

PROGRAMME SPECIFICATION

Course record information

Name and level of final award:	BA History and Politics
Name and level of intermediate awards:	Diploma of Higher Education Certificate of Higher Education
Awarding body/institution:	University of Westminster
Teaching Institution:	University of Westminster
Status of awarding body/institution:	Recognised Body
Location of delivery:	Central London
Language of delivery and assessment:	English
Mode, length of study and normal starting month:	Three years full time, five years part time day
QAA subject benchmarking group(s) :	qaa.ac.uk/en/Publications/Documents/SBS-consultation-history.pdf ; www.qaa.ac.uk/en/.../Documents/SBS-consultation-politics.pdf
Professional statutory or regulatory body:	Not applicable
Date of course validation/review:	February 2015
Date of programme specification approval:	April 2016
Valid for cohorts :	2016/17 level 4/5, 2017/18 level 4,5 and 6
Course Leader	Gorst, Mr Anthony
UCAS code and URL:	VL22 westminster.ac.uk/courses/undergraduate

What are the minimum entry requirements for the course?

There are standard minimum [entry requirements](#) for all undergraduate courses. Students are advised to check the standard requirements for the most up-to-date information.

westminster.ac.uk/courses/undergraduate/how-to-apply

For most courses a decision will be made on the basis of your application form alone. However, for some courses the selection process may include an interview to demonstrate your strengths in addition to any formal entry requirements.

More information can be found here: westminster.ac.uk/courses/undergraduate/how-to-apply

Aims of the course

The BA (Hons) History and Politics degree has been designed as a structured and coherent course, to develop your knowledge and understanding of the history of the modern world to graduate level. It aims to provide you with a range of personal attributes, qualities of mind and modes of behaviour which will make you a highly employable and valuable member of the community. You will be inducted into and trained in an academic and research culture, which emphasises professional, ethical and socially responsible values and behaviour. We aim to train you to be tolerant and open to the opinions of others, while not being afraid to challenge prevailing assumptions or orthodoxies. Indeed, we encourage you to question everything, to form your own opinions and argue your own case, but always to base your reasoned arguments on soundly based and professionally sourced evidence. The degree offers the opportunity to examine in depth, the factors which have helped shape the modern world, including war and revolution, nationalism and liberalism, democracy, socialism and fascism from both historical and the theoretical and analytical perspectives of politics. The study of History provides you with knowledge and awareness of societal, political cultural and international events, institutions, personalities and policies which inform the philosophical, theoretical and analytical concerns of Politics. The degree offers a range of core and optional modules, which will allow you to study the history and politics of a variety of countries and regions.

You will progress through your studies via a well-defined series of Levels from Four to Six, with increased specialism and option choice throughout, transitioning into higher education and culminating in the successful completion of the degree. In your first year you will be introduced to key knowledge, concepts and approaches in History and Politics as well as given the opportunity to develop and practice the skills that are essential to study at University. In your second year you will continue to deepen your understanding of these areas as well as being directly introduced to the research methods that will underpin your final year dissertation. Modules in your third year at Level Six are very specialised and research focussed and are delivered by staff who are themselves actively researching the subject matter. You will also have the chance to take an accredited work-placement module. The History and Politics degree takes advantage of its location in Central London to use London as a teaching aid via visits to cultural and political institutions, fieldwork and the internship: we offer a range of modules on London, which are unique to Westminster, and are designed to make the best of our outstanding location at the heart of London and at the nexus between east and west.

You will build upon and deploy the skills you have acquired in a self-selected and self-directed final-year dissertation in political history. This is the culmination of your three years'

study and the final demonstration that you are ready to graduate as a well-trained, self-confident and accomplished autonomous scholar and practitioner.

What will you be expected to achieve?

Learning outcomes are statements on what successful students have achieved as the result of learning. These are threshold statements of achievement the learning outcomes broadly fall into four categories:

- The overall **knowledge and understanding** you will gain from your course (KU);
- **Graduate attributes** are characteristics that you will have developed during the duration of your course (GA);
- **Professional and personal practice learning outcomes** are specific skills that you will be expected to have gained on successful completion of the course (PPP);
- **Key transferable skills** that you will be expected to have gained on successful completion of the course (KTS).

