

Introduction to

BA (Hons) English and Media Studies

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.

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 electronic, mechanical, photocopying, recording or otherwise, without the prior consent of the University of Portsmouth.

Contents

Combined Honours Programme Specification Supplement

1. Named Award	1
2. Course Code (and UCAS Code if applicable)	1
3. Awarding Body.....	1
4. Teaching Institution	1
5. Document Control Information.....	1
6. Effective Session	1
7. <i>Home</i> Course Leader	1
8. <i>Home</i> Faculty.....	1
9. <i>Home</i> Department.....	1
10. About this Programme Specification Supplement	1
11. The Combined Honours Degree Course at the University of Portsmouth	2
12. Course Management.....	2
13. Course Rationale	2
14. Educational Aims of the Course.....	2
15. Employability Statement.....	3

Combined Honours Programme Specification Supplement

1. Named Award

BA (Hons) English and Media Studies

2. Course Code (and UCAS Code if applicable)

C1095 (QP33)

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: August 2016

6. Effective Session

7. –2016-17 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 Literature Half - PSD

A2. Combined Honours Media Studies 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

Our BA (Hons) English and Media Studies is an exciting degree that allows you to combine literary study with the critical analysis of a broad range of contemporary media forms. The programme is composed of compulsory strands in English literature and media studies, along with a wide-ranging choice of options in both subjects.

After the first year you are able to vary the balance of your studies across the two disciplines, tailoring your course to reflect individual interests and future career plans. While the degree is primarily academic, the programme includes opportunities for practical and project-based media work such as video production projects.

Analysing literary and media texts (films, TV programmes, adverts, etc.) draws on similar interpretive and theoretical skills. This course enables you to develop these skills while also understanding what is distinctive about each subject as a discipline.

You might study English units with a particular relevance to media studies, such as Writing Now: Contemporary Fiction and Crime Writing, or media units which help you understand the contemporary cultural context for English fiction, such as Approaches to Popular Culture or Screen Media.

The BA (Hons) English and Media Studies 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. This breadth of specialist interests fosters a wide range of perspectives and helps 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.

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 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.

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, Advanced Media 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.

At level 5 all students will be asked to present a critical assessment as a simulated work-related task as part of the assessment for the core unit Literary Prizes and Public Acclaim. 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.