



UNIVERSITY OF  
PORTSMOUTH

# COURSE SPECIFICATION

## *BA (Hons) History*

**Academic Standards, Quality and Partnerships  
Department of Student and Academic Administration**

**March 2018**

### **Copyright**

The contents of this document are the copyright of the University of Portsmouth and all rights are reserved. No part of this publication may be reproduced, stored in a retrieval system or transmitted, in any form or by any means, such as electronic, mechanical, photocopied, recorded or otherwise, without the prior consent of the University of Portsmouth.

# COURSE SPECIFICATION

Please refer to the [Course Specification Guidance Notes](#) for guidance on completing this document.

<b>Course Title</b>	<b><i>Title of ALL named awards, including staged awards if applicable</i></b>
Final Award	<i>BA</i>
Exit Awards	<i>CertHE, DipHE</i>
Course Code / UCAS code (if applicable)	
Mode of study	<i>full time</i>
Mode of delivery	<i>Campus</i>
Normal length of course	<i>3 years, 4 years with placement</i>
Cohort(s) to which this course specification applies	<i>September 2019 intake onwards</i>
Awarding Body	<i>University of Portsmouth</i>
Teaching Institution	<i>University of Portsmouth</i>
Faculty	<i>School of Area Studies, History, Politics and International Relations</i>
School/Department/Subject Group	<i>Full name of the owning University of Portsmouth Department/School/Subject Group</i>
School/Department/Subject Group webpage	<a href="http://www2.port.ac.uk/school-of-social-historical-and-literary-studies/">http://www2.port.ac.uk/school-of-social-historical-and-literary-studies/</a>
Course webpage including entry criteria	<a href="https://www.port.ac.uk/study/courses/ba-hons-history">https://www.port.ac.uk/study/courses/ba-hons-history</a>
Professional and/or Statutory Regulatory Body accreditations	<i>none</i>
<a href="#">Quality Assurance Agency Framework for Higher Education Qualifications (FHEQ) Level</a>	<i>level 4, 5, 6</i>

This course specification provides a summary of the main features of the course, identifies the aims and learning outcomes of the course, the teaching, learning and assessment methods used by teaching staff, and the reference points used to inform the curriculum.

This information is therefore useful to potential students to help them choose the right course of study, to current students on the course and to staff teaching and administering the course.

Further detailed information on the individual modules within the course may be found in the relevant module descriptors and the Course Handbook provided to students on enrolment.

Please refer to the [Module Web Search](#) for further information on the course structure and modules.

## Educational aims of the course

- To enable students to develop a sound knowledge and understanding of the academic discipline of history
- To enable students to understand and apply key concepts, approaches and critiques within the field of history and appreciate its contested nature
- To enable students to develop knowledge of changing historiographical interpretations of the past and to encourage critical thinking about a range of themes within history (including class, gender, race, disability and sexuality)
- To equip students with the necessary transferable skills to lifelong learning and graduate employment in the context of changing labour markets
- To provide students with the skills and the knowledge required to maximise career and postgraduate study opportunities
- To provide an opportunity for students to gain experience and skills relevant to employment or further study within History by choosing relevant work placement and/or study abroad options.
- To provide a framework for students to follow a flexible, coherent programme of study, allowing them to develop specialist interests and knowledge in their main subject and in a minor subject via a Pathway.

This course offers subject Pathways in Politics, and in Sociology, each with a different named exit award. A student who satisfies the Pathway requirements will qualify for the following named awards:

- BA (Hons) History with Politics
- BA (Hons) History with Sociology

Pathways provide flexibility in the course by offering an academically coherent combination of modules in another subject area for a student to undertake alongside their main degree subject. All students apply for the Single Honours degree and follow a common curricula of core modules at level 4. All participating Single Honours degrees include a 20 credit bridging modules for each Pathway. These modules cover essential material on the Single Honours, and also introduce students to the subject Pathways offered at Levels 5 and 6 through their interdisciplinary flavour. The Bridging modules enhance the experience of all students, regardless of whether they opt for a Pathway, by introducing them to related subject areas that complement the main degree subject.