Course Learning Outcomes at Level 4

The degree is designed to allow you to progress in a structured and coherent fashion through each of the levels, building on your knowledge, skills and attributes, and independence and specialisms as you do so. Modules at level 4 provide a strong knowledge and conceptual base, with introductory work on sources and methodologies. Modules at level 5 continue with the examination of the forces, ideas and ideologies which made the modern world, specifically on nineteenth and twentieth-century developments. The focus of the sources and methodologies training moves towards encouraging you to think about your own interests, and how you can convert your ideas into a viable dissertation topic. At level 6, much of your own efforts will be dedicated to your dissertation, while you take optional modules on staff research specialisms.

4. On the successful completion of Level 4, students should be able to demonstrate:
 - 4.1. command of a body of historical and political concepts, approaches and knowledge relating to Britain, European and the world;
 - 4.2. the ability to develop and sustain arguments in a variety of forms and to utilise evidence;
 - 4.3. the ability to read, analyse and reflect critically and contextually upon secondary evidence;
 - 4.4. the ability to gather and deploy evidence and data and to find, retrieve, sort and exchange new information;
 - 4.5. clarity, fluency and coherence in written expression;
 - 4.6. an understanding of the ethical dimensions of study, writing and research in the social sciences and humanities;
 - 4.7. an ability to work collaboratively and to participate in group discussion;
 - 4.8. a developing awareness of continuity and change over extended time periods.

Course Learning Outcomes at Level 5

5. On the successful completion of Level 5, students should be able to demonstrate:
 - 5.1 command of a significant body of historical and political concepts, approaches and knowledge;
 - 5.2 an ability to interrogate, read, analyse and reflect critically and contextually upon contemporary texts and other primary sources in history and politics;
 - 5.3 an understanding of the varieties of approaches to understanding, constructing and interpreting the past and a knowledge of concepts and theories derived from the humanities and social sciences;
 - 5.4 awareness of continuity and change over extended time periods and an awareness of the influence of the past on the present;
 - 5.5 an understanding of the development of both disciplines over time and an awareness of different methodologies;
 - 5.6 clarity, fluency and coherence in oral expression.

Course Learning Outcomes at Level 6

6. On the successful completion of Level 6, students should be able to demonstrate:
 - 6.1 command of a substantial body of historical and political concepts, approaches and knowledge;
 - 6.2 an enhanced ability to read, analyse and reflect critically and contextually upon contemporary texts and other primary sources;
 - 6.3 an ability to address problems in depth, formulating own questions, involving the critical use of contemporary sources and advanced secondary literature;
 - 6.4 an appreciation of the complexity of reconstructing the past and its influence on the present, and the problematic and varied nature of evidence;
 - 6.5 a command of comparative perspectives, including the ability to compare the different countries, societies, political systems and institutions, and cultures;
 - 6.6 the ability to design, research and present a sustained and independently-conceived piece of writing (dissertation).

How will you learn?

Teaching and learning in History and Politics at Westminster are organised to help you meet the learning outcomes of the course and to fulfil your potential. We therefore offer a variety of assessment methods that aim to develop graduates who are open to critical and independent thinking, effective communicators and ethical in their outlook. We encourage you to become an active learner, taking increasing responsibility for your own learning as you move through the levels with appropriate support so that you emerge as a critical and engaged practitioner. Our learning environment is designed to enable you to reflect actively and reflectively not only the 'facts' of events and processes but also on key issues, concepts and approaches in the study of history and politics in a national, regional, international and comparative framework.

You are provided with detailed documentation for each module which explains what the module is designed to achieve, and the means to attain it. You are given clear guidance on module structure, on the nature and amount of assessment, assessment and grading criteria, guides on how to tackle different forms of assessment, and avoid plagiarism. Each module booklet contains a detailed bibliography with links to our electronic Reading List system (Talis Aspire).

Each module has its own characteristic features in teaching and learning that are appropriate to the subject matter and level but most modules are structured around lectures or lecture-type arrangements, which are designed to capture your interest and excite your curiosity. They also provide a broad framework to define the module, while introducing you to its main themes, debates and interpretations which inform the study of history and politics.

