

Introduction to

BA (Hons) Journalism with English Literature

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) Journalism with English Literature

2. Course Code (and UCAS Code if applicable)

C2382 (P5QJ)

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

Mary Williams

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 Journalism Section - PSD

A2. Combined Honours English Literature Section - 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. This is the case for Journalism with English Literature.

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

This combined honours degree brings together the practice of journalism with the study of English literature, allowing you to combine your interest in finding out and writing about the real world with the study of literary texts. Journalism is an exciting, fast-changing world where you not only need the ability to find and tell a story, but an array of technical skills to communicate that tale to the public. At Portsmouth we are committed to helping you gain the skills to progress in your career.

Over the course of your degree you will learn the basic skills of journalism, study shorthand as an integral part of your journalistic skills, and learn the theory underlying the practice of journalism. We intend that our graduates are not just proficient but also reflective practitioners of journalism with significant knowledge of another subject.

This is a combination offering fantastic choices to those who love literature and want to learn the basics of journalism. You can study Magical Realism and The Gothic Novel as you learn how to create video content for online platforms, and write news and feature stories as you are introduced to the Literature of War and Revolution.

Portsmouth graduates have a good record of finding employment and the focus on our journalism course is on making you employable as a journalist. If you choose to pursue a career in journalism, you will be ideally equipped with the skills to work on magazines, newspapers and online sites, but you will also be prepared to consider other destinations such as public relations and marketing, where your journalistic skills will be highly valued.

Many of the skills you will acquire on this course are also useful in other areas - the ability to interview people, record and analyse what is said, and present (or re-present) complex information in a form where it can be easily understood are just some of the transferable skills this course offers which can enhance your employability.

Other skills include written and oral communication, IT, group working, organisation and the exercising of independent initiative. All open up a wide range of careers.

The university is also an accredited examination centre for the National Council for the Training of Journalists, the journalism industry's key training body. Students have the opportunity to sit a number of NCTJ examinations but applicants are advised that if they wish to take all the NCTJ core examinations they should apply for the Single Honours Journalism course.

Enquiries are particularly welcomed from mature candidates (over 21 years of age) who may not hold the formal qualifications usually required for admission to the course. This degree is particularly committed to recruiting such students who will usually hold an Access qualification or equivalent.

14. Educational Aims of the Course

- To provide a framework allowing students to follow a flexible and coherent programme of study across two subject areas and to develop specialist interests and knowledge.
- To develop students' theoretical and practical knowledge and understanding of Journalism and English Literature.
- To enable students to place journalism in its historical and political context, and to acquire the critical skills necessary to study journalism.
- To provide the means for students to acquire practical and production skills in print and online journalism to a professional pre-entry standard.
- To foster within students an awareness of professional values, ethical codes and regulatory frameworks governing practitioners of journalism.
- To equip graduates with the necessary transferable skills for lifelong learning 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.
- To provide an understanding of the basic concepts, modes of analysis and theoretical approaches in those areas which contribute to the study of English Literature.
- To provide the opportunity to study a substantial range of literary and non-fictional texts.
- To enable students to understand and apply a range of concepts to study a range of texts.
- To enable students to develop a high standard of literacy, communication skills, and skills of critical argument.
- To prepare students for further research in journalism, literature or related areas.
- To provide a challenging and stimulating study environment.
- 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.

15. Employability Statement

The degree is intended to produce graduates who will also have the ability to produce a variety of journalism content for print and digital platforms to deadline, to extract key points from complex and conflicting sources, and to analyse and understand nuances of writing and language across a range of media and applications. Graduates will have the ability to interview people using a variety of methods, along with a good knowledge of law and ethics, and a strong sense of time management based on the many journalism tasks they will have undertaken during their three years at Portsmouth. In addition, they will be able to produce print, video and digital content for newspapers, magazines and online platforms, and have a wide range of transferable digital skills.

Employability skills are delivered (and assessed where applicable) throughout the curriculum. We provide structured support to enable students to develop their employability skills from Level 4 to Level 6. 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. Journalism students will have the opportunity to take a work-related unit, Learning from Experience, (LiFE) at Level 5 or Level 6, and can also undertake either the Level 6 Placement and Digital Portfolio unit which involves a ten day placement or the Press and Public Relations unit which involves working with real-world clients for the unit assessment.

Students can elect to take a sandwich year. This usually takes place at the end of the second year. On completion of the year-long work placement the student returns to full time study to complete Level Six.