

Programme Specification

1	Awarding body	University of London				
2	Teaching Institution	Birkbeck College				
3	Programme Title(s)	BA Contemporary History and Politics				
4	Programme Code(s)	UBACONHP_C Part Time UUBACOHP_C Full Time				
5	UCAS code (if applicable)	VL12				
6	Home Department	History, Classics and Archaeology				
7	Exit Award(s)	Dip HE, Cert HE, BA				
8	Duration of Study (number of years)	3 years FT, 4 years PT				
9	Mode of Study	FT	X	PT	X	DL
10	Level of Award (FHEQ)	6				

11	Other teaching depts or institution (or not applicable)	Politics				
12	Professional, Statutory Regulatory Body(PSRB) details	N/A				
13	QAA Benchmark Group	History				

14	Programme Rationale & Aims
	<p>This programme builds on the collaboration between the departments of HCA and Politics at masters level (via the existing MA Contemporary History and Politics).</p> <p>The programme will provide students with a mix of skills drawn from the two disciplines: the ability to analyse data of different types, to understand the context and meaning of events, and to relate the study of the past to current political issues and developments.</p>

15	Entry Criteria
	<p>For UCAS students, A-level qualifications of BBC or tariff-point-equivalent (112), with at least one A-level in either history or politics. Students who fail to achieve these grades may still be considered for entry if they demonstrate the required level of intellectual commitment and potential. The UCAS tariff score is applicable where applicants have recently studied a qualification that has a UCAS tariff equivalence.</p> <p>We welcome applicants without traditional entry qualifications as we base decisions on our own assessment of qualifications, knowledge and previous work experience. We may waive formal entry requirements based on judgement of academic potential</p>

16	Learning Outcomes
	<p>Students completing the BA Contemporary History and Politics will have:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. demonstrated an ability to apply critically the main theories, concepts and approaches used in the analysis of historical topics, and in the analysis of political topics 2. demonstrated knowledge and understanding of: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> (a) a variety of social, political, cultural and intellectual changes in the period 1900-the present (b) the issues involved in current political debate (c) the nature of historical sources, their problems and potentials in providing access to the past (d) the conceptual tools used in political theory and practice And (e) the shape of particular fields of historiographical and political academic discussion 3. extended and developed their analytical, evaluative and critical capacities 4. developed transferable skills, including the ability to take responsibility for their own learning, learning how to learn, making oral and written presentations, planning and producing written assignments in accord with basic scholarly standards, working independently and in groups, managing their time effectively and, where they have so chosen, using information technology relevant to their areas of study.
17	Learning, teaching and assessment methods
	<p>Lecturers provide an overview of issues relevant to the subject being studied. Seminars mix tutor-led instruction with group discussion. They allow students to explore issues in depth and there is an expectation that all students will participate actively by reading recommended texts in advance and offering questions and viewpoints to the group. Where students work in areas related to their course, their experiences enrich discussion. Both lectures and seminars are used to develop subject knowledge and understanding, and to foster key analytical skills. The BA Contemporary History and Politics degree has been designed to guide and support students toward the attainment of the skills necessary to independent learning: by the end of their studies, students should be able to read critically, prioritise evidence, and present arguments coherently in written and oral forms.</p> <p>Teaching, learning and assessment modes are regularly reviewed in light of student feedback, student achievement, external examiners' reports, and peer monitoring. Students frequently consult staff outside formal teaching hours, often by email but also in person. Teaching is supported by comprehensive written guidance designed to support independent learning. A detailed course book for each module gives contact details of course tutors, describes intended learning outcomes and includes a course outline, schedule, recommendations for weekly reading, and essential information about course organization and assessment. Further materials are distributed in class, and guidelines on dissertations, revision and exam techniques are provided to students during the year.</p> <p>Assessment methods: A mixture of essays, reports, book reviews, and other written work and unseen written examinations across the taught modules. Essays enable students to read around a particular facet of a subject in depth; examinations provide an opportunity to test students' grasp of a wide range of material within a reasonably short assessment procedure. All students must demonstrate basic proficiency in both examinations and coursework. Provision is made for students with learning difficulties, health issues, or disabilities that may affect their ability to complete coursework and examinations. The Department works closely with the Disability Office to enable all students to participate fully in our courses: http://www.bbk.ac.uk/mybirkbeck/services/facilities/support</p>

Year of entry: 2020/21

18	Programme Description
<p>The programme consists of 360 credits: 12 modules of 30 credits each; or 10 modules of 30 credits each plus Writing the Past: Dissertation (60 credits). Students will take 120 credits at level 4, 120 credits at level 5, and 120 credits at level 6.</p> <p>There are five compulsory modules: The Study of Politics (level 4), Comparative Government (level 4) and Exploring the Past (level 5)—these provide basic training in relevant study skills and essential disciplinary tools. At level 4 study, students must take The Modern World and The Contemporary World modules in History. Students must also take EITHER Contemporary British Politics (level 5) OR Transformations in Modern Politics (level 5). They also will take one option module in each discipline at level 5.</p> <p>Students then have a choice of modules from both disciplines at level 6. Among those choices is the Writing the Past: Dissertation 60-credit module in History, and a choice of History documents-based 'Special Subject' modules. It should be emphasized that for this joint degree, these are available options and are NOT compulsory.</p> <p>In each year of study, students will be required to take at least one module from each discipline.</p> <p>There are a large variety of modules on offer within the degree, details of which are available on the respective department's websites: http://www.bbk.ac.uk/history and http://www.bbk.ac.uk/politics</p>	

