



**UNIVERSITY OF
PORTSMOUTH**

COURSE SPECIFICATION

BA (Hons) English and History

COURSE SPECIFICATION

Course Title	<i>BA (Hons) English and History</i>
Final Award	<i>BA (Hons)</i>
Exit Awards	<i>CertHE, DipHE.</i>
Course Code / UCAS code (if applicable)	<i>U3884PYC</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 Sociology, Area Studies, History, Politics, and Literature</i> <i>Subject Groups: English Literature and History</i>
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-english-and-history <i>Entry criteria: 96-112 pts</i>
Professional and/or Statutory Regulatory Body accreditations	<i>None</i>
Quality Assurance Agency Framework for Higher Education Qualifications (FHEQ) Level	<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 inspire enthusiasm for the subject areas (English Literature and History) and an appreciation of their continuing social, cultural, political and economic importance.
- To provide a framework that fosters wide and varied reading through a broad, diverse, flexible and coherent programme of study in literature and history from the early modern period to the present day, and across a range of national literatures, in a broad and balanced curriculum.
- 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 promote understanding of the aesthetic features of literary and non-literary texts.
- To develop the capacity of students for critical evaluation of theoretical perspectives and methodological approaches, and for the application of such perspectives in their work.
- 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 encourage students to reflect critically upon the acts of reading and writing and on the history of textual production and reception.
- To develop the capacity of students to undertake independent research, using appropriate sources and methodologies.
- To develop the capacity of students to work collaboratively with peers in the pursuit of project work.
- 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 provide students with opportunities to present and communicate information and research in multiple formats through a diverse range of assessment forms.
- To develop a range of subject-specific and generic skills of value in graduate employment, including high-order critical, analytic, research skills, and advanced competence in oral and written communication.
- To equip students with the outlook and skills to make a meaningful contribution to culture and society, operating across global contexts, attuned to social justice, environmental responsibility, and the quest to tackle both new and historical global challenges.

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 how people in the past have existed, acted and thought across diverse and complex contexts.	Lectures, seminars, tutorials, workshops, student- and tutor-led sessions, and group work. Delivery methods vary depending on the topics being covered.	Seminar discussion and diverse coursework formats, including essays, close textual and document analyses, presentations, dissertations, critical reflections, reports, blogs, podcasts, posters, creative pieces, and portfolios.
A2	Develop an awareness of the ways in which texts are produced and shaped across history, through analysis of the principal literary genres and forms of written production across prose, poetry, drama, and non-fiction.		
A3	Recognise the range of challenges involved in the interpretation of complex, ambiguous, conflicting and often incomplete material.		
A4	Understand the range of critical contexts, theoretical approaches, and stylistic concepts that can be applied to acts of textual analysis in order to produce meaningful engagements with literary and historical materials.		

B. Cognitive (Intellectual or Thinking) skills, able to:			
LO number	Learning outcome	Learning and Teaching methods	Assessment methods
B1	Analyse texts, evidence, data, and discourses closely and critically, using appropriate approaches and terminology, recognising that not all statements are of equal validity.	Lectures, seminars, tutorials, workshops, student- and tutor-led sessions, and group work. Delivery methods vary depending on the topics being covered.	Seminar discussion and diverse coursework formats, including essays, close textual and document analyses, presentations, dissertations, critical reflections, reports, blogs, podcasts, posters, creative pieces, and portfolios.
B2	Demonstrate capacity for independent judgement, analytical investigation, and critical reasoning, engaging with new areas of investigation within and across discipline boundaries.		
B3	Show awareness of academic integrity and ethical issues and responsibilities; considering the wider context, including the possible social and economic implications of their own and others' work.		
B4	Conduct independent research, discover and synthesise diverse forms of information, in order to produce scholarly work in a range of appropriate formats.		

C. Practical (Professional or Subject) skills, able to:			
LO number	Learning outcome	Learning and Teaching methods	Assessment methods
C1	Discover, test, interpret and analyse ideas and information and evidence independently and critically, evaluating and reflecting on their own practices and assumptions as part of that process.	Lectures, seminars, tutorials, workshops, student- and tutor-led sessions, and group work. Delivery methods vary depending on the topics being covered.	Seminar discussion and diverse coursework formats, including essays, close textual and document analyses, presentations, dissertations, critical reflections, reports, blogs, podcasts, posters, creative pieces, and portfolios.
C2	Respond with intellectual curiosity, creativity and imagination to research tasks, embracing the challenges and opportunities for development that they provide.		
C3	The ability to work independently to design, organise and produce project work to deadlines.		
C4	Employ research strategies and tools (including current and emerging digital technologies), scholarly conventions of the discipline and ethical approaches.		

D. Transferrable (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, and to amend views as necessary in the light of evidence and argument.	Lectures, seminars, tutorials, workshops, student- and tutor-led sessions, and group work. Delivery methods vary depending on the topics being covered.	Seminar discussion and diverse coursework formats, including essays, close textual and document analyses, presentations, dissertations, critical reflections, reports, blogs, podcasts, posters, creative pieces, and portfolios.
D2	Work collaboratively in a team in a range of environments, responding positively to new situations by being aware, flexible, adaptable and realistic in their expectations.		
D3	Demonstrate advanced communication skills, including the ability to present persuasive, coherent, well-supported, and sustained arguments, in a range of forms and to different audiences.		
D4	Show an enterprising spirit, bringing innovation and productivity, both in the groups and communities to which they belong and through the initiation of projects of their own.		

Academic Regulations

The current University of Portsmouth [Academic Regulations: Examination & Assessment Regulations](#) / [Academic Regulations: Examination & Assessment Regulations \(Collaborative Courses\)](#) (Delete as appropriate) will apply to this course. Approved course exemptions can be found [here](#).

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:

Insert additional reference points or delete as required

- [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 [English](#), and 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
- National Occupational Standards

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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