

## Programme Specification

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| 1  | <b>Awarding body</b>   | University of London                         |   |    |   |    |  |
| 2  | <b>Teaching Institution</b>                                    | <b>Birkbeck College</b>                      |   |    |   |    |  |
| 3  | <b>Programme Title(s)</b>                                      | <b>BA Contemporary History and Politics</b>  |   |    |   |    |  |
| 4  | <b>Programme Code(s)</b>                                       | UBACONHP_C Part Time<br>UUBACOHP_C Full Time |   |    |   |    |  |
| 5  | <b>UCAS code (if applicable)</b>                               | VL12   |   |    |   |    |  |
| 6  | <b>Home Department</b>   | History, Classics and Archaeology            |   |    |   |    |  |
| 7  | <b>Exit Award(s)</b>   | Dip HE, Cert HE, BA                          |   |    |   |    |  |
| 8  | <b>Duration of Study (number of years)</b>                     | 3 years FT, 4 years PT                       |   |    |   |    |  |
| 9  | <b>Mode of Study</b>   | FT   | X | PT | X | DL |  |
| 10 | <b>Level of Award (FHEQ)</b>                                   | 6  |   |    |   |    |  |
| 11 | <b>Other teaching depts or institution (or not applicable)</b> | Politics                                     |   |    |   |    |  |
| 12 | <b>Professional, Statutory Regulatory Body(PSRB) details</b>   | N/A  |   |    |   |    |  |
| 13 | <b><a href="#">QAA Benchmark Group</a></b>                     | History                                      |   |    |   |    |  |

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| 14 | <b>Programme Rationale &amp; Aims</b>  |
|    | <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> |

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| 15 | <b>Entry Criteria</b>   |
|    | <p>For UCAS students, A-level qualifications of BCC-BBB or tariff-point-equivalent (104-120 points), 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> |

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| 16 | <b>Learning Outcomes</b>  |
|    | <p>Students completing the BA Contemporary History and Politics will have:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>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</li> <li>2. demonstrated knowledge and understanding of:             <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>(a) a variety of social, political, cultural and intellectual changes in the period 1900-the present</li> <li>(b) the issues involved in current political debate</li> </ol> </li> </ol> |

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|  | <p>(c) the nature of historical sources, their problems and potentials in providing access to the past</p> <p>(d) the conceptual tools used in political theory and practice</p> <p>And (e) the shape of particular fields of historiographical and political academic discussion</p> <p>3. extended and developed their analytical, evaluative and critical capacities</p> <p>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.</p> |
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| 17 | <p><b>Learning, teaching and assessment methods</b></p> <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: <a href="http://www.bbk.ac.uk/mybirkbeck/services/facilities/support">http://www.bbk.ac.uk/mybirkbeck/services/facilities/support</a></p> |
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| 18 | <p><b>Programme Description</b></p> <p>The programme consists of 360 credits: 10 modules of 30 credits each and 4 modules of 15 credits each; or 8 modules of 30 credits each plus 4 modules of 15 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><b>Compulsory modules:</b> The Study of Politics (level 4), Comparative Government: Concepts, Methods, Institutions (level 4 – 15 credits), Comparative Government: Processes (level 4 – 15 credits) and Exploring the Past (level 5)—these provide basic training in relevant study skills</p> |
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Year of entry: 2021/22

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| <p>and essential disciplinary tools.</p> <p>In addition, at level 4 study, students must take The Modern World and The Contemporary World modules in History.</p> <p>Students must also take EITHER Contemporary British Politics and Contemporary British Policy (level 5, 15 + 15 credits) OR International Relations and Foreign Policy I and International Relations and Foreign Policy II (level 5, 15 + 15 credits).</p> <p><b>Optional modules:</b> Students will also take one option module in each discipline at level 5. They will 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 from the respective departments.</p> |
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| 19                                   | <b>Programme Structure</b>                                    |  |                    |            |
|--------------------------------------|---|--|--------------------|------------|
| <b>Full Time programme (3 years)</b> |   |  |                    |            |
| <b>Year 1</b>                        |   |  |                    |            |
| Level                                | Module Code   | Module Title   | Credits            | Status*    |
| 4                                    | SSPO017S4   | The Study of Politics  | 30                 | Compulsory |
| 4                                    | SSPO166H4   | Comparative Government- Concepts, Methods, Institutions  | 15                 | Compulsory |
| 4                                    | SSPO167H4   | Comparative Government: Processes  | 15                 | Compulsory |
| 4                                    | SSHC411S4   | The Modern World   | 30                 | Compulsory |
| 4                                    | SSHC412S4   | The Contemporary World   | 30                 | Compulsory |
| <b>Year 2</b>                        |   |  |                    |            |
| Level                                | Module Code   | Module Title   | Credits            | Status*    |
| 5                                    | SSHC407S5   | Exploring the Past   | 30                 | Compulsory |
| 5                                    | SSPO168H5<br>SSPO169H5<br><b>OR</b><br>SSPO172H5<br>SSPO173H5 | Contemporary British Politics <b>and</b><br>Contemporary British Policy<br><b>OR</b><br>International Relations and Foreign Policy, I <b>and</b><br>International Relations and Foreign Policy, II | 15+15<br><br>15+15 | Option     |
| 5                                    |   | Level 5 option from History  | 30                 | Option     |
| 5                                    |   | Level 5 option from Politics   | 30                 | Option     |
| <b>Year 3</b>                        |   |  |                    |            |
| 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: 2021/22