19	Programme Structure			
Full Time programme (3 years)				
Year 1				
Level	Module Code	Module Title	Credits	Status
4	SSPO017S4	The Study of Politics	30	Compulsory
4	FFPO956S4	Comparative Government	30	Compulsory
4	SSHC411S4	The Modern World	30	Compulsory
4	SSHC412S4	The Contemporary World	30	Compulsory
Year 2				
Level	Module Code	Module Title	Credits	Status
5	SSHC407S5	Exploring the Past	30	Compulsory
5	POSO003S5 SSPO139S5	Contemporary British Politics Level 5 OR Transformations in Modern Politics	30	Option
5		Level 5 option from History	30	option
5		Level 5 option from Politics	30	option
Year 3				
Level	Module Code	Module Title	Credits	Status
6		Level 6 option from History	30	Option
6		Level 6 option from Politics	30	Option
6		Level 6 option from either discipline	30	option
6		Level 6 option from either discipline	30	option

Year of entry: 2020/21

Part Time programme				
Year 1				
Level	Module Code	Module Title	Credits	Status
4	SSPO017S4	The Study of Politics	30	Compulsory
4	FFPO956S4	Comparative Government	30	Compulsory
4	SSHC411S4 or SSHC412S4	The Modern World OR The Contemporary World	30	Compulsory
Year 2				
Level	Module Code	Module Title	Credits	Status
5	SSHC407S5	Exploring the Past	30	Compulsory
4	SSHC411S4 or SSHC412S4	The Modern World OR The Contemporary World	30	Compulsory
5	POSO003S5 SSPO139S5	Contemporary British Politics Level 5 OR Transformations in Modern Politics	30	Option
Year 3				
Level	Module Code	Module Title	Credits	Status
5		Level 5 option from History	30	Option
5		Level 5 option from Politics	30	Option
6		Level 6 option from either discipline	30	Option
Year 4				
Level	Module Code	Module Title	Credits	Status
6		Level 6 option from History	30	Option
6		Level 6 option from Politics	30	Option
6		Level 6 option from either discipline	30	Option
Department of History, Classics & Archaeology Indicative List of Modules				
Level	Module Code	Module Title	Credits	Status
5	SSHC471S5	Political and Social Change in the Middle East since 1918	30	Option
5	SSHC509S5	Italy and the World: Conflict and the Incomplete Nation, 1815-present	30	option
6	HICL161S6	Contested nation: Germany 1871-1918	30	Option
6	SSHC228S6	A Hundred Years of the Russian Revolution, 1891-1991	30	Option
6	HICL197S6	Intimate Britain: Family, Society and Culture, 1832-1918	30	Option
6	HICL204S6	The Birth of a Superpower: China from 1900 to the Present Day	30	Option
6	SSHC242S6	The Cold War: A Global History	30	Option
6	HICL147S6	The Third Reich	30	Option
6	SSHC408D6	Writing the Past: Dissertation	60	Option
Department of Politics Indicative List of Modules				
Level	Module Code	Module Title	Credits	Status
6	POSO013S6	Social and Political Theory	30	Option
6	POSO004S6	War and Modern Society	30	Option
6	SSPO112S6	Food, Politics and Society (Level 6)	30	Option
6	SSPO109S6	International Migration and Transnationalism	30	Option

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6	POSO008S6	Russian Politics and Society, 1905 to Today	30	Option
6	POSO039S6	Politics, Power and Human Nature	30	Option
6	SSPO116S6	Capitalism and the Politics of Markets	30	Option
6	POSO036S6	Politics and the Middle East	30	Option

20	Regulations			
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Admissions This programme adheres to the College Admissions Policy: http://www.bbk.ac.uk/registry/policies/documents/admissions-policy.pdf • Credit Transfer Accredited Prior Learning will be considered in line with the College Policy on Accredited Prior Learning http://www.bbk.ac.uk/registry/policies/documents/accreditation-prior-learning.pdf • Programme Regulations This programme adheres to the College Common Awards Scheme http://www.bbk.ac.uk/registry/policies/regulations • Programme Specific Regulations (or not applicable) N/A 			

21	Student Attendance Framework – in brief			
	<p>The full version of the ‘Student Attendance Framework’ is available http://www.bbk.ac.uk/mybirkbeck/services/rules/Attendance-Framework.pdf .</p> <p>Principle Consistent and regular student attendance in class (or equivalent) promotes and affords student success. Inconsistent and irregular attendance is less likely to result in student success and is consistent with lower marks and degree classifications being achieved and awarded.</p> <p>Attendance expectation Birkbeck, University of London expects you to consistently attend all timetabled sessions, including lectures, seminars, group and individual tutorials, learning support sessions, workshops, laboratories, field trips, inductions and demonstrations.</p> <p>E-Registers All Birkbeck students are issued with student cards. Students are expected to take them to classes and to assessment venues and to present them to a member of staff if requested. This is for the purpose of identifying Birkbeck students.</p>			

22	Student Support and Guidance			
	All Birkbeck students have access to a range of student support services, details can be found on our website here: http://www.bbk.ac.uk/mybirkbeck/services/facilities			

23	Methods of Enhancing Quality and Standards			
	The College has rigorous procedures in place for the monitoring and enhancing its educational provision. This includes regular monitoring of programmes drawing on feedback from various sources including external examiner's reports, student feedback, student achievement and progression data. In addition, departments are reviewed every four to five years through the internal review process that includes external input.			

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	For more information please see the Academic Standards and Quality website http://www.bbk.ac.uk/registry/about-us/operations-and-quality
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25	Programme Director	TBC
26	Start Date (<i>term/year</i>)	Autumn 2014
27	Date approved by TQEC	Spring 2014
28	Date approved by Academic Board	Summer 2014
29	Date(s) updated/amended	March 2017