

PROGRAMME SPECIFICATION

Course record information

Name and level of final award	BA (Hons) History and Politics BA (Hons) History and Politics with International Experience The BA (Hons) History and Politics and the BA (Hons) History and Politics with International Experience are BA degrees that are Bologna FQ-EHEA first cycle degree or diploma compatible.
Name and level of intermediate awards	Diploma of Higher Education Certificate of Higher Education History and Politics Diploma of Higher Education Certificate of Higher Education History and Politics with International Experience Certificate of Higher Education History and Politics Certificate of Higher Education History and Politics with International Experience
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 or four years (with optional year abroad) full-time
QAA subject benchmarking group(s)	
Professional statutory or regulatory body	Not applicable
Date of course validation/revalidation	June 2020
Date of programme specification approval	December 2020
Valid for cohorts	Levels 4-6, September 2021
Course Leader	Dr Peter Speiser
UCAS code and URL	VL22 http://www.westminster.ac.uk/courses/undergraduate
Westminster course code	BAHIS01F (FT)
HECoS code	100309
UKPASS code (PG only)	

Admissions requirements

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.

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 historical and political development 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. The History and Politics BA combines rigorous attention to the source material with vigorous debate over questions of interpretation. 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 the historical and the theoretical and analytical perspectives of politics. The study of history and politics provides you with knowledge and awareness of societal, political, cultural and international events, institutions and personalities. 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.

The History and Politics degree takes advantage of its location in central London and uses this great city as a teaching resource via visits to cultural and political institutions and fieldwork. You will have the opportunity to either take a work-placement module in one of London's hundreds of archives, museums, galleries, libraries and other repositories or choose a politics internship module. The BA History and Politics cultivates a global outlook in our students and aims to develop advanced Employability skills. The optional year abroad allows students to complete an employment or study placement overseas. Employability workshops are run across the degree as an integral part of the tutorial system and dissertation training. You will reflect critically on the skills and experience you will need in your chosen graduate career by working directly with employers and industry professionals to strengthen your CV.

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 and 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)

Level 4 course learning outcomes:

Upon successful completion of level 4 you will be able to:

- L4.1 command of a body of historical and political knowledge and a developing awareness of continuity and change over extended time periods, including an understanding of the development of history and politics as subjects (KU);
- L4.2 the ability to gather, read and analyse, with guidance, secondary evidence and data, including historical and political writings and their interpretations (GA);
- L4.3 a familiarity with a number of principal historical repositories in London and the ability to locate and access materials therein (PPP);
- L4.4 the ability to work successfully as part of a small team, actively listen and participate constructively in group discussion (KTS);
- L4.5 an understanding of the ethical dimensions of historical and political study, writing and research (GA);
- L4.6 awareness of different types of historical and political questions and methodologies, and an emerging ability to frame your own questions (KU);
- L4.7 a developing appreciation of how your studies will develop your own skills and work-related attributes and the ability to evolve strategies to address weaknesses (GA);
- L4.8 engagement with feedback and the willingness to utilise it in improving your work and employability (KTS);
- L4.9 clarity, fluency and coherence in written and oral expression (KTS).

Level 5 course learning outcomes:

Upon successful completion of level 5 you will be able to:

- L5.1 command of a significant body of historical and political knowledge and the ability to use it as evidence to develop and sustain cogent arguments in a variety of literary forms; (KU)
- L5.2 an ability to interrogate, read, analyse and reflect critically and contextually upon contemporary texts and other primary sources; (GA)

- L5.3 an understanding of the varieties of approaches to understanding, constructing and interpreting the past and, where relevant, a knowledge of concepts and theories derived from the humanities and social sciences; (PPP)
- L5.4 awareness of continuity and change over extended time periods; (KTS)
- L5.5 an ability to frame and develop your own historical and political questions and actively demonstrate the capacity for independent learning; (KU)
- L5.6 an understanding of how your studies are developing your own skills and work-related attributes and engagement with strategies to address weaknesses; (KTS)
- L5.7 clarity, fluency and coherence in written and oral expression; (KTS)

BA History and Politics with International Experience only

- L5.8 enhanced capacity to work and/or study independently in another linguistic and/or cultural environment (PPP).

