

## **Introduction to**

# BA (Hons) English 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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# **Combined Honours Programme Specification Supplement**

## **1. Named Award**

BA (Hons) English and History

## **2. Course Code (and UCAS Code if applicable)**

C1095 (QV31)

To view units and course structures please visit [www.port.ac.uk/unitwebsearch](http://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: June 2016

## **6. Effective Session**

2016 - 17

## **7. Home Course Leader**

Dr Jodi Burkett

## **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 Literature 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

History and English, as text-based subjects, are complementary and closely allied. This degree aims to provide a broad understanding of the main approaches to analysing historical and literary phenomena, as well as the opportunity to focus on areas in each discipline that particularly interest you. You will study prose, poetry and drama in relation to its cultural and historical background, as well as undertake focused and critical analysis across a range of historical periods. In the course of your degree, you might consider Victorian literature, postmodern fiction or seventeenth century poetry; you might investigate the importance of empire in nineteenth century Europe, protest movements in post-war Britain, or the French Revolution.

You will also develop and apply a range of theoretical perspectives to evaluate historical evidence and analyse literary texts. This will provide you with an understanding of contemporary theoretical debates and how they relate to critical practice. The course facilitates the development of both independent study and collaborative work. It offers you the ability to make real choices in how your study is balanced through our option units and dissertation.

## 14. Educational Aims of the Course

- To provide a broad knowledge of literature and literary language from a range of periods 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 text and its cultural and socio-historical context, and the role of 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 interaction of 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 both English and History as continually evolving disciplines, engaging students in life-long learning and encourage an appreciation of the subjects' 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 and History or related disciplines.
- 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 recognising the particular needs and potential contribution of mature and non-standard entrants.
- To further students' personal and career development.

## 15. Employability Statement

All single and 'home' combined honours students have a named personal tutor who will take responsibility for overseeing and/or providing general academic and pastoral support for their personal tutees throughout the year. Formal personal tutor/tutee interactions include:

**At Level 4**, two group meetings in induction week. History at University and Poetry and Poetics are subject foundation units ('skills plus') where students are introduced to core graduate academic and employability skills which are embedded in each discipline. Each unit includes 12 weekly group meetings, which exceeds the minimum of eight specified in the Curriculum Framework Document. Students will also have at least two individual meetings with their personal tutor during each teaching phase (which include personal and professional development planning, feedback on academic performance and referral to specialist student services where appropriate) during the academic year, plus additional individual meetings on request.

**At Level 5**, two group meetings in induction week (which include re-induction, academic engagement, student responsibilities, subject specific matters); two group meetings in the Consolidation and Assessment Period (which include careers, PDP, graduate employability programme, research management and dissertation); three individual meetings with their personal tutor (which include personal and professional development planning, feedback on academic performance, referral to specialist student services where appropriate) during the academic year (usually in weeks 6, 14 and 22) plus additional individual meetings on request.

**At Level 6**, two group meetings in induction week (which include re-induction, academic engagement, student responsibilities, subject specific matters, research management and dissertation) and at least two individual meetings as part of the dissertation supervision process (or if the personal tutor is not the supervisor, two separate scheduled meetings).

Personal tutorial support for 'away' combined honours students is provided by their 'home' department, but continuity and equivalence of support is maintained through liaison between the two course teams. Both History and English Literature have a dedicated Combined Honours tutor to support the liaison process.