



LEEDS
BECKETT
UNIVERSITY

Course Specification

BA (Hons) History and Politics

Course Code: BHIPO

2024/25

leedsbeckett.ac.uk

BA (Hons) History and Politics (BHIPO)

Applicant Facing Course Specification for 2024/25 Undergraduate Entrants

Confirmed at DEC/2023

General Information

Award	Bachelor of Arts with Honours History & Politics
Contained Awards	Bachelor of Arts History & Politics (Level 6) Diploma of Higher Education History & Politics (Level 5) Certificate of Higher Education History & Politics (Level 4)
Awarding Body	Leeds Beckett University
Level of Qualification and Credits	Level 6 of the Framework for Higher Education Qualifications, with 120 credit points at each of Levels 4, 5 and 6 of the UK Credit Framework for Higher Education (360 credits in total).
Course Lengths and Standard Timescales	Start dates will be notified to students via their offer letter. The length and mode of delivery of the course is confirmed below: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• 3 years (full time, campus based)• 6 years (part time, campus based)
Part Time Study	PT students will be supported by the course team to determine an appropriate selection of modules from the level for each year of study. PT delivery is usually at half the intensity of the FT equivalent course, although there may be flexibility to increase your pace of study to shorten the overall course duration. Some modules may be delivered in a different sequence to that defined within this information set but the modules offered within each level are consistent. Please note that the work placement option is not generally available to PT students.
Location(s) of Delivery	The majority of teaching will be at City campus but on occasion may be at Headingley campus.
Entry Requirements	Admissions criteria are confirmed in your offer letter. Details of how the University recognises prior learning and supports credit transfer are located here: https://www.leedsbeckett.ac.uk/student-information/course-information/recognition-of-prior-learning/

Admissions enquiries may be directed to:

AdmissionsEnquiries@leedsbeckett.ac.uk

Course Fees

Course fees and any additional course costs are confirmed in your offer letter. Fees enquiries may be directed to:

Fees@leedsbeckett.ac.uk

Timetable Information

Timetables for Semester 1 will be made available to students during induction week via:

- i) The Student Portal (MyBeckett)
- ii) The Leeds Beckett app

Any difficulties relating to timetabled sessions may be discussed with your Course Administrator.

Policies, Standards and Regulations (<https://www.leedsbeckett.ac.uk/our-university/public-information/academic-regulations/>)

There are no additional or non-standard regulations which relate to your course.

Key Contacts

Your Course Director

Dr Gráinne Goodwin

G.Goodwin@leedsbeckett.ac.uk

Your Academic Advisor

You will be informed of the name of your Academic Advisor on arrival.

Your Course Administrator

The name of your Course Administrator/s will be confirmed during induction. Their contact details are:

HistoryAdmin@Leedsbeckett.ac.uk

Other 'In Year' Work Placement Information

Summary

There is an optional Module at Level 6, 'Career Cartographies: work-integrated learning in the Humanities', which involves work placement.

Length

Level 6: 80 hours work placement.

Location

Students are responsible for obtaining their own placement, with assistance from the University. The locations will vary, dependent on the opportunity.

Professional Accreditation or Recognition Associated with the Course

Professional Body

N/A

Accreditation/ Recognition Summary

N/A

Course Overview

Aims

How have political structures and ideologies developed over time? What is power? Why is it distributed as it is? How are political relations between and within states negotiated and mediated? What is identity, and what is its relationship to politics? These are key questions that students studying the BA (Hons) History & Politics course will grapple with. The course is designed to appeal to students with a combined interest in modern history and politics, including questions of ideology and identity as well as more formal political institutions and policies. It allows them to examine how historical events and processes have created the modern world, its ideologies and structures, and to understand the role circumstances, chance and human agency have played in shaping those events and processes.

The degree has been developed to provide students with a thorough grounding in competencies from each subject, including close analysis, data-gathering, information-processing and critical reflection as applied to a range of political ideas, institutions and policies, using empirical evidence, theory and academic scholarship drawn from both disciplines. To this end, first-year students are introduced to key concepts, methods and approaches in the History and Politics subject areas through core modules. For the History component this entails an immersion in source analysis, academic history writing and engagement with historiography, whilst the Politics component introduces students to political theory and key issues around governance and international relations. This underpinning allows students to build on disciplinary foundations before engaging with the interconnections and contrasts between the two subjects in advanced levels of the degree.

The interdisciplinary approach nurtured on the degree and the alignment of skills and methods from the two subject areas empowers students to engage in critical analysis of past and present politics. The degree blends the historical criticality, evaluation of evidence, consideration of context and scrutiny of agency integral to history, with the analysis of political ideas, ideologies, policies and institutions that form the foundations of political science. In the final year, this comes to fruition as students research and write their interdisciplinary dissertation. The course is designed to give students a grounding in both disciplines at Level 4, before allowing them to specialise in aspects of the historical and political fields with elective modules introduced in the second and third years of study. The optionality at Levels 5 and 6 also reflects the current research interests of staff across both subject teams and offers student the opportunity to

shape their own pathway through the degree. Students may also pursue professional development should they wish to do so, through elective modules such as, *Applied Humanities: Live-Brief Learning, Digital History, Public History Project* or *Career Cartographies*.

