

## **Introduction to**

# BA (Hons) Sociology 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.

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# **Combined Honours Programme Specification Supplement**

## **1. Named Award**

BA (Hons) Sociology and Media Studies

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

C1586 (LP33)

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: August 2016

## **6. Effective Session**

2016- 17

## **7. Home Course Leader**

Dr Joseph Burridge

## **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 Sociology 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

We live in a media saturated world and the media industries represent the fastest-growing sector of the British economy. Much of our social knowledge is gained through the television, radio, cinema, video, books, newspapers and websites. Doing this degree will enable you to explore the important and complex relationship between the media and society.

The course will provide you with a strong foundation in the theory and methodology of the disciplines and their application to the analysis of social phenomena. It facilitates the development of both independent study and collaborative work, plus offers you the chance to make real choices in the balance of your studies and selection of a dissertation topic that reflects your individual academic interests.

From Sociology, you will begin with major theoretical perspectives in sociology and specific topics such as social inequalities and social change. Options vary from year to year but include areas such as race and ethnicity, gender and sexuality, food and culture, war and violence, sociology of culture, and work and employment.

The Media Studies aspect of your programme of study primarily involves the theoretical and critical study of different media - including film, the broadcasting media, print media, and new media technologies. You will also have an opportunity to develop some production and new media technology skills and study units such as popular music or the representation of science in the media. Your final year dissertation will provide the opportunity to examine in detail the part of your course that has interested you most.

We expect to recruit a variety of students who may offer different sorts of qualifications or demonstrate evidence of competence or ability to succeed on the programme.

## 14. Educational Aims of the Course

- To enable students to develop knowledge and understanding of the social world by focusing on the relations that connect individuals, groups and institutions.
- To develop an awareness of the nature of social processes, social diversity and inequality, and social change.
- To provide students with a strong foundation in the key concepts and theoretical approaches developed within sociology and the research strategies and methods used in gaining

sociological knowledge.

- To enable students to develop an understanding of the relationship between sociological argument and evidence.
- To facilitate the development of both students' independent study and collaborative work.
- To prepare students to undertake postgraduate research or to complete specialised professional Training.
- To provide a challenging and stimulating study environment.
- To provide a framework allowing students to follow a coherent but varied programme of study.
- To develop skills of critical thinking.
- To encourage the development of sophisticated skills of research.
- To promote the student's ability to make independent judgments of a wide range of texts, visual and written.
- To equip students with other transferable skills for flexibility in the context of changing labour markets.
- To foster knowledge and understanding of the media and related industries.
- To challenge individuals in a supportive environment to realize their potential as reflective thinkers, researchers and practitioners.
- To provide students with the opportunity to study a language unit.
- 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 L4 to L6. Core units at each level include most of the academic and employability skills that are listed in Annex 5 of the 2012 Curriculum Framework. **Career management skills** specifically (as a subset of employability skills) are embedded throughout the curriculum.

