

Introduction to

BA (Hons) American Studies and History

Combined Honours Programme Specification Supplement 2016-2017

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) AMERICAN STUDIES AND HISTORY

2. Course Code (and UCAS Code if applicable)

C1690F (TV71)

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

August 2016

6. Effective Session

2016-2017

7. Home Course Leader

DR LEE SARTAIN

8. Home Faculty

FACULTY OF HUMANITIES AND SOCIAL SCIENCES

9. Home Department

SCHOOL OF LANGUAGES AND AREA 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 American Studies Half

A2. Combined Honours History Half

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. On the American studies and History Combined Honours Programme, students may alternatively choose to write a research project instead of a dissertation. The Research Project must be on a topic supervised by the home department (SLAS) and must be undertaken in conjunction with a Directed Research Unit (DRU). The DRU for this particular joint honours is We, The People.

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

American Studies and History at Portsmouth will enable you to study two complementary subjects in depth, combining an interest in European history and culture with an interest in the Americas.

This course is designed to develop critical awareness in relation to the development and current state of two different academic fields. The course incorporates a balance of compulsory units from both subject areas. It offers the opportunity to acquire a core body of knowledge from the disciplines of American Studies and History and also aims to foster your ability to work in an interdisciplinary context.

American Studies and History at the University of Portsmouth takes a pan-American, multi-disciplinary approach. This will enable you to acquire a substantial knowledge of North America, Latin America and Europe, through a range of disciplines including film, literature, politics, geography, economics and, of course, history.

On this course you will also have the opportunity to spend a period abroad at one of our link universities in the USA or Mexico or on an internship in Washington DC.

14. Educational Aims of the Course

- To enable students to acquire a sound knowledge and understanding of North America and Latin America past and present.
- To provide students with knowledge and understanding of North America and Latin America using a range of appropriate disciplinary or multidisciplinary approaches.
- To enable students to acquire an informed sense of the similarities and differences between areas, thus fostering cross-cultural and international perspectives.
- To enable students to acquire an informed sense of the similarities and differences between areas, thus fostering cross-cultural and international perspectives.

- To provide a challenging and stimulating study environment.
- To provide a framework allowing students to follow a flexible coherent programme of study.
- To provide students with the opportunity to develop academic knowledge and skills.
- To enable students 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.
- The programme provides an opportunity for students to gain experience and skills relevant to employment (or further study) by choosing relevant work placement/work based learning/study options. These include optional study at partner universities in USA or Mexico, and internships in Washington DC.
- 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

Employability skills will be delivered (and assessed where applicable) throughout the curriculum. We will provide structured support to enable students to develop their employability skills from L4 to L6. Core units at each level will include most of the academic and employability skills that are listed in Annex 5 of the 2012 Curriculum Framework. In addition, some course teams will have relevant work-related units in the curriculum.