However, much learning takes place in seminars, workshops and small group tutorials which allow informal student-led discussion of the issues raised in the lectures, provide opportunities for supervised group work (such as presentations and problem-solving), and are also used to allow practice in the key skills of interpretation and analysis of texts, sources and evidence. Seminars are designed to improve your understanding rather than at the acquisition of knowledge *per se*. This type of student-centred interactivity helps boost your self-confidence, oral communication and debating skills and a critical as well as self-critical but tolerant approach to discussion and debate. As you move through the levels at Westminster these forms of learning become more central to your experience as a student on the History and Politics degree at the University of Westminster

As well as offering a unique curriculum, a distinctive feature of the degree at Westminster are our use of London as a teaching and learning resource, and our commitment to offering you the chance to experience other cultures through fieldwork. A number of modules make use of Westminster's central London location to facilitate 'off-site' learning, with visits to archives and museums, political and cultural institutions and for field walks and field trips within the UK and Europe for supervised group work. One of the 'core' modules at Level Five includes a field trip to Berlin, while other modules at levels five and six include trips to Ireland and elsewhere. Student costs for these fieldtrips are provided out of the Department's own funds.

But life at university is less about teaching than about learning, and the great majority of your time will be spent working independently, reading, thinking and writing. A standard 20-credit module will normally involve round 200 hours of study time of which over three quarters will be independent study. The study of history and politics is a literary discipline, and you must expect to undertake a great deal of reading and of writing. Through independent study students learn to work on their own, adopt enquiry-led approaches to learning, develop their individual learning habits and become self-aware about their learning capabilities, so that they graduate as lifelong learners. Reading and other study material will be suggested by the module leader to assist students meet the module learning outcomes, and will include *inter alia* the provision of extracts from texts and/or journal articles with questions to guide and direct student engagement and outcomes; the provision of mock problem solving exercises with questions designed to help students master the fundamental skill of interpreting texts and evidence. You will be guided, encouraged and facilitated by your tutors and lecturers, but the responsibility for undertaking the work lies with you.

By year three, you are expected to be a self-confident student with a variety of skills and competencies at your disposal and there is a wide variety of quite narrowly-focused and specialist modules at level six to allow you to study your chosen subjects in some depth. In addition, you will write a 8,000-word dissertation on a subject of your own choosing in political history which will be based largely on contemporary source materials. You will be supported throughout by a dissertation supervisor, but the dissertation represents your opportunity to demonstrate that you have acquired the skills of a student of history and

politics. It is the culmination of your three years' hard work and will be your crowning achievement.

How will you be assessed?

The course offers a variety of assessment to students which aims to nurture as well as assess your academic development so that you emerge as a critical thinking and reflective graduate. Assessment helps you to demonstrate what you have learned in particular modules and across the range of your degree. There are many different forms of assessment for our modules: coursework essays, critical analyses, documentary analyses, individual and group presentations, blogs, open book and closed examinations, statistical analyses, reports and the dissertation. The assessments all aim to enhance your learning, not merely to test it. They help you build up your knowledge and skills, linking issues and knowledge within and between modules, while also developing and reinforcing your independent study initiative.

“Synoptic” assessments link work on more than one module, and so they encourage you to demonstrate your deeper and more connected grasp of the subject as a whole. You will also be given “formative” assessments, which means you will be given guided work to help you prepare the module assessments that count towards your final grade. These may take the form of online tests in Blackboard, quizzes and debates in seminars, short written exercises, and the opportunity to submit drafts of extended work, such as your dissertation. In these formative assessments, you will receive feedback on your progress, allowing you and your teachers to take action to help you improve. “Summative” assessments are those assignments the marks for which are used to determine your final grade for the module and which are used to calculate your final degree classification. For these assessments, you will receive written feedback explaining the grade (where applicable), the strengths and weaknesses of the work, and offering clear advice on how you can improve your grades in the future.

Employment and further study opportunities

As well as being subject experts, University of Westminster graduates will be able to demonstrate the following five Graduate Attributes:

- Critical and creative thinking
- Literate and effective communication
- An entrepreneurial attitude
- A Global outlook and engagement in communities
- Social, ethical and environmental awareness

The BA degree aims to produce highly employable graduates who are in addition, equipped with a wide variety of employability attributes, including:

- the ability to work as a part of a team;
- the ability to work alone;
- numeracy and ICT skills;
- evaluative and analytical skills;
- problem-solving skills;
- assimilative skills;
- research skills;
- high-level written and oral communication skills;
- the ability to present yourself and to present an argument.

