



UNIVERSITY OF  
PORTSMOUTH

## **COURSE SPECIFICATION**

### ***BA (Hons) Humanities and Social Sciences***

# COURSE SPECIFICATION

Course Title	<i>BA Humanities and Social Sciences</i>
Final Award	<i>BA (Hons) Humanities and Social Sciences</i>
Exit Awards	<i>CertHE, DipHE.</i>
Course Code / UCAS code (if applicable)	<i>U3847PYC</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>From September 2025 intake onwards</i>
Awarding Body	<i>University of Portsmouth</i>
Teaching Institution	<i>University of Portsmouth</i>
Faculty	<i>Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences</i>
School/Department/Subject Group	<i>School of Area Studies, Sociology, History, Politics and Literature</i>
School/Department/Subject Group webpage	<a href="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">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</a>
Course webpage including entry criteria	<a href="https://www.port.ac.uk/study/courses/undergraduate/ba-hons-humanities-and-social-sciences">https://www.port.ac.uk/study/courses/undergraduate/ba-hons-humanities-and-social-sciences</a> & <a href="https://www.port.ac.uk/study/courses/undergraduate/ba-hons-humanities-and-social-sciences#entry-requirements">https://www.port.ac.uk/study/courses/undergraduate/ba-hons-humanities-and-social-sciences#entry-requirements</a>
Professional and/or Statutory Regulatory Body accreditations	<i>Not applicable</i>
<a href="#">Quality Assurance Agency Framework for Higher Education Qualifications (FHEQ) Level</a>	<i>Levels 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 provide a framework allowing students to follow a flexible and intellectually stimulating programme of study, enabling students to study a combination of subject areas and develop specialist interests and knowledge in them.
- To enable students to develop a sound knowledge and understanding of a wide spectrum of relevant Humanities and Social Science approaches.
- To provide an opportunity for students to create links between different subject areas.
- To encourage awareness of and critical thinking about a range of social, political and cultural issues in a global context
- To enable students to develop their 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 necessary transferable skills for lifelong learning and graduate employment in the context of changing labour markets.
- 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 writing blogs, collaborative group work and oral presentations.
- To provide students with the skills and the knowledge required to maximise career and postgraduate study opportunities by choosing relevant work placement and/or study abroad options.

## 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.

<b>A. Knowledge and understanding of:</b>			
<b>LO number</b>	<b>Learning outcome</b>	<b>Learning and Teaching methods</b>	<b>Assessment methods</b>
A1	Recognise approaches to the study of the humanities and social sciences, including a range of key concepts, theories and methods and their strengths and weaknesses.	These outcomes are developed 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	<i>Essays, exams, reports, portfolios, projects, major project e.g. dissertation, presentations, briefing papers, creating podcasts, documentaries and blog posts, group and individual work</i>
A2	Develop awareness of a range of viewpoints and comprehension of the limitations of knowledge and dangers of simplistic explanations.		
A3	Acknowledge the existence of multiple perspectives, from past and present, and regional to global, and recognise the importance of listening to alternative perspectives.		
A4	Show a familiarity and engage critically with the contested nature of knowledge and understanding.		

<b>B. Cognitive (Intellectual or Thinking) skills, able to:</b>			
<b>LO number</b>	<b>Learning outcome</b>	<b>Learning and Teaching methods</b>	<b>Assessment methods</b>
B1	Critically assess the merits of competing explanations, and draw reasoned conclusions.	These outcomes are developed through lectures, seminars, tutorials, workshops, student and tutor-led sessions, skills, discussion and knowledge-based classes, simulation exercises.	<i>Essays, exams, reports, portfolios, projects, major project e.g. dissertation, presentations, briefing papers, creating podcasts, documentaries and blog posts, group and individual work</i>
B2	Evaluate the accuracy and reliability of sources, and use that knowledge to appropriately discuss and apply evidence.		
B3	Show the capacity to consider and propose solutions to problems (including those to which there is no single solution).		
B4	Reflexively question assumptions which are taken for granted.		

<b>C. Practical (Professional or Subject) skills, able to:</b>			
<b>LO number</b>	<b>Learning outcome</b>	<b>Learning and Teaching methods</b>	<b>Assessment methods</b>
C1	Identify, gather, synthesise, organise, and deploy suitable evidence in the support of an argument.	These outcomes are developed through lectures, seminars, tutorials, workshops, student and tutor-led sessions, skills, discussion and knowledge-based classes, simulation exercises.	<i>Essays, exams, reports, portfolios, projects, major project e.g. dissertation, presentations, briefing papers, creating podcasts, documentaries and blog posts, group and individual work</i>
C2	Select and use appropriate research tools for collection and analysis of quantitative and qualitative data, including appropriate uses of software, and suitable interpretive procedures.		
C3	Identify and comment critically upon the value of humanities and social science research for specific organisations or with regard to social, public, and civic policy issues.		
C4	Demonstrate the capacity to identify problems and strategies for addressing them (including those to which there is no single solution).		

<b>D. Transferrable (Graduate and Employability) skills, able to:</b>			
<b>LO number</b>	<b>Learning outcome</b>	<b>Learning and Teaching methods</b>	<b>Assessment methods</b>
D1	Discuss critically and present ideas and interpretations in a clear and reasoned way to different audiences.	These outcomes are developed through lectures, seminars, tutorials, workshops, student and tutor-led sessions, skills, discussion and knowledge-based classes, simulation exercises.	<i>Essays, exams, reports, portfolios, projects, major project e.g. dissertation, presentations, briefing papers, creating podcasts, documentaries and blog posts, group and individual work</i>
D2	Work independently, and plan, and manage time effectively.		
D3	Reflect critically upon and understand their own strengths and weaknesses, and to take action to enhance their capacities.		
D4	Develop digital and IT skills of information retrieval, storage, analysis and collaboration.		

## Academic Regulations

The current University of Portsmouth Regulations will apply to this course. This course has an [Approved Course Exemption](#). *(Delete as appropriate)*

## 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 through the Faculty's central tutoring 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 Vision](#)
- [Office for Students Conditions of Registration](#)
- [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 four disciplines:
  - [English](#)
  - [History](#)
  - [Politics and International Relations](#)
  - [Sociology](#)
- [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

### Changes to your course/modules

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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