Programme Specification

1. **Awarding body**
   University of London

2. **Teaching Institution**
   Birkbeck College

3. **Programme Title(s)**
   MSc War and Humanitarianism

4. **Programme Code(s)**
   TMSWARHM_C

5. **UCAS code**
   N/A

6. **Home Department**
   Politics

7. **Exit Award(s)**
   PG Dip; PG Cert

8. **Duration of Study (number of years)**
   1 FT and 2 PT

9. **Mode of Study**
   FT ✓ PT ✓ DL

10. **Level of Award (FHEQ)**
    7

11. **Other teaching depts or institution**
    Geography
    History, Classics and Archaeology (HCA)
    Psychosocial Studies
    Philosophy
    Applied Linguistics and Communications (ALC)

12. **Professional, Statutory Regulatory Body (PSRB) details**
    N/A

13. **QAA Benchmark Statement**
    N/A

14. **Programme Rationale & Aims**
    War and Humanitarianism are deeply embedded in the modern experience. Be it in the nineteenth-century calls for civilizing war or the contemporary attempts at saving distant strangers, the conduct of organised violence and the defence of human rights cannot be separated out. This new inter-disciplinary degree offers students an evening study degree analysing the complex interaction between war and humanitarianism from multiple historical, geographical, political and cultural perspectives. It approaches war as a social totality that encompasses all manner of human processes and structures, and considers humanitarianism as an increasingly pervasive ideology, informing all sorts of collective social and political activity across the world. Taught by leading scholars in the fields of history, geography, politics, philosophy and psychosocial studies, the programme will give students advanced knowledge of the concepts, theories, histories and policy implications of war and humanitarianism in the world today.

15. **Entry Criteria**
    Minimum 2:2 or equivalent in social sciences or humanities UG degree

16. **Learning Outcomes**
    Students taking this programme will:
    - develop skills and engage with materials needed to understand the trajectories of war and humanitarianism, both past and present, and to appreciate the political tensions
and social contradictions they generate across the world today.

- learn about the analytical categories, research methods and varying disciplinary approaches to war and humanitarianism within the social sciences and humanities.
- acquire knowledge of humanitarian policies and practice, and the nature and dynamics of organised violence on a national, regional and global scale.
- undertake specific case studies of wars, humanitarian interventions and the multiple socio-political issues and debates they generate in particular countries or regions.
- critically explore key theories and concepts employed in history, geography, politics, philosophy and psychosocial studies when explaining and understanding war and humanitarianism in a global context.

17 Learning, teaching and assessment methods

The programme uses the established teaching and assessment methods on the Politics MSc programmes, consisting of lectures and seminars for taught modules, along with a dissertation. There is a standard assessment pattern that means that students submit formative essays to obtain feedback in term 1 and assessed essays in term 2, and take exams in term 3.

18 Programme Description

Students take one core module, Fields of War and Humanitarianism and three options (all 30 credits) and write a 60 credit dissertation. Full-time students take all four taught modules Oct-May and submit their dissertation by 15 Sept. Part-time students take two modules each year (one core in each year) and submit their dissertation by 15 Sept of their second year.

19 Programme Structure

**Full-Time programme – 1 year**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Level</th>
<th>Module Code</th>
<th>Module Title</th>
<th>Credits</th>
<th>Status*</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>7</td>
<td>SSPO141S7</td>
<td>Fields of War and Humanitarianism</td>
<td>30</td>
<td>Compulsory</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7</td>
<td>SSHP Option Module</td>
<td></td>
<td>30</td>
<td>Option</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7</td>
<td>SSHP Option Module</td>
<td></td>
<td>30</td>
<td>Option</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7</td>
<td>SSPO142D7</td>
<td>12,000-15,000 word Dissertation</td>
<td>60</td>
<td>Core</td>
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</table>

**Part-Time programme – 2 years**

**Year 1**

<table>
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<th>Level</th>
<th>Module Code</th>
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<th>Credits</th>
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<tr>
<td>7</td>
<td>SSPO141S7</td>
<td>Fields of War and Humanitarianism</td>
<td>30</td>
<td>Compulsory</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7</td>
<td>SSHP Option Module</td>
<td></td>
<td>30</td>
<td>Option</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