Level 6 course learning outcomes:

Upon successful completion of level 5 you will be able to:

- L6.1 command of a substantial body of historical and political knowledge and concepts and the ability to use it systematically as evidence to develop and sustain cogent arguments in a variety of literary forms; (KU)
- L6.2 an enhanced ability to read, analyse and reflect critically and contextually upon contemporary texts and other primary sources; (KTS)
- L6.3 an ability to address historical and political problems in depth, formulating your own questions, involving the critical use of contemporary sources and advanced secondary literature; (GA)
- L6.4 an appreciation of the complexity of reconstructing the past and its influence on the present, and the problematic and varied nature of evidence; (KU)
- L6.5 a command of comparative perspectives, including the ability to compare different countries, societies and cultures; (KU)
- L6.6 clarity, fluency and coherence in written and oral expression; (KTS)
- L6.7 awareness of how your studies have developed your own skills and work-related attributes; (KTS)
- L6.8 the ability to design, research and present a sustained and independently conceived piece of writing (dissertation) and engage with the supervisory process. (GA)

How will you learn?

Central to success in your studies are the weekly tutorials. These are very small group classes, of five or six students, in which you receive detailed support in developing the skills and topics that are essential to your progress. The tutorials will also focus on employability skills and help you integrate your studies across the modules. Your modules are generally made up of seminars and lectures. Much learning takes place in seminars which allow

informal student-led discussion of the themes of a module, provide opportunities for supervised group work (such as presentations), and are also used to allow practice in the key skills of interpretation and analysis of primary historical sources. This type of student-centered interactivity helps boost your self-confidence, oral communication and debating skills and a critical but tolerant approach to historical discussion. Most modules are furthermore supported by interactive lectures that capture your interest and excite your curiosity. They introduce and enable students to query key themes, debates and interpretations. In your final year, you will receive individual supervision for your dissertation.

All modules have been designed on the basis of 200 hours of study time for each 20-credit module (or 400 hours for 40-credit modules). Those hours include reading time, formative assessment, preparation of summative assessments and time for directed digital engagement activities as well as scheduled classroom time. As each module has been designed with different activities you will find varying amounts of scheduled 'contact' time between modules. At the beginning of each module your lecturer will share with you the detailed outline with indicative timing for each activity. This enables you to plan your work across modules and to personalise your study by adapting timings to your own learning style.

History and Politics are literary disciplines, and you must expect to undertake a great deal of reading and of writing. Much of your teaching and learning will benefit from digital resources both for module content and your own independent research using digitized archives and repositories. Module content and learning resources are supplied via Blackboard and some classes are also held online.

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. Assessment is varied in History and Politics from short review exercises at level 4 through to the preparation and execution of your own research-based dissertation at level 6. Different modules include policy briefs, individual and group presentations, reviews of online resources, UN simulators and the classic source analysis and essay assessments. They are all designed to encourage the development of strong analytical and communication skills. Modules include "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), outlining the strengths and weaknesses of the work, and offering clear advice on how you can improve your grades in the future.

The variety of assessment means that you will find different word limits for written work, or time limits for presentations, between modules and across your degree. Each piece of assessment has been designed as appropriate to the module and its other learning activities, and to the course overall, in order to balance the study time that you dedicate to the module. All assessments have a full brief with guidance and marking criteria that will be shared with you at the start of each module so that you can be clear what is expected and how the assessment is contributing to your learning.

All written coursework is submitted online via our Blackboard system, where it is marked anonymously, and detailed feedback is returned online. Each piece of assessment is marked

using an agreed marking rubric, a set list of criteria which students see in advance. Rubrics help ensure clarity about what is expected of you and consistency of marking standards across the teaching team.

Employment and further study opportunities

University of Westminster graduates will be able to demonstrate the following five Graduate Attributes:

- Critical and creative thinking
- Literate and effective communication
- Entrepreneurial attitude
- Global in outlook and engaged in communities
- Social, ethically and environmentally aware

University of Westminster courses capitalise on the benefits that London as a global city and as a major creative, intellectual and technology hub has to offer for the learning environment and experience of our students.

Your course participates in the Employing Humanities programme, which has been designed to focus on highlighting the special skills and abilities that graduates in Humanities subjects possess and to extend your awareness of the wide range of their applicability to work. It is a staged and integrated programme that begins in Arrivals Week and builds through to graduation and beyond. The programme is tailored to the levels of your study and is anchored in your tutorial modules where you will be supported in planning your engagement and personalising your ambitions. Employing Humanities is underpinned by the Engage platform through which you can access training, one-to-one careers advice, notice of events and job opportunities, and create your individual career profile, but our programme also offers a planned schedule of work-based and work-related learning delivered by employers of Humanities graduates.

The optional year abroad helps you develop cultural and intercultural awareness of the country you visit and gives you an opportunity to gain experience in a different setting. Students are required to undertake either a Study or Work Placement at a partner institution abroad and to reside in the country of the placement for a total of at least 18 weeks. Support is provided throughout the process by experienced staff who will ensure that the Placement is suitable for your academic and personal development.

