COURSE SPECIFICATION
BA (Hons) Politics

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

July 2021

COURSE SPECIFICATION

Course Title	BA (HONS) POLITICS
Final Award	BA (Hons)
Exit Awards	CertHE, DipHE, Ordinary
Course Code / UCAS code (if applicable)	C0313F/U0313PYC (L200)
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 2020 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, History, Politics, and Literature
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-politics/
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 Course and Module Catalogue for further information on the course structure and modules.

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Educational aims of the course

- To enable students to develop a sound knowledge and understanding of the academic discipline of politics

- To enable students to understand and apply key concepts, approaches and critiques within the field of Politics and to appreciate its contested nature

- To enable students to develop knowledge of historical and contemporary politics and to encourage critical thinking about a range of 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 an opportunity for students to gain experience and skills relevant to employment or further study within the Politics and International Relations subject area by choosing relevant work placement and/or study abroad options.

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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 nature and significance of politics as a human activity	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, infographics, projects, reports, seminar performance, briefing papers, creating documentaries and blog posts and group and individual work
A2	The concepts, theories and methods used in the study of politics		
A3	A range of political phenomena, including the normative and positive foundations of political ideas; the vocabulary of political debate; the structure and operation of different 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 political issues and events		

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 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, infographics, projects, reports, seminar performance, briefing papers, creating documentaries and blog posts and 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 politics, including definitions of the boundaries of the political	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 covered	Essays, exams, reports, portfolios, dissertation, presentations, infographics, projects, reports, seminar performance, briefing papers, creating documentaries and blog posts and group and individual work
C2	Demonstrate familiarity with a range of key concepts, theories and methods employed in the study politics, and the strengths and weaknesses of these approaches		
C3	Describe and illustrate a range of political phenomena, including the normative and positive foundations of political ideas; the vocabulary of political debate; the structure and operation of different 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 political issues and events.		

D. Transferable (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, infographics, projects, reports, seminar performance, briefing papers, creating documentaries and blog posts and 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 Senior Tutor, 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 Strategy
- 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

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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