COURSE SPECIFICATION
INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS

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

March 2018

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COURSE SPECIFICATION

Please refer to the Course Specification Guidance Notes for guidance on completing this document.

Course Title	INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS
Final Award	BA
Exit Awards	CertHE, DipHE.
Course Code / UCAS code (if applicable)	C2068 (L253)
Mode of study	full time
Mode of delivery	Campus
Normal length of course	3 years, 4 years with placement
Cohort(s) to which this course specification applies	September 2019 intake onwards
Awarding Body	University of Portsmouth
Teaching Institution	University of Portsmouth
Faculty	Humanities and Social Sciences
School/Department/Subject Group	School of Area Studies, Politics and International Relations
School/Department/Subject Group webpage	http://www2.port.ac.uk/school-of-social-historical-and-literary-studies/
Course webpage including entry criteria	http://www.port.ac.uk/courses/history-politics-and-social-studies/ba-hons-international-relations/
Professional and/or Statutory Regulatory Body accreditations	none
Quality Assurance Agency Framework for Higher Education Qualifications (FHEQ) Level	level 4,5,6

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 international relations

- To enable students to understand and apply key concepts, approaches and critiques within the field of International Relations and to develop an appreciation for its contested nature

- To enable students to develop knowledge of historical and contemporary international relations and to encourage critical thinking about a range of international political phenomena (including events, issues, change, values, ideas and institutions) in a global context

- To equip students with the necessary transferable skills for 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 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 History, and in International Development, each with a different named exit award. A student who satisfies the Pathway requirements will qualify for the following named awards:

- BA (Hons) International Relations with History

- BA (Hons) International Relations with International Development

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 student 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	The political significance of multiple polities coexisting and of political boundary drawing and transforming practices (*PIR*) and, **where a pathway is followed**, historical knowledge (*HI*), or the origins, evolution and contemporary dynamics of international development policy and practice (*ID*)	These are developed through a combination of lectures, seminars, tutorials, workshops, student and tutor led sessions, skills, discussion and knowledge based classes, simulation exercises. Methods vary based on the topics being covered	Essays, exams, reports, portfolios, dissertation, presentations, posters, projects, reports, seminar performance, briefing papers, group and individual work
A2	The concepts, theories and methods used in the study of international relations and, **where a pathway is followed**, of History (*HI*), or International Development (*ID*)		
A3	A range of international political phenomena, including the origins, evolution and contemporary dynamics of the international system and the challenges to it; the normative and positive foundations of political ideas; the vocabulary of international political debate; the structure and operation of different international political systems; the social, economic, historical and cultural contexts of political behaviour; and the factors accounting for political change		
A4	The contested nature of knowledge and understanding		
A5	Different interpretations of world political events and issues (*PIR*) and, **where a pathway is followed**, ways of constructing and interpreting the past, (*HI*), or the analysis of development ideas, practices and issues relative to the historical and contemporary context (*ID*)		

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

LO number	Learning outcome	Learning and Teaching methods	Assessment methods
B1	Identify issues for political enquiry; assess their ethical implications; and gather, organise and deploy evidence, data and information from a variety of sources, and communicate ideas, both orally and in writing	These outcomes are primarily developed through seminars, tutorials, workshops, student and tutor led sessions, skills, discussion and knowledge based classes, simulation exercises. Methods vary based on the topics being covered	Essays, exams, reports, portfolios, dissertation, presentations, posters, projects, reports, seminar performance, briefing papers, group and individual work
B2	Construct reasoned argument, synthesise relevant information and exercise critical judgement		
B3	Recognise the importance of explicit referencing and the ethical requirements of study which requires critical and reflective use of information and communications technology in the learning process		
B4	Identify, investigate, analyse, formulate and advocate solutions to problems		
B5	Reflect on their own learning and seek and make use of constructive feedback in order to manage their own learning self-critically		

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

LO number	Learning outcome	Learning and Teaching methods	Assessment methods
C1	Describe and illustrate the nature of international relations, including definitions of the boundaries of the political and, **where a pathway is followed**, the ability to address historical problems (*HI*), or analyse, assess, and communicate empirical sociological information (SOC)	These outcomes are developed primarily through lectures, seminars, tutorials, workshops, student and tutor led sessions, skills, discussion and knowledge based classes, simulation exercises. Methods vary based on the topics being	Essays, exams, reports, portfolios, dissertation, presentations, posters, projects, reports, seminar performance, briefing papers, group and individual work
C2	Demonstrate familiarity with a range of key concepts, theories and methods employed in the study international relations, and the strengths and weaknesses of these approaches and, **where a pathway is followed**, competence in specialist skills which are necessary for some areas of historical analysis and understanding (*HI*), or, awareness of cultural assumptions, including their own, and the ways in which these impact on an interpretation of others in the context of international development engagement (*ID*)		
C3	Describe and illustrate a range of international political phenomena, including the origins, evolution and contemporary dynamics of the international system and the challenges to it; the normative and positive foundations of political ideas; the vocabulary of international political debate; the structure and operation of different international political systems; the social, economic, historical and cultural contexts of political behaviour; and the factors accounting for political change		
C4	Describe and illustrate the contested nature of knowledge and understanding		
C5	Describe and illustrate different interpretations of international political issues and events.		

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

LO number	Learning outcome	Learning and Teaching methods	Assessment methods
D1	Identify issues for enquiry; assess their ethical implications; and gather, organise and deploy evidence, data and information from a variety of sources, and communicate ideas, both orally and in writing	These outcomes are developed primarily through seminars, tutorials, workshops, student and tutor led sessions, skills, discussion and knowledge based classes, simulation exercises. Methods vary based on the topics being covered	Essays, exams, reports, portfolios, dissertation, presentations, posters, projects, reports, seminar performance, briefing papers, group and individual work
D2	Use communication and information technologies for the retrieval and presentation of information		
D3	Collaborate with others to achieve common goals.		
D4	Identify, investigate, analyse and advocate solutions to problems via an ability to develop a reasoned argument, synthesise relevant information and exercise critical judgement		
D5	Manage their own learning and undertake academic work with guidance, feedback, and support feedback to review critically 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 Lead, 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:

● 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 Politics and International Relations Quality Assurance Agency Framework for Higher Education Qualifications
● 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.

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Document details

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