

Introduction to

BA (Hons) English Language & Literature

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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Combined Honours Programme Specification Supplement

1. Named Award

BA (Hons) English Language and Literature

2. Course Code (and UCAS Code if applicable)

C1045 (Q300)

3. Awarding Body

University of Portsmouth

4. Teaching Institution

University of Portsmouth

5. Document Control Information

Version: August 2016

6. Effective Session

2016-17

7. Home Course Leader

Dr Bronwen Price

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 English Language Half - PSD

A2. Combined Honours English Literature 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), as in the case of English Language and Literature.

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

Our BA (Hons) English Language and Literature is an engaging degree programme, aimed at those wishing to combine literary study with a sound knowledge of the linguistic structure of English. This degree offers a wide-ranging choice of options in both English and European literatures in translation and film.

You will also have the opportunity to study teaching English as a foreign language and if accepted onto the additional course to gain the internationally recognised Trinity College London Certificate in TESOL.

An interest in the way language is used to act on listeners or readers is central to both aspects of the degree and continually informs a range of units. Language units such as English Forms and Functions and The Language of Literature explore this directly, while English units such as Charles Dickens or Love, War and Friendship in Renaissance Poetry: John Donne to Katherine Philips focus on the rhetorical use of language in different historical periods.

BA (Hons) English Language and Literature is part of the Division of English and History, which means that you will also have the opportunity to meet and socialise with a lively group of students from sister degrees that focus on English literature or combine English with creative arts, media, history or comparative literature.

This breadth of specialist interest fosters a wide range of perspectives and degree-combinations, helping to make Portsmouth a vibrant place to study English.

While we fully expect that you will enjoy your time at Portsmouth, we also recognise that at the end of the course you will need to get a job. To help you with this transition, the course also includes a careers management unit, which will help you market yourself to prospective employers, hone your presentation skills and put together a viable CV. It will also help you research the job market and understand application procedures.

14. Educational Aims of the Course

- To provide an intellectually stimulating and supportive learning and studying environment.
- To provide a broad knowledge of literature and literary language from the early modern period to the present day in a broad and balanced curriculum.
- To provide a detailed understanding of the main genres, such as prose, poetry and drama.

- To provide an understanding of the relationship between texts and their cultural and socio-historical context, and the role of literary texts in articulating and shaping values, ideas and identities.
- To provide the opportunity to study a substantial range of literary and non-fictional texts
- To engage students in the appreciation of English literature in a wider cultural context that includes popular forms, other literatures in the Anglophone world, and world literature.
- To offer consideration of the interactions between literary production and other forms of creative activity and media (performance, film, visual arts).
- To develop an understanding of a variety of theoretical and critical approaches, and an awareness of the role of critical traditions in shaping interpretation.
- To problematise the act of reading and to develop an awareness of the imaginative power of literary texts.
- To provide an intellectually stimulating and supportive learning and studying environment
- To foster enthusiasm for the subject as a continually evolving discipline, engage students in life-long learning in the subject area and encourage an appreciation of the subject's continuing social and cultural importance.
- To equip students with a range of subject-specific and transferable skills including conceptual, literacy and communication skills of value in graduate employment in a changing labour market
- To provide students with a basis for postgraduate study in English or related disciplines and for teachers of English.
- To provide an understanding of the basic concepts, modes of analysis and theoretical approaches in those areas of study (in particular linguistics), which contribute to the study of the English Language.
- To enable students to understand and apply a range of concepts from the discipline of linguistics to study a range of texts.
- To provide an opportunity to study diverse modes of communication, oral, written and mixed, and their distinctive levels of phonology, morphology, lexis, syntax, semantics, pragmatics and discourse.
- To provide knowledge of the structure, levels and discourse functions of the English language.
- To develop understanding of the role of language in society, its nature as a cognitive domain, how it is acquired, how it changes and its role in a range of media for communication.
- To introduce students to a range of empirical linguistic phenomena and the relevant descriptive terminology, thereby enabling a practical understanding of what the English language is and how it works.
- To compare the English language with other languages, as appropriate.
- To enable students to develop a high standard of literacy, communication skills, and skills of critical argument.
- To prepare students for further research in language or linguistics-related areas.
- To provide a challenging and stimulating study environment.
- To provide a framework allowing students to follow a flexible coherent programme of study and to develop specialist interests and knowledge.
- To equip graduates with the necessary transferable skills for lifelong learning, employability and flexibility in the context of changing labour markets.
- To provide students with the skills and knowledge required to maximise career and postgraduate study opportunities.

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 levels 4 to 6. Core units at each level include graduate academic and employability skills listed in Annex 7 of the 2012 Curriculum Framework. *Career management skills* (Annex 8 of the 2012 Curriculum Framework) are embedded throughout the curriculum as follows:

At L4 the management of self-learning tasks, the communication of information, and the development of interpersonal skills are embedded in the skills-focused unit, Narrative Forms, taken in the first term. This unit will help students 'learn how to learn' as part of studying the discipline of a

subject area. The term 2 skills-focused unit, Starting Language Research, builds on these skills, while also fostering teamwork through group presentations. Additionally, students are introduced to basic career management skills (self-awareness, professional development planning, CV development etc) in order to get them thinking about their existing skills and career plans and how they can best take advantage of opportunities for self-development within and beyond their university provision.

At L5 we continue with developing Career Management skills during re-induction. There are plenary sessions for students on the further development of career management skills and this is backed up by interactive, online exercises and website resources related to the subject area.

At L6 Re-induction offers personal tutorials and Professional Development Planning (PDP), in addition to further guidance and activities for students which build on earlier provision. This is linked to individual research/project skills that are central to the core 40 credit dissertation/ work-based project. Students are also encouraged to discuss their progress and plans for the future with their personal tutor.

Students at all levels have access to an interactive, online Employability Hub that provides students with the opportunity to engage with employers from a range of relevant employment sectors during the year, including a Faculty Alumni Day.

All these activities are supported by the Personal Tutor system and a *Professional Development Planning* process that can be adapted to students' needs.

We also provide opportunities for students to engage in work-related learning through active learning and the application of skills in work-related environments. This consists of an understanding of working environments and the impact of globalisation on career goals. In addition, English Literature students will have the opportunity to take the Faculty-wide *Learning from Experience (LiFE)* unit, which allows students to gain credit from paid/unpaid work, volunteering, placements, internships, working on research projects alongside academic staff etc. Projects linked to English Literature combinations may include Archive Work and Research Assistantships.

Furthermore, all students will have an opportunity to undertake a *work-based project* (where appropriate) as an alternative to the traditional dissertation.

Finally, at levels 5 and 6 students have the opportunity to study a *language* as part of preparing students for the global labour market and as part of our commitment to internationalisation.