Overall the aims of the programme are to enable students to:

- develop an appreciation of the disciplines of History and Politics and the interconnections between them from the early modern era to the present and across local, national and global arenas;
- engage critically with historical evidence and political discourse, past and present, from a wide range of cultures, contexts and polities;
- evaluate theories, methods and approaches relevant to both disciplines and apply these with confidence and creativity;
- enhance students' understanding of contemporary politics by instilling historical literacy, putting the emergence of political ideas, movements and ideologies such as liberalism, socialism, conservatism and nationalism, or political entities such as the nation state, into their specific historical contexts;
- acquire the attributes and transferable skills relevant for professional careers or further study, including independent research, team work, oral and written communication, digital literacies, self-motivation, enterprise and networking.

Course Learning Outcomes

At the end of the course, students will be able to:

1. Examine, understand and evaluate politics as a historically conditioned and situated human activity with a global outlook, through the ability to describe, analyse and assess the nature and distribution of power in systems, process and institutions of governance and comprehend different interpretations of historical change and world political events.
2. Outline, contrast, evaluate and apply key theories, concepts and ideas within the study of History and Politics to a variety of historical and political themes, events and situations, synthesising relevant information, exercising critical judgement and constructing reasoned arguments.
3. Engage in and reflect on political participation as engaged citizens and learners; develop the academic and employability skills necessary for intellectual, vocational and personal development and demonstrate global awareness and outlook in their application.
4. Gather, organise, analyse and deploy evidence, data and information from a variety of secondary and primary sources, demonstrating digital literacy in the critical and reflective use of ICT to retrieve and present research; evaluate and contextualise contemporary and historical primary source material in a variety of formats.
5. Creatively and effectively devise, plan and carry out research using a range of appropriate sources, methods, and technologies, and present findings in a range of formats.

6. Identify, critically analyse and advocate solutions to problems; Be able to construct and articulate coherent and effective arguments in speech and writing, demonstrating time management skills, and awareness of the importance of referencing and the ethical requirements of study, to become a mature, enterprising and independent learner.

Teaching and Learning Activities

Summary

Once enrolled on the course, students study three 20-credit modules per semester at Levels 4 and 5, with two 20 credit modules per semester, plus the 40-credit dissertation running across both semesters, at Level 6. Each module involves a combination of lectures and seminars, sometimes with the addition of tutorial contact hours with module instructors. Teaching will be delivered via blended learning, some lectures will be delivered in person, and some will be delivered asynchronously online, with in person seminars. Additional learning resources will also be provided online via our Virtual Learning Environment. The exact balance varies between modules, though 90 minutes each for lectures and seminars is common and is standard in Politics. Where academic content and good educational practice make it appropriate, student learning may be facilitated through a range of digital technologies.

Outside class, students are expected to do independent reading, research and preparation related to the modules they are studying. In developing this provision new content and structure of the course, we have taken into consideration student feedback gleaned from focus groups, module evaluations, and the NSS. In History, this led to longer seminars (90 minutes or two hours) and the introduction of an engagement component to History Level 4 assessment in response to student feedback about the seminar experience. Additionally, we have reduced the number of exams used in assessment and expanded the diet of assessment to introduce students to a wider range of transferable skills.

Assessment: As part of the course, students will encounter varied forms of assessment which include: extended essays, exams, poster displays, museum reports, blog writing, podcasting and assessed engagement. Taken together, the wide range of modes of assessment develops and measures students' abilities to think, speak and write critically, to reflect on the discipline and their own practice of it, to work both independently and as part of a group, to manage their time and operate as professionals within the discipline. At the same time, students will acquire skills in digital information retrieval and the production of material using a range of digital platforms including the MyBeckett VLE, PowerPoint, WordPress and others.

Your Modules

This information is correct for students progressing through the programme within standard timescales. Part time students will be supported by the course team to determine an appropriate selection of modules from the level for each year of study. Option modules listed are indicative of a typical year. There may be some variance in the availability of option modules. Students who are required to undertake repeat study may be taught alternate modules which meet the overall course learning outcomes. Details of module delivery will be provided in your timetable.

Level 4			
Semester 1	Core (Y/N)	Semester 2	Core (Y/N)
Political Movements and Ideologies (Politics module) (20 credits)	Y	Introduction to Governance (Politics module) (20 credits)	Y
Introduction to World Politics (Politics module) (20 credits)	Y	The Public and the Past (History module) (20 credits)	Y
Emergence of Modern Europe (History module) (20 credits)	Y	Century of Conflict? War and Peace in Europe, 1914-c.2000 (History module) (20 credits)	Y

Level 5			
Semester 1	Core (Y/N)	Semester 2	Core (Y/N)
Britain in the World (Politics module) (20 credits)	Y	History: Theory & Practice (Interdisciplinary module) (20 credits)	Y
A History Module*	N	State and Power (Politics module) (20 credits)	Y
A History Module*	N	A Politics Module OR Applied Humanities (Interdisciplinary module)* (20 credits)	N

Indicative Option Modules*

The following option modules are indicative of a typical year. There may be some variance in the availability of option modules. Students are expected to choose two History options and one Politics option. As an alternative to the Politics option, students may choose the Interdisciplinary Applied Humanities option.

