COURSE SPECIFICATION

BA (Hons) History and Politics

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Course Title	*BA (Hons) History and Politics*
Final Award	*BA (Hons)*
Exit Awards	*CertHE, DipHE, Ordinary*
Course Code / UCAS code (if applicable)	*U3363PYC /UCAS VL12*
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	*from September 2023 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/undergraduate/ba-hons-history-and-politics*
Professional and/or Statutory Regulatory Body accreditations	*none*
Quality Assurance Agency Framework for Higher Education Qualifications (FHEQ) Level	*Levels 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 your knowledge and understanding of selected periods of history, and of themes within these periods; and similarly of selected issues and events within political studies;
- To develop your capacity for critical evaluation of theoretical perspectives, methodological approaches and empirical evidence in the fields of History and Politics, and for the application of such perspectives in your own work;
- To enable you 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 you 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 your capacity to think critically and independently about events, ideas and institutions;
- To develop your capacity to undertake independent research into aspects of History and Politics, using appropriate sources and methodologies;
- To enable you to develop your skills in written and verbal communication across multiple formats, analytical thinking, creative problem-solving, collection and classification of information, interpretation and evaluation;
- To equip you 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 you with employability skills which are embedded in modules and delivered through teaching and assessment methods focusing on 'real world' tasks such as writing policy papers, collaborative group work and oral presentations.

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: awareness of a range of viewpoints and ways to evaluate them; 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. These capacities provide an enhanced ability to critically analyse broader historical claims in public life	These outcomes are developed primarily through lectures, seminars, tutorials, workshops, student and tutor led sessions, skills, discussion and knowledge based classes, simulation exercises, project work. Methods vary based on the topics being covered.	Essays, exams, reports, portfolios, document analysis, dissertation, oral presentation, project work, reflective reports, briefing papers, creating websites and blog posts, group and individual work.
A2	Understand how people have existed, acted and thought in the always-different context of the past. History involves encountering the past's otherness and learning to understand unfamiliar structures, cultures and belief systems. These forms of understanding illuminate the influence of the past on the present; they also foster empathy, and respect for difference		
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 concepts, theories and methods to the analysis of political ideas, actors, institutions and behaviour.		

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

LO number	Learning outcome	Learning and Teaching methods	Assessment methods
B1	Questioning, exploration, debate and discovery through independent engagement with sources and scholarship, and the ability to formulate independent arguments are integral to the study of history and politics	These outcomes are developed primarily through lectures, seminars, tutorials, workshops, student and tutor led sessions, skills, discussion and knowledge based classes, simulation exercises, project work. Methods vary based on the topics being covered.	Essays, exams, reports, portfolios, document analysis, dissertation, oral presentation, project work, reflective reports, briefing papers, creating websites and blog posts, group and individual work.
B2	Display analytical skills, including the recognition that not all statements are of equal validity; that there are ways of testing them; that scholars operate by rules of evidence which, though themselves subject to critical evaluation, are also a component of intellectual integrity and maturity more generally		
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			

	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	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	These outcomes are developed primarily through lectures, seminars, tutorials, workshops, student and tutor led sessions, skills, discussion and knowledge based classes, simulation exercises, project work. Methods vary based on the topics being covered.	Essays, exams, reports, portfolios, document analysis, dissertation, oral presentation, project work, reflective reports, briefing papers, creating websites and blog posts, group and individual work.
C2	Engage critically with Politics, including 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.		
C3	Appreciate complexity and diversity of situations, events and mentalities in the past and, by extension, present; history is an anti-reductionist subject that fosters intellectual maturity		
C4	Demonstrate a familiarity and engage critically with the concept of power, including the contested nature of knowledge and understanding; approaches to the study of politics and history; a range of key concepts, theories and methods employed in the study of politics; and the strengths and weaknesses of these approaches.		

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		
D2	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	*These outcomes are developed primarily through lectures, seminars, tutorials, workshops, student and tutor led sessions, skills, discussion and knowledge based classes, simulation exercises, project work. Methods vary based on the topics being covered*	*Essays, exams, reports, portfolios, document analysis, dissertation, oral presentation, project work, reflective reports, briefing papers, creating websites and blog posts, group and individual work.*
D3	*Identify, investigate, analyse and advocate solutions to problems via an ability to develop a reasoned argument, synthesise relevant information and exercise critical judgement*		
D4	*Collaborate with others to achieve common goals.*		

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…

Please add additional distinctive items where relevant or delete the sentence above.

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* and *Politics and International Relations*
- Quality Assurance Agency Framework for Higher Education Qualifications
- Requirements of Professional and/or Statutory Regulatory Bodies
- 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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