A students chooses whether to continue on the Single Honours programme or join a Pathway when making their options choices for Level 5. In order to satisfy the requirements for the recommendation of the Pathway award a student must have been awarded 40 credits at level 5 and 40 credits in level 6 in subject Pathway units. A student who joins a Pathway at Level 5 but decides that they do not wish to remain on it, can return to the Single Honours Programme at Level 6, with the exception of those programmes subject to professional accreditation requirements.

## Course Learning Outcomes and Learning, Teaching and Assessment Strategies

The [Quality Assurance Agency for Higher Education \(QAA\)](#) sets out a national framework of qualification levels, and the associated standards of achievement are found in their [Framework for Higher Education Qualifications](#) document.

The Course Learning Outcomes for this course are outlined in the tables below.

**A. Knowledge and understanding of:**

LO number	Learning outcome	Learning and Teaching methods	Assessment methods
A1	Command of a substantial body of historical knowledge <b>and where a pathway is followed</b> The political significance of multiple polities coexisting and of political boundary drawing and transforming practices (Politics) or Demonstrate an understanding of the range of classical and contemporary sociological theories, and concepts (Sociology)	Lectures, seminars, tutorials, workshops, student and tutor led sessions, skills, discussion and knowledge based classes, group work	<i>essays, exams, portfolios, presentations, seminar performance, dissertation, document analyses</i>
A2	The ability to develop and sustain historical arguments in a variety of literary forms, formulating appropriate questions and utilising evidence <b>and where a pathway is followed</b> The concepts, theories and methods used in the study of Politics (Pol) or Evaluate the strengths and weaknesses of the range of sociological research methods (Soc)		
A3	An ability to interrogate, read, analyse and reflect critically and contextually upon contemporary texts and other primary sources, including visual and material sources <b>and where a pathway is followed</b> Knowledge and understanding of the origins, evolution and contemporary dynamics of the international system and the challenges to it (Pol) or Identify distinctively sociological understandings of self and cultural identities (Soc)		
A4	An appreciation of the complexity of reconstructing the past, and the problematic and varied nature of historical evidence <b>and where a pathway is followed</b> Different interpretations of world political events and issues (Pol) or Appreciate the inter-relationships between the local and the global in sociological analysis (Soc)		
A5	An understanding of the varieties of approaches to understanding, constructing, and interpreting the past including, where relevant, a knowledge of concepts and theories derived from the humanities and social sciences <b>and where a pathway is followed</b> The contested nature of knowledge and understanding, including the normative and positive foundations of political ideas (Pol) or Discuss social diversity and inequality and their impact on the lives of individuals and groups (Soc) sciences		

**B. Cognitive (Intellectual or Thinking) skills, able to:**

LO	Learning outcome	Learning and	Assessment
----	------------------	--------------	------------

number		Teaching methods	methods
B1	The ability to gather and deploy evidence and data to find, retrieve, sort and exchange new information	<i>Lectures, seminars, tutorials, workshops, student and tutor led sessions, skills, discussion and knowledge based classes, group work</i>	
B2	A command of comparative perspectives, which may include the ability to compare the histories of different countries, societies, or cultures		
B3	Awareness of continuity and change over extended time spans		
B4	An understanding of the development of history as a subject and the awareness of different types of historical question and historical methodology		
B5	An ability to design, research, and present a sustained and independently conceived piece of historical writing		

### C. Practical (Professional or Subject) skills, able to:

LO number	Learning outcome	Learning and Teaching methods	Assessment methods
C1	The ability to address historical problems in depth, involving the use of contemporary sources and advanced secondary literature <b>and where a pathway is followed</b> Describe and illustrate the nature of international relations, including definitions of the boundaries of the political (Pol) or Demonstrate competence in using major theoretical perspectives and concepts in sociology, and their application to social life (Soc)	<i>Lectures, seminars, tutorials, workshops, student and tutor led sessions, skills, discussion and knowledge based classes, group work</i>	<i>essays, exams, portfolios, presentations, seminar performance, dissertation, document analyses</i>
C2	Clarity, fluency, and coherence in written expression <b>and where a pathway is followed</b> Demonstrate familiarity with a range of key concepts, theories and methods employed in the study of Politics (Pol) or Analyse, assess, and communicate empirical sociological information (Soc)		
C3	Clarity, fluency and coherence in oral expression <b>and where a pathway is followed</b> Describe and illustrate the structure and operation of different international political systems; the social, economic, cultural and historical contexts of political behaviour; and the factors accounting for political change (Pol) or Identify a range of different research strategies and methods and comment on their relative advantages and disadvantages (Soc)		
C4	The ability to work collaboratively and to participate in group discussion <b>and where a</b>		