The BA (Hons) History and Politics 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 History and Politics graduate, 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 others go on to further study and a number are now pursuing successful academic careers of their own.

Course structure

This section shows the core and option modules available as part of the course and their credit value. Full-time Undergraduate students study 120 credits per year. Course structures can be subject to change each academic year following feedback from a variety of sources.

Credit Level 4				
Module code	Module title	Status	UK credit	ECTS
4HIST001W	The World Remade: Global Perspectives on the Long Nineteenth Century	Core	40	20
4PIRS010W	Political Ideas in Action	Core	20	10
4HIST014W	History and Politics Tutorial 1	Core	20	10
4HIST013W	History Matters	Option	20	10
4PIRS002W	Democracy in Crisis	Core	20	10
4HIST016W	Protests: From Bread Riots to Extinction Rebellion	Option	20	10
4PIRS001W	British Politics	Option	20	10
4PIRS004W	Global Governance and Development	Option	20	10
	Elective	Option	20	10
<i>Award of Certificate of Higher Education available</i>				
Credit Level 5				
Module code	Module title	Status	UK credit	ECTS
5HIST002W	Transforming British Politics	Core	20	10
5PIRS017W	Theorising Politics and International Relations	Core	20	10
5HIST015W	History and Politics Tutorial 2	Core	20	10
5HIST010W	The World Renewed: Global Perspectives on the Twentieth Century (Part One)	Option	20	10
5HIST011W	The World Renewed: Global Perspectives on the Twentieth Century (Part Two)	Option	20	10
5HIST004W	Jack the Ripper: Cultural and Popular History	Option	20	10
5HIST005W	Civil War to Civil Rights	Option	20	10
5HIST007W	Age of Nationalism: A Case Study	Option	20	10
5PIRS008W	Governance in Europe	Option	20	10
5PIRS010W	Middle East Politics	Option	20	10
5PIRS003W	The Politics of Killing	Option	20	10
5PIRS005W	Geopolitics	Option	20	10
5PIRS014W	Power and the State	Option	20	10
	Elective	Elective	20	10
<i>Award of Diploma of Higher Education or Foundation Degree available</i>				
<i>*Core for BA (Hons) History and Politics with International Experience only</i>				
5ENGL006W	Humanities Year Abroad Placement (Semester 1)	Core*	60	30
5ENGL007W	Humanities Year Abroad Placement (Semester 2)	Core*	60	30
Credit Level 6				
Module code	Module title	Status	UK credit	ECTS
6HIST001W	Dissertation for History and History and Politics	Core	40	20
6HIST017W	Special Subjects in History (20-credit-core)	Core	20	10
6PIRS013W	Postcolonial Politics and International Relations	Core	20	10
6HIST018W	Special Subjects in History (20-credit-option)	Option	20	10
6HIST002W	The End of History?	Option	20	10
6PIRS004W	Digital Politics	Option	20	10

6PIRS017W	The Politics of Protest: Social and Political Movements Today	Option	20	10
6PIRS011W	Policy and Practice	Option	20	10
6PIRS009W	Gender and Politics	Option	20	10
6PIRS007W	Equality, Justice, Citizenship	Option	20	10
6HIST015W	Archives and Museums Internship	Option	20	10
6ENGL04W	Humanities Work Placement	Option	20	10
	Elective	Elective	20	10
<i>Award of BA available, Award of BA Honours available</i>				

Please note: Not all option modules will necessarily be offered in any one year.

Level 4

Core Modules:	
SEMESTER ONE	SEMESTER TWO
4HIST001W The World Remade: Global Perspectives on the Long Nineteenth Century (40 credits) (core)	
4HIST014W History & Politics Tutorial (20 credits) (core)	
4PIRS010W Political Ideas in Action (20 credits) (Core)	4PIRS002W Democracy in Crisis (20 credits) (core)
Option Modules:	
Choose one from the following:	
	4PIRS001W British Politics (20 credits) (option)
	4PIRS004W Global Governance and Development
	4HIST013W History Matters
	4HIST016W Protests: From Bread Riots to Extinction Rebellion (20 credits) (option)
	SOCL008W.2 London Lives: Migrant London (20 credits) (elective)
	4ELIT012W London Stories: Creative Writing (20 credits) (elective)
Polylang (20 credits) (option)	