| <b>Part Time programme (4 years)</b>  |   |  |                    |                |
|---|---|--|--------------------|----------------|
| <b>Year 1</b>   |   |  |                    |                |
| <b>Level</b>  | <b>Module Code</b>  | <b>Module Title</b>  | <b>Credits</b>     | <b>Status*</b> |
| 4   | SSPO017S4   | The Study of Politics  | 30                 | Compulsory     |
| 4   | SSPO166H4   | Comparative Government - Concepts, Methods, Institutions   | 15                 | Compulsory     |
| 4   | SSPO167H4   | Comparative Government - Processes   | 15                 | Compulsory     |
| 4   | SSHC411S4<br>SSHC412S4  | The Modern World <b>OR</b><br>The Contemporary World   | 30                 | Compulsory     |
| <b>Year 2</b>   |   |  |                    |                |
| <b>Level</b>  | <b>Module Code</b>  | <b>Module Title</b>  | <b>Credits</b>     | <b>Status*</b> |
| 5   | SSHC407S5   | Exploring the Past   | 30                 | Compulsory     |
| 4   | SSHC411S4<br>SSHC412S4  | The Modern World <b>OR</b><br>The Contemporary World   | 30                 | Compulsory     |
| 5   | SSPO168H5<br>SSPO169H5<br><b>OR</b><br>SSPO172H5<br>SSPO173H5 | Contemporary British Politics <b>and</b> Contemporary British Policy<br><b>OR</b><br>International Relations and Foreign Policy, I <b>and</b> International Relations and Foreign Policy, II | 15+15<br><br>15+15 | Option         |
| <b>Year 3</b>   |   |  |                    |                |
| <b>Level</b>  | <b>Module Code</b>  | <b>Module Title</b>  | <b>Credits</b>     | <b>Status*</b> |
| 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         |
| <b>Year 4</b>   |   |  |                    |                |
| <b>Level</b>  | <b>Module Code</b>  | <b>Module Title</b>  | <b>Credits</b>     | <b>Status*</b> |
| 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         |
| <b>Department of History, Classics &amp; Archaeology Indicative List of Modules</b> |   |  |                    |                |
| <b>Level</b>  | <b>Module Code</b>  | <b>Module Title</b>  | <b>Credits</b>     | <b>Status*</b> |
| 5   | SSHC471S5   | Political and Social Change in the Middle East since 1918 (Level 5)  | 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         |

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| <b>Department of Politics - Indicative Option Modules</b> |                    |   |                |               |
|---|--------------------|---|----------------|---------------|
| <b>Level</b>  | <b>Module Code</b> | <b>Module Title</b>                                   | <b>Credits</b> | <b>Status</b> |
| 5   | SSPO183H5          | Politics in the Middle East                           | 15             | Option        |
| 5   | SSPO160H5          | Gender in the Global Political Economy                | 15 + 15        | Option        |
| 5   | SSPO161H5          | Race in the Global Political Economy                  |                |               |
| 6   | SSPO164H6          | Contemporary Social and Political Theory              | 15+15          | Option        |
| 6   | SSPO163H6          | Classic Texts   |                |               |
| 6   | SSPO174H6          | War and Modern Society, I and II                      | 15+15          | Option        |
| 6   | SSPO175H6          |   |                |               |
| 6   | SSPO181H6          | The Rise of the Modern Food System                    | 15+15          | Option        |
| 6   | SSPO182H6          | The Politics of the Global Food System                |                |               |
| 6   | SSPO190H6          | International Migration and Transnationalism I and II | 15+15          | Option        |
| 6   | SSPO191H6          |   |                |               |
| 6   | SSPO185H6          | Capitalism: histories and theories                    | 15 + 15        | Option        |
| 6   | SSPO186H6          | Capitalism and the Politics of Markets                |                |               |
| 6   | SSPO184H6          | Political Economy in the Middle East                  | 15             | Option        |

**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*

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| 20 | <b>Programme Director</b>              | Chandak Sengoopta |
| 21 | <b>Start Date</b> ( <i>term/year</i> ) | Autumn 2014       |
| 22 | <b>Date approved by TQEC</b>           | Spring 2014       |
| 23 | <b>Date approved by Academic Board</b> | Summer 2014       |
| 24 | <b>Date(s) updated/amended</b>         | 20 April 2021     |