COURSE SPECIFICATION
BA (Hons) History

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Course Title	BA (Hons) History
Final Award	BA
Exit Awards	CertHE, DipHE, Ordinary
Course Code / UCAS code (if applicable)	U1087PYC
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 2022 intake onwards
Awarding Body	University of Portsmouth
Teaching Institution	University of Portsmouth
Faculty	Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences
School/Department/Subject Group	School of Area Studies, Sociology, History, Politics and Literature
School/Department/Subject Group webpage	*https://www.port.ac.uk/about-us/structure-and-governance/organisational-structure/our-academic-structure/faculty-of-humanities-and-social-sciences/school-of-area-studies-sociology-history-politics-and-literature*
Course webpage including entry criteria	*https://www.port.ac.uk/study/courses/ba-hons-history*
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.

Educational Aims of the Course

- To develop the student's knowledge and understanding of selected periods of history, and of themes within these periods;
- To develop the capacity of students for critical evaluation of theoretical perspectives, methodological approaches and empirical evidence in the field of History, and for the application of such perspectives in their work;
- To enable students to recover the diversity of human organisation and experience in the past, to develop an awareness of the development of differing values, systems and societies, and to recognise the enduring legacies of the past in the present;
- To enable students to recognise that scholarly knowledge is contingent on the credibility of evidence and interpretation, and thus subject to revision, adaptation, controversy and change;
- To develop the capacity of students to think critically and independently about events, ideas and institutions;
- To develop the capacity of students to undertake independent research into aspects of History, using appropriate sources and methodologies;
- To enable students to develop skills in written and verbal communication across multiple formats, analytical thinking, creative problem-solving, collection and classification of information, interpretation and evaluation;
- To equip students with the resourcefulness of mind and skills to make a comprehensive contribution to societal development, operating across global contexts, attuned to social justice, environmental responsibility, and the quest to tackle both new and historical global challenges;
- To equip students with employability skills which are embedded in modules and delivered through teaching and assessment methods focusing on 'real world' tasks such as collaborative group work and oral presentations;
- 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 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 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 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	*Understand the problems inherent in the historical record itself* **and where a pathway is followed**; 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)		
A2	Understand how people have existed, acted and thought in the always-different context of the past **and where a pathway is followed** 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	Understand the range of problems involved in the interpretation of complex, ambiguous, conflicting and often incomplete material **and where a pathway is followed** 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	Understand arguments in pursuit of meaningful questions about the past and, by implication, the present and future **and where a pathway is followed** 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).		

LO number	Learning outcome	Learning and Teaching methods	Assessment methods
A5	Appreciate the complexity and diversity of situations, events and mentalities in the past and, by extension, the present **and where a pathway is followed** 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).	Lectures, seminars, tutorials, workshops, student and tutor led sessions, skills, discussion and knowledge-based classes, group work	*essays, exams, portfolios, presentations, blogs, dissertation, document analyses*

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

LO number	Learning outcome	Learning and Teaching methods	Assessment methods
B1	Gather, organise and deploy evidence, data and information	Lectures, seminars, tutorials, workshops, student and tutor led sessions, skills, discussion and knowledge-based classes, group work	*essays, exams, portfolios, presentations, blogs, dissertation, document analyses*
B2	Display analytical skills, including the recognition that not all statements are of equal validity		
B3	Show awareness of academic integrity and ethical issues and responsibilities that arise from research and the reuse of the research and writing of others		
B4	Reflect on own progress and make use of feedback provided		
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	Know where and how to access relevant and precise historical knowledge **and where a pathway is followed** 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).	Lectures, seminars, tutorials, workshops, student and tutor led sessions, skills, classes, group work	*essays, exams, portfolios, presentations, blogs, dissertation, document analyses*
C2	*Critically and empathetically analyse primary sources, addressing questions of genre, content, perspective and purpose. Primary sources include any form of evidence from the past that is under examination, including textual, visual, material and oral sources* **and where a pathway is followed** the ability to identify a range of research strategies and methods and to comment on their relative advantages and disadvantages for sociological research (Soc); the ability to use research techniques to identify, record, read and critically		

LO number	Learning outcome	Learning and Teaching methods	Assessment methods
	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)		
C3	Appreciation of the range of problems involved in the interpretation of complex, ambiguous, conflicting and often incomplete material; and comprehension of the limitations of knowledge and dangers of simplistic explanations **and where a pathway is followed** the ability to recognise the relevance of sociological knowledge to social, public and civic policy (Soc); select and apply appropriate methodologies and theories (American studies).		
C4	The ability to work collaboratively and to work effectively as part of a group.		
C5	An understanding of the ethical dimensions of historiography, historical study, writing and research **and where a pathway is followed** 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. Transferable (Graduate and Employability) skills, able to:

LO number	Learning outcome	Learning and Teaching methods	Assessment methods
D1	*Sustain a reasoned line of argument in the face of others, to listen, to engage in sustained debate, to amend views as necessary in the light of evidence and argument*	Lectures, seminars, tutorials, workshops, student and tutor led sessions, skills, discussion and knowledge-based classes, group work	*essays, exams, portfolios, presentations, blogs, dissertation, document analyses*
D2	Exhibit structure, coherence and clarity of oral and written expression, as well as digital literacy		
D3	Work as part of a team as an effective collaborator		
D4	Show initiative and questioning habits		
D5	Work independently, while engaging with supervision and guidance		

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

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