Level 5

Core Modules:	
SEMESTER ONE	SEMESTER TWO
5HIST015W History & Politics Tutorial 2 (20 credits) (core)	
5PIRS017W Theorising Politics and International Relations (20 credits) (core)	5HIST002W Transforming British Politics (20 credits) (core)
Option Modules:	
5HIST010W The World Renewed: Global Perspectives on the Twentieth Century (Part One) (20 credits) (option)	5HIST011W The World Renewed: Global Perspectives on the Twentieth Century (Part (20 credits) (option)
5HIST004W Jack the Ripper: Cultural and Popular History (20 credits) (option)	5HIST007W Age of Nationalism: A Case Study (20 credits) (option)
5PIRS008W Governance in Europe (20 credits) (option)	5HIST005W Civil War to Civil Rights (20 credits) (option)
5PIRS005W Geopolitics (20 credits) (option)	5PIRS010W Middle East Politics (20 credits) (option)
	5PIRS003W The Politics of Killing (20 credits) (option)
	5PIRS014W Power and the State (20 credits) (option)

Choose one or none from the following:	
5HIST009W A Sexual History of London (20 credits) (elective)	5SOCL010W Globalisation: Politics, Law, and the Arts (20 credits) (elective)
Polylang (20 credits) (option)	

5ENGL006W Humanities Year Abroad Placement (Semester 1) (60 credits) (core*)	5ENGL007W Humanities Year Abroad Placement (Semester 2) (60 credits) (core*)
<i>*Core for BA (Hons) History and Politics with International Experience only</i>	

Level 6

Core Modules:	
SEMESTER ONE	SEMESTER TWO
6HIST001W History and History and Politics Dissertation (40 credits) (core)	
6HIST017W Special Subjects in History (20 credits) (core)	
6PIRS13W Postcolonial Politics and International Relations (20 credits) (core)	
Option Modules:	
6HIST018W Special Subjects in History (20 credits) (option)	
6HIST002W The End of History? (20 credits) (option)	6PIRS004W Digital Politics (20 credits) (option)
6PIRS017W The Politics of Protest: Social and Political Movements Today (20 credits) (option)	6PIRS011W Policy and Practice (20 credits) (option)
6PIRS009W Gender and Politics (20 credits) (option)	
6PIRS007W Equality, Justice, Citizenship (20 credits) (option)	
Choose one or none from the following:	
6HIST015W Archives and Museums Internship (20 credits) (option)	
6ENGL004W Humanities Work Placement (20 credits) (option)	
Polylang (20 credits) (option)	

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 Arrivals Week and who is available for consultation either by email, during weekly office hours throughout the year, or by appointment. 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 School of Humanities, for which the Head of School is ultimately responsible.

Academic Support

Upon arrival, there is a full programme of activities to support you in making the transition to university life and study. You will meet the course leader and other lecturers on the course, be given a tour of the campus, the library and IT facilities, and naturally you will meet your peers.

At levels 4 and 5 of the course (years 1 and 2), you will have a designated academic tutor to whom you may turn for general academic advice. In the final year, you will be provided with a supervisor on your Dissertation module, with whom you will have individual supervisions. You will also have a personal tutor who can support you with pastoral issues throughout the three years of your degree.

The course leader will be there throughout your degree to coordinate module choice events, staff/student forums, 'socials' and to ensure the smooth running of the course. Your course leader and all other teaching staff have designated times when they are available for drop in, either in person or online.

Each module has a dedicated and dynamic on-line site that facilitates interaction and contains essential information such as reading lists, details of assessments and seminar materials.

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. Further information on the Academic Learning Development Centre can be found at westminster.ac.uk/academic-learning-development.

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 access electronic resources (databases, e-journals, e-books). Students can choose to study in the libraries, which have areas for silent and group study, desktop computers, laptops for loan, photocopying and printing services. They can also choose from several computer rooms at each campus where desktop computers are available with the general and specialist software that supports the courses taught in their College. Students can also securely connect their own laptops and mobile devices to the University wireless network.

Support Services

The University of Westminster Student and Academic Services 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. Further information on the advice available to students can be found at westminster.ac.uk/student-advice. The University of Westminster Students' Union also provides a range of facilities to support students during their time at the University. Further information on UWSU can be found at westminster.ac.uk/students-union.

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

The course was initially approved by a University Validation Panel in 2020. The panel included internal peers from the University, academic(s) from another university and a representative from industry. 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 College 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 evidence of student surveys, student progression and achievement and reports from external examiners, in order to evaluate the effectiveness of the course.

A Course revalidation 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. Students meet with revalidation panels to provide feedback on their experiences. Student feedback from previous years 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 student engagement activities at Course/Module level, students have the opportunity to express their voice in the running of their course. Course representatives are elected 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 course representatives.
- There are also School Representatives appointed jointly by the University and the Students' Union who meet with senior School staff to discuss wider issues affecting student experience across the School. Student representatives are also represented on key College 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 on the effectiveness of the module and highlight areas that could be enhanced.
- 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.