



UNIVERSITY OF  
PORTSMOUTH

# COURSE SPECIFICATION

## *BA (Hons) History*

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

**July 2021**

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# COURSE SPECIFICATION

<b>Course Title</b>	<b><i>BA (Hons) History</i></b>
Final Award	<i>BA</i>
Exit Awards	<i>CertHE, DipHE, Ordinary</i>
Course Code / UCAS code (if applicable)	<i>C1087S, U1087PYC</i>
Mode of study	<i>full time</i>
Mode of delivery	<i>Campus</i>
Normal length of course	<i>3 years, 4 years with placement</i>
Cohort(s) to which this course specification applies	<i>September 2020 intake onwards</i>
Awarding Body	<i>University of Portsmouth</i>
Teaching Institution	<i>University of Portsmouth</i>
Faculty	<i>School of Area Studies, History, Politics and International Relations</i>
School/Department/Subject Group	<i>Full name of the owning University of Portsmouth Department/School/Subject Group</i>
School/Department/Subject Group webpage	<a href="http://www2.port.ac.uk/school-of-social-historical-and-literary-studies/">http://www2.port.ac.uk/school-of-social-historical-and-literary-studies/</a>
Course webpage including entry criteria	<a href="https://www.port.ac.uk/study/courses/ba-hons-history">https://www.port.ac.uk/study/courses/ba-hons-history</a>
Professional and/or Statutory Regulatory Body accreditations	<i>none</i>
<a href="#">Quality Assurance Agency Framework for Higher Education Qualifications (FHEQ) Level</a>	<i>level 4, 5, 6</i>

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.

## Educational aims of the course

- To enable students to develop a sound knowledge and understanding of the academic discipline of history
- To enable students to understand and apply key concepts, approaches and critiques within the field of history and appreciate its contested nature
- To enable students to develop knowledge of changing historiographical interpretations of the past and to encourage critical thinking about a range of themes within history (including class, gender, race, disability and sexuality)
- To equip students with the necessary transferable skills to 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 History by choosing relevant work placement and/or study abroad options.
- 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 Politics, Sociology, and American Studies each with a different named exit award. A student who satisfies the Pathway requirements will qualify for the following named awards:

- BA (Hons) History with Politics
- BA (Hons) History with Sociology
- BA (Hons) History with American Studies

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	Command of a substantial body of historical knowledge <b>and where a pathway is followed</b> describe and illustrate the nature of politics, including definitions of the boundaries of the political (Politics); develop the ability to formulate and investigate sociologically informed questions (Sociology); demonstrate knowledge of the Americas, its history, culture, environment and society, as defined by the course leader (American Studies)	Lectures, seminars, tutorials, workshops, student and tutor led sessions, skills, discussion and knowledge based classes, group work	<i>essays, exams, portfolios, presentations, seminar performance, dissertation, document analyses</i>
A2	The ability to develop and sustain historical arguments in a variety of literary forms, formulating appropriate questions and utilising evidence <b>and where a pathway is followed</b> recognise the ways in which key concepts, theories and methods are used to analyse political ideas, actors, institutions and behaviour (Pol); the ability to identify a range of research strategies and methods and to comment on their relative advantages and disadvantages for sociological research (Soc); demonstrate understanding of the area in its wider geographical context, through comparison with other geographical areas (including the entire globe), and with reference to transnational links connecting the area to other parts of the world (American Studies)		
A3	An ability to interrogate, read, analyse and reflect critically and contextually upon secondary evidence, including historical writings and the interpretations of historians <b>and where a pathway is followed</b> describe and illustrate (international) politics and political phenomena, including the normative and positive foundations of political ideas (Pol); the capacity to identify, assess and analyse sources of evidence in building a sociological argument (Soc); demonstrate awareness of relevant vocabulary and of contributory disciplines and theories (American studies)		

A4	An appreciation of the complexity of reconstructing the past, and the problematic and varied nature of historical evidence <b>and where a pathway is followed</b> recognise the ways in which key concepts, theories and methods are used to analyse political ideas, actors, institutions and behaviour (Pol); the ability to plan and conduct sociological research using quantitative and qualitative data sources, whether using secondary analysis of previous research, naturally occurring data or gathering new data (Soc); describe concepts from different disciplines and/or interdisciplinary approaches as a means of understanding the area (American studies).		
A5	An understanding of the varieties of approaches to understanding, constructing, and interpreting the past; and, where relevant, a knowledge of concepts and theories derived from the humanities and social sciences <b>and where a pathway is followed</b> describe and illustrate different interpretations of political issues and events (Pol); the ability to recognise the relevance of sociological knowledge to social, public and civic policy (Soc); demonstrate awareness of a diverse range of relevant information and research resources (American studies).		