	<b>pathway is followed</b> Describe and illustrate the contested nature of knowledge and understanding, including the normative and positive foundations of political ideas (Pol) or Conduct sociological research in a preliminary way (Soc)		
C5	Competence in specialist skills which are necessary for some areas of historical analysis and understanding, as appropriate <b>and where a pathway is followed</b> Describe and illustrate different interpretations of international political issues and events (Pol) or Undertake and present scholarly work demonstrating initiative and time management (Soc)		

#### D. Transferrable (Graduate and Employability) skills, able to:

LO number	Learning outcome	Learning and Teaching methods	Assessment methods
D1	Use communication and information technologies for the retrieval and presentation of information	<i>Lectures, seminars, tutorials, workshops, student and tutor led sessions, skills, discussion and knowledge based classes, group work</i>	<i>essays, exams, portfolios, presentations, seminar performance, dissertation, document analyses</i>
D2	Communicate ideas, both orally and in writing		
D3	Collaborate with others to achieve common goals		
D4	Develop reasoned arguments and synthesise information in order to identify and investigate problems		
D5	Manage their own learning and undertake academic work with guidance and feedback to critically review their own performance.		

### Academic Regulations

The current University of Portsmouth [Academic Regulations](#) will apply to this course.

### Support for Student Learning

The University of Portsmouth provides a comprehensive range of support services for students throughout their course, details of which are available at the [MyPort](#) student portal.

In addition to these University support services this course also provides support within the School from the Welfare and Engagement Leads, Learning Development Tutors and Personal Tutorial system.

### Evaluation and Enhancement of Standards and Quality in Learning and Teaching

The University of Portsmouth undertakes comprehensive monitoring, review and evaluation of courses within clearly assigned staff responsibilities. Student feedback is a key feature in these evaluations, as represented in our [Policy for Listening to and Responding to the Student Voice](#) where you can also find further information.

## Reference Points

The course and outcomes have been developed taking account of:

*Insert additional reference points or delete as required*

- [University of Portsmouth Curriculum Framework Specification](#)
- [University of Portsmouth Education Strategy 2016 - 2020](#)
- [University of Portsmouth Code of Practice for Work-based and Placement Learning](#)
- [Quality Assurance Agency UK Quality Code for Higher Education](#)
- [Quality Assurance Agency Qualification Characteristic Statements](#)
- [Quality Assurance Agency Subject Benchmark Statement](#) for **History**
- [Quality Assurance Agency Framework for Higher Education Qualifications](#)
- Requirements of Professional and/or Statutory Regulatory Bodies: **add name(s) of PSRB(s)**
- Vocational and professional experience, scholarship and research expertise of the University of Portsmouth's academic members of staff
- National Occupational Standards

## Disclaimer

The University of Portsmouth has checked the information provided in this Course Specification and will endeavour to deliver this course in keeping with this Course Specification. However, changes to the course may sometimes be required arising from annual monitoring, student feedback, and the review and update of modules and courses.

Where this activity leads to significant changes to modules and courses there will be prior consultation with students and others, wherever possible, and the University of Portsmouth will take all reasonable steps to minimise disruption to students.

It is also possible that the University of Portsmouth may not be able to offer a module or course for reasons outside of its control, for example, due to the absence of a member of staff or low student registration numbers. Where this is the case, the University of Portsmouth will endeavour to inform applicants and students as soon as possible, and where appropriate, will facilitate the transfer of affected students to another suitable course.

## Copyright

The contents of this Course Specification are the copyright of the University of Portsmouth and all rights are reserved. No part of this publication may be reproduced, stored in a retrieval system or transmitted, in any form or by any means, such as electronic, mechanical, photocopied, recorded or otherwise, without the prior consent of the University of Portsmouth.

## Document details

Author	<i>Jodi Burkett</i>
Date of production and version number	<i>18 July 2018 [V1]</i>
Date of update and version number	
Minimum student registration numbers	20