

BA (Hons) International Relations and History

Combined Honours Programme Specification Supplement

Primary Purpose

Course management, monitoring and quality assurance.

Secondary Purpose

Detailed information for students, staff and employers. Current students should refer to the related Course Handbook for further detail.

Disclaimer

The University of Portsmouth has checked the information given in this Programme Specification supplement and believes it to be correct. We will endeavour to deliver the course in keeping with this Programme Specification supplement but reserve the right to change the content, timetabling and administration of the course whilst maintaining equivalent academic standards and quality.

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1. Named Award

BA (Hons) International Relations and History

2. Course Code (and UCAS Code if applicable)

C0984 (LV21)

To view units and course structures please visit www.port.ac.uk/unitwebsearch and enter the 'C' code above to find the correct course.

3. Awarding Body

University of Portsmouth

4. Teaching Institution

University of Portsmouth

5. Document Control Information

Version: September 2016

6. Effective Session

2016 - 17

7. Home Course Leader

Dr Paul Flenley

8. Home Faculty

Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences

9. Home Department

School of Social, Historical and Literary Studies

10. About this Programme Specification Supplement

This Combined Honours Course Programme Specification Supplement is designed for prospective students, registered students, University staff and potential employers. It provides an introduction to combined honours courses at the University of Portsmouth, and an overview of the course rationale, aims and learning outcomes.

A full Programme Specification is prepared for each half of the course. This supplement links the full Programme Specifications for each half of the Combined Honours Course. In the full Programme Specification documents (see A1. and A2. below), you will find more detailed information on the teaching, learning and assessment methods, learning outcomes, unit information, reference points, support for student learning and regulatory arrangements for each half of the Combined Honours.

A1. Combined Honours International Relations Half - PSD

A2. Combined Honours History Half - PSD

11. The Combined Honours Degree Course at the University of Portsmouth

At the University of Portsmouth, our Combined Honours Degrees are predetermined combinations of subjects (subject A and subject B). Most students will be registered on a joint award where the number of credits studied in both subjects is roughly the same (approximately 50/50).

A small number of Combined Honours courses are designated major/minor courses where subject A is the major subject and subject B is the minor subject (approximately 66/33). For a joint Combined Honours, a student may choose to undertake a dissertation in subject A or subject B; in the case of major/minor awards, the dissertation will always be in the major subject.

12. Course Management

For each course, one of the academic departments owning one of the two subject halves will be designated the 'home' department. The home department is often, **but not always**, the first named of the subject combination, see section 9 above for this course's home. The home department will be the students' base and is responsible for providing the academic course leader, personal tutor and student support. A deputy course leader is appointed from the 'away' department.

The University operates a two-tier course management structure at department level, which monitors students' progression and achievement at unit level and award level. At University level, there is a dedicated Combined Honours Management Board, which reviews annually overall student experience, monitors student achievement and advises on the introduction and withdrawal of new course combinations.

13. Course Rationale

Why did the US invade Iraq? What is terrorism and where did it come from? Why is it that some people in the world do not have enough to eat? How do societies change over time? What are the social and cultural origins of the contemporary international political system? What are the key ideas, social movements and cultural developments that have shaped the modern world?

If these questions interest you, then combining the study of international relations and history is the right course for you.

The history you will study in this degree is cultural and social history – the history of societies as opposed, for example, to political or military history. This will provide you with a deep cultural context in which to place the international relations and politics that you will also study.

The international relations component is contemporary and global in nature, focusing on conflict, international institutions, foreign policy-making and the changing character of, and issues in, world politics arising from globalisation.

You can choose to 'major' in either half of your degree by choosing your options and dissertation from either politics or international relations.

We welcome applicants with many different sorts of qualifications who can demonstrate evidence of competence to succeed on our programmes. We particularly welcome applications from mature students over the age of 21 and/or applicants who have an Access qualification or equivalent.

14. Educational Aims of the Course

- To provide focused, critical and up to date knowledge of historical scholarship across a range of geographical areas and periods.
- To engage students with the significance of the relationship between past and present.
- To facilitate the development of students' research skills, particularly an ability to handle a wide range of source materials.
- To develop students' capacity for critical evaluation of historical evidence employing a variety of theoretical perspectives.
- To foster the development of students' abilities in a variety of structured forms of written communication.

- To foster the development of students' verbal abilities and teamwork skills through group assessment and the seminar process.
- To provide a supportive teaching and learning environment for all students whilst recognizing the particular needs and potential contribution of mature and non-standard entrants.
- To enable students to acquire a sound knowledge and understanding of international relations and politics in a global context
- To enable students to understand and apply key concepts and theoretical approaches within the field of International Relations and develop an appreciation of its contested nature
- To encourage students to think critically about political issues, power, values, ideas and institutions at an international and global level
- To facilitate student knowledge of the key dimensions of contemporary international relations including conflict and co-operation between states, foreign policy, international order, strategic and security studies, and global political economy
- To enable students to analyse political events, political change, democratisation and development in selected countries and/or regions and to be able to situate them in an international and global context

15. Employability Statement

Employability skills are delivered (and assessed where applicable) throughout the curriculum. We provide structured support to enable students to develop their employability skills from L4 to L6. Core units at each level will include most of the academic and employability skills that are listed in Annex 5 of the 2012 Curriculum Framework.