



LEEDS
BECKETT
UNIVERSITY

Course Specification

BAH History and Politics

Course Code: BHIPO

2026/27

BA (Hons) History and Politics (BHIPO)

Applicant Facing Course Specification for 2026/27 Entrants

Confirmed at 10/2025

General Information

Award	Bachelor of Arts (with honours) History and Politics
Contained awards	Bachelor of Arts History and Politics (Level 6) Diploma of Higher Education History and Politics (Level 5) Certificate of Higher Education History and 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: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• 3 years (full time, campus based)• 6 years (part time, campus based)
Part time 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. PT students will be supported by the course team to determine an appropriate selection of modules from the level for each year of study. Some modules may be delivered in a different sequence from that defined within this information set but the modules offered within each level are consistent. Please note that a 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. The majority of teaching will be at Headingley campus but on occasion may be at City 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 are confirmed in your offer letter. A breakdown of any additional costs is included on the online prospectus entry for this course.

Fees enquiries may be directed to Fees@leedsbeckett.ac.uk.

Policies, Standards and Regulations

<https://www.leedsbeckett.ac.uk/our-university/public-information/academic-regulations/>

Standard regulations apply to this course.

Professional Accreditation or Recognition Associated with the Course

Professional body

N/A

Accreditation/recognition summary

N/A

'In Year' Work Placement Information

Summary

The course contains a modular placement.

Placement Delivery

Students are responsible for obtaining their own placement, with assistance from the University.

The optional Level 6 module, 'Career Cartographies: work-integrated learning in the Humanities' involves 80 hours work placement.

Location

The locations will vary, dependent on the opportunity.

Approval

Whilst students source their own placements, they will need to meet requirements which will be outlined before module enrolment.

Timetable

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.

Key Contacts

Your course director

Dr Rachel Rich
R.Rich@leedsbeckett.ac.uk

Your course administrator

The name of your Course Administrator/s will be confirmed during induction. Their contact details are:
HistoryAdmin@Leedsbeckett.ac.uk

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, Professional Project Workshop, *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	Engage with the range of activities associated with undergraduate study, including seminar preparation and participation, reflecting on historical topics and approaches, and the use of digital platforms such as the university's library search tools and Virtual Learning Environment (VLE).
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2	Have developed critical thinking skills, demonstrated, for example, through essay writing or presentations, in-class debates, and analysis of historical and political texts.
3	Conduct independent research, with appropriate supervision, demonstrating the ability to identify and retrieve and analyse source materials relevant to the course, and reference them appropriately.
4	Have developed excellent communication skills, using appropriate media for the task and audience. This can include both oral and written communication, aimed at a range of audiences (academic and non-academic), and where appropriate making use of digital media.
5	Have acquired knowledge of a range of topics in modern history and politics, and of the connections between the two disciplines. This will include knowledge of British, European, and wider world history and politics.
6	Have acquired a range of transferable skills, though either coursework or placement work, including creative problem solving, and the skills of research, analysis, and communication as outlined above.

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. Lectures vary between 60 and 90 minutes and seminars between 90 minutes and 2 hours. 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 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

Compulsory modules

Module title	Credits	Semester/ teaching period
Political Movements and Ideologies (Politics)	20	1
Introduction to World Politics (Politics)	20	1
Emergence of Modern Europe (History)	20	1
Introduction to Governance (Politics)	20	2
Century of Conflict? War and Peace in Europe, 1914-c.2000 (History)	20	2
The Public and the Past (History)	20	2
Number of credits of compulsory modules	120	

Level 5

Compulsory modules

Module title	Credits	Semester/ teaching period
Britain in the World (Politics)	20	1
History: Theory and Practice (Interdisciplinary)	20	2
Decolonising Politics (Politics)	20	2
Number of credits of compulsory modules	60	

Option modules

Students choose two options in Semester 1; one History option and one and Politics option.

Students choose one option in Semester 2; one History option or Professional Project Workshop.

*Semesters will be confirmed on a year-by-year basis unless otherwise indicated.

Module title	Credits	Semester/ teaching period
History Option Modules		
Atlantic Revolutions	20	1 or 2*
Digital History	20	1 or 2*
Everybody Hurts: Health, Disability and Wellbeing	20	1 or 2*
Genocide and the Politics of Memory	20	1 or 2*
Slavery and Unfree Labour in the British Empire: Comparative Case Studies	20	1 or 2*
Swinging Britain: Turned on and Tuned in to the Sixties	20	1 or 2*
Thatcher's Britain	20	1 or 2*
Totalitarianism: State Ideology and Mass Politics in the Twentieth Century	20	1 or 2*
Politics Option Modules		
International Human Rights	20	1 or 2*
Peacebuilding and Conflict Resolution	20	1 or 2*
State and Power	20	1 or 2*
Understanding Security	20	1 or 2*
Interdisciplinary Option Module		
Professional Project Workshop	20	2
Number of credits of option modules a student should choose	60	

Level 6

Compulsory modules

Module title	Credits	Semester/ teaching period
History and Politics Dissertation OR	40	1 and 2
Working with the Past Major Project	40	1 and 2
Policy Making (Politics)* OR	20	2
Making Sense of British Politics (Politics)*	20	2
Number of credits of compulsory modules	60	

*Only one of the Politics core modules, Policy Making and Making Sense of British Politics will run depending on staff deployment.

Option modules

Students choose one History option or Career Cartographies, and one Politics option or Heretics and Renegades in Semester 1.

Students choose one History option in Semester 2.

*Semesters will be confirmed on a year-by-year basis unless otherwise indicated.

Module title	Credits	Semester/ teaching period
History Option Modules		
Apartheid and After: Twentieth-Century South Africa	20	1 or 2*
Britishness: Nation and Society since 1707	20	1 or 2*
Britons Abroad: Histories of Overseas Travel and Holidaying, c. 1750-1970	20	1 or 2*
Communist Eastern Europe 1945-1990: Peeking Behind the 'Iron Curtain'	20	1 or 2*
Mediating Modernities: Visual Culture and Urban Space c.1850-1989	20	1 or 2*
People's War': Understanding the British Home Front, c.1939-45	20	1 or 2*
Prison Nation: Punishment, Power and Protest in the United States	20	1 or 2*
Public History Project	20	1 or 2*
Reformers, Radicals and Revolutionaries: Britain and Ireland, 1789-1922	20	1 or 2*
Restaurants, Roundabouts and Revolutions: Paris in the Nineteenth Century	20	1 or 2*
Streetlife: Urban Culture and Society Since c.1850	20	1 or 2*
The Four Seasons of Modern Italy: Nationalism, Liberalism, Fascism, Democracy	20	1 or 2*
Politics Option Modules		
Advanced Surveillance, Information Technology and Crime	20	1
Migration and Displacement	20	1
Resist! Confronting State Harm	20	1
Rethinking Diplomacy	20	1 or 2*
Interdisciplinary Option Modules		
Career Cartographies': work-integrated learning in the Humanities	20	1
Heretics and Renegades	20	1 or 2*
Number of credits of option modules a student should choose	60	

Assessment and Scheduled Learning and Teaching Activities

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

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

Level 5

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

Level 6

Level 6 is assessed by coursework predominantly, 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
Placement	-	-	80 hours (on Career Cartographies only)