**Year 2**

<table>
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<tr>
<th>Level</th>
<th>Module Code</th>
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<th>Status*</th>
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<td>7</td>
<td>SSHP Option Module</td>
<td></td>
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<td>Option</td>
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<tr>
<td>7</td>
<td>SSHP Option Module</td>
<td></td>
<td>30</td>
<td>Option</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7</td>
<td>SSPO142D7</td>
<td>12,000-15,000 word Dissertation</td>
<td>60</td>
<td>Core</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
### Year of entry: 2020/21

**Indicative List of Options:**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Level</th>
<th>Module Code</th>
<th>Module Title</th>
<th>Credits</th>
<th>Status*</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>7</td>
<td>POS035S7</td>
<td>War, Politics and Society</td>
<td>30</td>
<td>Option</td>
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<tr>
<td>7</td>
<td>POS044S7</td>
<td>Nationalism and Ethno-Religious Conflict</td>
<td>30</td>
<td>Option</td>
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<tr>
<td>7</td>
<td>SSP006S7</td>
<td>Middle East Politics</td>
<td>30</td>
<td>Option</td>
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<tr>
<td>7</td>
<td>SSP012S7</td>
<td>Geopolitics, Population and Environment</td>
<td>30</td>
<td>Option</td>
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<tr>
<td>7</td>
<td>POS082S7</td>
<td>Global Politics, Governance and Security</td>
<td>30</td>
<td>Option</td>
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<tr>
<td>7</td>
<td>SSP0127S7</td>
<td>The Politics of Population Change: Immigration, Aging and Conflict</td>
<td>30</td>
<td>Option</td>
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<tr>
<td>7</td>
<td>SSPL151S7</td>
<td>The Biology of Evil</td>
<td>30</td>
<td>Option</td>
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<td>7</td>
<td>SSPL112S7</td>
<td>The Idea of Freedom</td>
<td>30</td>
<td>Option</td>
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<tr>
<td>7</td>
<td>SSPL146S7</td>
<td>Moral Responsibility</td>
<td>30</td>
<td>Option</td>
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<tr>
<td>7</td>
<td>SSPL103S7</td>
<td>Morality, Nature and Evolution</td>
<td>30</td>
<td>Option</td>
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<tr>
<td>7</td>
<td>SSPL021S7</td>
<td>Ethics</td>
<td>30</td>
<td>Option</td>
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<tr>
<td>7</td>
<td>FDDV023S7</td>
<td>Development Studies: Theoretical Approaches</td>
<td>30</td>
<td>Option</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7</td>
<td>FDDV024S7</td>
<td>Development, Aid and Power</td>
<td>30</td>
<td>Option</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7</td>
<td>SSPA077S7</td>
<td>Psychoanalysis and History</td>
<td>30</td>
<td>Option</td>
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<tr>
<td>7</td>
<td>HICL184S7</td>
<td>Why War? History, Psychoanalysis and Politics, c 1900-1950</td>
<td>30</td>
<td>Option</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7</td>
<td>FDRE017S7</td>
<td>‘Race’, Racism, Postcoloniality</td>
<td>30</td>
<td>Option</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Status*:**
- CORE – Module must be taken and passed by student;
- COMPULSORY – Module must be taken, mark can be reviewed at sub-exam board;
- OPTIONAL – Student can choose to take this module.

### Regulations

- **Admissions**
  This programme adheres to the College Admissions Policy:  

- **Credit Transfer**
  Accredited Prior Learning will be considered in line with the College Policy on Accredited Prior Learning  

- **Programme Regulations**
  This programme adheres to the College Common Awards Scheme  
  [http://www.bbk.ac.uk/registry/policies/regulations](http://www.bbk.ac.uk/registry/policies/regulations)

- **Programme Specific Regulations (or not applicable)**: N/A

### Student Attendance Framework – in brief

The full version of the ‘Student Attendance Framework’ is available  

**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.

**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.

**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.

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**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](http://www.bbk.ac.uk/mybirkbeck/services/facilities)

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**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.

For more information please see the Academic Standards and Quality website [http://www.bbk.ac.uk/registry/about-us/operations-and-quality](http://www.bbk.ac.uk/registry/about-us/operations-and-quality).

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**Programme Director**
Dr Antoine Bousquet

**Start Date (term/year)**
Autumn 2017

**Date approved by TQEC**
Spring 2017

**Date approved by Academic Board**
Summer 2017

**Date(s) updated/amended**
March 2017