As a University of Westminster graduate in History and Politics, you will be well placed to take advantage of employment opportunities in the ‘knowledge economy’. Many of our graduates are currently pursuing successful careers in teaching, in the civil service, in the

museums and galleries sector, in public relations and marketing, in higher education administration and in all sectors of industry. Many of our graduates go on to further study and a number are now pursuing successful academic careers of their own.

Course structure

This section lists the core and option modules available as part of the course and their credit value. Full-time Undergraduate students study 120 credits per year. Diagrams showing the pattern of modules across the academic year are in the second part of this section.

Credit Level 4

Module Code	Module Name	Status	UK Credits	ECTS
4HIST001W	Blood and Iron. The Making of the Modern World 1750-1914	Core	40	20
4HIST002W	Imperial Capital, World City: London 1750-1914. Skills and Sources	Core	20	10
4PIRS002W	Democracy in Crisis	Core	20	10
4PIRS001W	British Politics	Core	20	10
4HIST004W	Conflict and Commemoration: War and Memory in Twentieth-century Europe	Option	20	10
4PIRS004W	Global Governance and the State	Option	20	10
	Westminster Elective	Option	20	20
	Award of Certificate of Higher Education available			

Credit Level 5

Module Code	Module Name	Status	UK Credits	ECTS
5HIST002W	New Liberals to New Labour: a History of British Politics in the Twentieth Century	Core	20	10
5HIST008W	Writing History: Approaches and Methods for History Dissertations	Core	20	10
5PIRS014W	Power and the State	Core	20	10
5HIST004W	Jack the Ripper: Myth, Reality, Culture and Popular History	Option	20	10
5HIST005W	Civil War to Civil Rights: Race, Society and Politics in the USA 1850-1970	Option	20	10
5HIST009W	A Sexual History of London	Option	20	10

5HIST006W	History Internship OR	Option	20	10
5SOCL010W	Globalisation: Politics, Law and the Arts	Option	20	10
5HIST003W	The Past in the Present: History in London's Museums	Option	20	10

5PIRS012W	Politics and International Relations Internship	Option	20	10
5HIST007W	Fenians to Free State: the Making of Modern Ireland 1868-1923	Option	20	10
5PIRS015W	Questioning Rights: History, Theory and Practice	Option	20	10
5PIRS013W	Politics and Society in 21 st Century America	Option	20	10
5PIRS017W	Theorising Politics and International Relations	Option	20	10
5PIRS008W	Governance in Europe: Comparative and Multilevel Perspectives	Option	20	10
5PIRS004W	Environmental Politics	Option	20	10
5PIRS010W	Middle East Politics	Option	20	10
5PIRS016W	The European Union as a Regional Power	Option	20	10
5PIRS003W	The Politics of Killing	Option	20	10
5PIRS001W	Asia, Africa and Latin America: Dynamism and Change in the Global South	Option	20	10
5PIRS002W	Democratic Innovations	Option	20	10
5PIRS005W	Geopolitics	Option	20	10
5PIRS007W	Global Security	Option	20	10
5PIRS006W	Global Political Economy	Option	20	10
5PIRS011W	Political Economy of Development	Option	20	10
	Westminster Elective	Option	20	10
	Award of Diploma of Higher Education or Foundation Degree available			

Credit Level 6

Module Code	Module Name	Status	UK Credits	ECTS
6HIST012W	History and Politics Dissertation	Core	40	20
6HIST002W	The End of History? Crisis and Conflict since the Cold War	Core	20	10

6HIST005W	The Troubles: Britain and Northern Ireland 1968-1998	Option	20	10
6HIST010W	New World Order: a History of International Organisations in the Twentieth Century	Option	20	10
6HIST013W	Unruly Colossus: Churchill, Politician and Writer 1874-1965	Option	20	10
6PIRS001W	Advanced Readings in Contemporary Political Theory	Option	20	10
6PIRS007W	Equality, Justice and Citizenship	Option	20	10
6PIRS015W	Radical Democracy	Option	20	10
	Westminster Elective	Option	20	10
	Award of BA available Award of BA Honours available.			

Academic regulations

The current Handbook of Academic Regulations is available at westminster.ac.uk/academic-regulations

How will you be supported in your studies?