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

LO	Learning outcome	Learning and	Assessment
number		Teaching methods	methods
B1	The ability to gather and deploy evidence and data to find, retrieve, sort and exchange new information	<i>Lectures, seminars, tutorials, workshops, student and tutor led sessions, skills, discussion and knowledge based classes, group work</i>	Essay, exams, portfolios, presentations, seminar performance, dissertation, document analyses
B2	A command of comparative perspectives, which may include the ability to compare the histories of different countries, societies, or cultures		
B3	Awareness of continuity and change over extended time spans		
B4	An understanding of the development of history as a subject and the awareness of different types of historical question and historical methodology		
B5	An ability to design, research, and present a sustained and independently conceived piece of historical writing		

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

LO number	Learning outcome	Learning and Teaching methods	Assessment methods
C1	<p>The ability to address historical problems in depth, involving the use of contemporary sources and advanced secondary literature <b>and where a pathway is followed</b> describe, evaluate and apply different approaches involved in collecting, analysing and presenting political information</p> <p>(Pol); competence in using major theoretical perspectives and concepts in Sociology, and their application to social life (Soc); the ability to compare and contrast the appropriateness of different disciplinary approaches in examining the area studies (American studies).</p>	<p><i>Lectures, seminars, tutorials, workshops, student and tutor led sessions, skills,</i></p> <p><i>discussion and knowledge based classes, group work</i></p>	<p><i>essays, exams, portfolios, presentations</i></p> <p><i>, seminar performance, dissertation, document analyses</i></p>
C2	<p>The ability to gather and deploy evidence and data to find, retrieve, sort and exchange new information</p> <p><b>and where a pathway is followed</b> Apply different concepts, theories and methods to the analysis of political ideas, actors, institutions and behaviour</p> <p>(Pol); the ability to identify a range of research strategies and methods and to comment on their relative advantages and disadvantages for sociological research</p> <p>(Soc); the ability to use research techniques to identify, record, read and critically analyse and interrogate a range of primary and secondary written and/or oral and/or visual sources, in their original language where appropriate, as a medium for understanding another culture (American studies)</p>		
C3	<p>The ability to design, research, and present a sustained and independently conceived piece of historical writing</p> <p><b>and where a pathway is followed</b> Describe and Illustrate the vocabulary of political debate; the structure and operation of different political systems</p> <p>(Pol); the ability to recognise the relevance of sociological knowledge to social, public and civic</p>		

	policy (Soc); select and apply appropriate methodologies and theories (American studies).		
C4	The ability to work collaboratively and to		
C5	An understanding of the ethical dimensions of historical study, writing and research <b>and where a pathway is followed</b> Describe and illustrate the social, economic, cultural and historical contexts of political behaviour (Pol); the ability to understand and apply best ethical practice in sociological enquiry (Soc); analyse issues proficiently in the light of evidence and argument (American studies).		

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

LO number	Learning outcome	Learning and Teaching methods	Assessment methods
D1	Use communication and information technologies for the retrieval and presentation of information	<i>Lectures, seminars, tutorials, workshops, student and tutor led sessions, skills, discussion and knowledge based classes, group work</i>	<i>essays, exams, portfolios, presentations, seminar performance, dissertation, document analyses</i>
D2	Communicate ideas, both orally and in writing		
D3	Collaborate with others to achieve common goals		
D4	Develop reasoned arguments and synthesise information in order to identify and investigate problems		
D5	Manage their own learning and undertake academic work with guidance and feedback to critically review 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 Leads, 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 \*\*History\*\*](#)
- [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

Author	<i>Jodi Burkett</i>
Date of production and version number	<i>18 July 2018 [V1]</i>
Date of update and version number	<i>July 2021 [V3]</i>
Minimum student registration numbers	<i>20</i>