the PPL module? Is this a lecture or is it more discussion-based?

Good question. It's a bit of a mix. At the moment we teach it with the whole first year cohort in one room. The format is what I like to call 'interactive lecture'. It is co-taught by the three departments, so an expert gives a talk but regularly pauses for class discussion or exercises.
What is the format of the PPL module? Is this a lecture or is it more discussion-based?

This term we have been covering topics like what justifies punishment?, and what is the relationship between law and morality?

Sounds super interesting, thanks so much Patrick!

We're ending the chat soon, so let us know if you have anymore questions!

What are some potential career opportunities once you have received your degree?

Since we don’t have any PPL graduates yet (as we are a new degree), we cannot point to our alumni to say ‘this is what people have gone on to do’.

We can say that our current crop of PPL students are interested in law, diplomacy, journalism, the civil service, banking.

From our experience with PPE, and with Law, and with Warwick being very popular with graduate employers we don’t see many limits on what PPL students can do.

PPL is not a qualifying law degree, so our students would need to take a conversion or qualifying degree in the jurisdiction they wish to practice in.

Thank you for joining us and asking your questions. We really enjoyed chatting with you and we look forward to chatting with you again next time - you can find our chat schedule at https://warwick.ac.uk/fac/soc/ppl/studywithus/livechat/. If you have any questions in the meantime, please contact us a ppl@warwick.ac.uk.

**PPL Live Chat**

The University of Warwick’s PPL programme is running Live Chats to give you the chance to chat with current students and ask us your questions.