Course Management

The degree has a designated course leader whom you will meet during Orientation Week and who is available for consultation either by email, during weekly office hours throughout the year, or by appointment. During March of the first and second year, you will have the opportunity to choose your option modules for the following year after consultation with academic staff.

Individual modules each have a module leader who is responsible for the smooth running of that module. Module leaders are available during term-time in their office hours or by appointment. The degree is part of a suite of BA Hons degrees in the Department of Social and Historical Studies, for which the Head of Department is ultimately responsible. At Level Four (year one), you will have a designated Personal Academic Tutor to whom you may turn for academic advice. Your Tutor will be one of the Seminal Leaders on one of your 'core' modules, so that you will have the opportunity to meet him or her on a weekly basis. At Level Five (year two), you will have a Year Tutor from amongst your Course Team, while in your final year, your dissertation supervisor will act as your Personal Academic Tutor.

Academic Support

Upon arrival, an orientation programme will introduce you to the staff responsible for the course, the site on which you will be studying, the Library and IT facilities, additional support available and to your Faculty Registry Office. You will be provided with the Course Handbook, which gives detailed information about the course. You have a Course Leader and you will be assigned to a Personal Academic Tutor to support you in your studies. The University uses a Virtual Learning Environment called Blackboard where you can access your course materials and can communicate and collaborate with staff and other students.

Learning Support

The Academic Learning Development Centre supports students in developing the skills required for higher education. As well as online resources in Blackboard, students have the opportunity to attend study skills workshops and one-to-one appointments.

Learning support includes four libraries, each holding a collection of resources related to the subjects taught at that site. Students can search the entire library collection online through the Library Search service to find and reserve printed books, and to access electronic resources (databases, e-journals, e-books). Students can choose to study in the libraries, which have areas for silent and group work, desktop computers, laptops for loan, photocopying and printing services. You can also choose from several computer rooms at each site where desktop computers are available with the general and specialist software that supports the course. You can also securely connect your own laptops and mobile devices to the University wireless network.

Support Services

The University of Westminster Student Affairs department provide advice and guidance on accommodation, financial and legal matters, personal counselling, health and disability issues, careers, specialist advice for international students and the chaplaincy providing multi-faith guidance. The University of Westminster Students' Union also provides a range of facilities to support students during their time at the University.

How do we ensure the quality of our courses and continuous improvement?

The course was initially approved by a University Validation Panel in 2015. The panel included internal peers from the University and academics from other universities. This helps to ensure the comparability of the course to those offered in other universities and the relevance to employers.

The course is also monitored each year by the Faculty to ensure it is running effectively and that issues which might affect the student experience have been appropriately addressed. Staff will consider evidence about the course, including the outcomes from Course Committees, evidence of student progression and achievement and the reports from External Examiners, to evaluate the effectiveness of the course. Each Faculty puts into place an action plan. This may include, for example, making changes to the way a module is taught, assessed or even how the course is structured in order to improve it. There is an approval process for such changes.

A Course Review takes place periodically to ensure that the curriculum is up-to-date and that the skills gained on the course continue to be relevant to employers and to further study. Students meet with review panels to provide feedback on their experiences. Student feedback from previous years, e.g. from Course Committees, is also part of the evidence used to assess how the course has been running.

How do we act on student feedback?

Student feedback is important to the University and student views are taken seriously. Student feedback is gathered in a variety of ways:

- Through Course Committees students have the opportunity to express their voice in the running of their course. Student representatives are elected to Committee to expressly represent the views of their peers. The University and the Students' Union work together to provide a full induction to the role of the student representatives.
- Each Faculty also has its own Faculty Student Forum with student representatives; this enables wider discussions across the Faculty. Student representatives are also represented on key Faculty and university committees.
- All students are invited to complete a questionnaire before the end of each module. The feedback from this will inform the module leader of the effectiveness of the module and highlight areas that could be enhanced.
- The University also has an annual Student Experience Survey which seeks the opinions of students about their course and University experience. Final year undergraduate students will be asked to complete the National Student Survey which helps to inform the national university league tables.

Please note: This programme specification provides a concise summary of the main features of the course and the learning outcomes that a student might reasonably be expected to achieve and demonstrate if s/he takes full advantage of the learning opportunities that are provided. This specification should be read in conjunction with the Course Handbook provided to students and Module Handbooks, which provide more detailed information on the specific learning outcomes, content, teaching, learning and assessment methods for each module.

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