History Option Modules

Atlantic Revolutions 1760-1840

Landscapes of History

Genocide & the Politics of Memory

Totalitarianism: State Ideology and Mass Politics in the 20th Century

Swinging Britain: Turned on and Tuned in to the Sixties

Bringing the Empire Home, 1851-1914

Revolution! Europe 1789-1871

Radicals, Reformers & Revolutionaries in the British Isles, 1760-1922

Everybody Hurts: Health, Disability and Wellbeing

Politics Option Modules

Environment and World Politics

Political Economy of Development

Debates in Human Rights

Theories of Peace and Security

Interdisciplinary Option Module

Applied Humanities: Live Brief Learning

Level 6			
Semester 1	Core (Y/N)	Semester 2	Core (Y/N)
History & Politics Dissertation – delivered across Semesters 1 and 2 (Interdisciplinary) (40 credits)	Y	History & Politics Dissertation (continued)	Y
Policy Making (Politics module) (20 credits)	Y	A Politics Module* (20 credits)	N
A History Module OR Career Cartographies (Interdisciplinary Module)* (20 credits)	N	A History Module* (20 credits)	N

Indicative Option Modules*

The following option modules are indicative of a typical year. There may be some variance in the availability of option modules. Students are expected to choose two History options and one Politics option. As an alternative to a History option, students may choose the Interdisciplinary Career Cartographies option.

History Option Modules

The Four Seasons of Modern Italy: Nationalism, Liberalism, Fascism, Democracy

Civil Rights in North America
 Britishness: Nation and Identity Since 1707
 Apartheid and After: Twentieth-Century South Africa
 Communist Eastern Europe 1945-1990: Peeking behind the Iron Curtain
 ‘People’s War’: Understanding the British Home Front, c.1939-45
 Public History Project
 Britons Abroad: Histories of Overseas Travel & Holidaying, c. 1750-1990
 Restaurants, Roundabouts and Revolutions: Paris in the 19th Century
 Mediating Modernities: Visual Culture and Urban Space, c. 1850-1989
 Sea and Society since 1750
 Streetlife: Urban Culture & Society Since c. 1850
 Decolonisation Past & Present

Politics Option Modules

Making Sense of British Politics
 Decolonising Politics
 Migration and Displacement

Interdisciplinary Option Module

‘Career Cartographies’: work integrated learning in the Humanities (Interdisciplinary)

Assessment Balance and Scheduled Learning and Teaching Activities by Level

The assessment balance and overall workload associated with this course are calculated from core modules and typical option module choices undertaken by students on the course. They have been reviewed and confirmed as representative by the Course Director but applicants should note that the specific option choices students make may influence both assessment and workload balance.

A standard module equates to 200 notional learning hours, which may be comprised of teaching, learning and assessment, any embedded placement activities and independent study. Modules may have more than one component of assessment.

Assessment

Level 4 is assessed by coursework predominately, with some practical assessments.

Level 5 is assessed by coursework predominately, with some examinations and practical assessments.

Level 6 is assessed by coursework predominately, with some examinations and practical assessments.

Workload

Overall Workload	Level 4	Level 5	Level 6
Teaching, Learning and Assessment	195 hours	195 hours	180 hours
Independent Study	1005 hours	1005 hours	1020 hours

Overall Workload	Level 4	Level 5	Level 6
Placement	-	-	80 (on Career Cartographies option only)

Learning Support

If you have a question or a problem relating to your course, your Course Administrator is there to help you. Course Administrators work closely with academic staff and can make referrals to teaching staff or to specialist professional services as appropriate. They can give you a confirmation of attendance letter, and a transcript. You may also like to contact your Course Rep or the Students' Union Advice team for additional support with course-related questions.

Student Services

If you have any questions about life at University, call into our Student Services Centre at either campus or contact Student Advice directly. This team, consisting of trained officers and advisers are available to support you throughout your time here. They will make sure you have access to and are aware of the support, specialist services, and opportunities our University provides. They also work on a wide range of projects throughout the year all designed to enhance your student experience and ensure you make the most of your time with us. Student Advice are located in the Student Services Centre in the Leslie Silver Building at City Campus and on the ground floor of the Priestley Building at Headingley Campus. The team can also be contacted via email at studentadvice@leedsbeckett.ac.uk, telephone on 0113 812 3000, or by accessing our online chat link, available on the student homepage.

Support and Opportunities

Within MyBeckett you will see two tabs (Support and Opportunities) where you can find online information and resources for yourselves. The Support tab gives you access to details of services available to give you academic and personal support. These include Library Services, the Students' Union, Money advice, Disability advice and support, Wellbeing, International Student Services and Accommodation. There is also an A-Z of Support Services, and access to online appointments/registration.

The Opportunities tab is the place to explore the options you have for jobs, work placements, volunteering, and a wide range of other opportunities. For example, you can find out here how to get help with your CV, prepare for an interview, get a part-time job or voluntary role, take part in an international project, or join societies closer to home.