

Programme Specification

1	Awarding body	University of London
2	Teaching Institution	Birkbeck College
3	Programme Title(s)	BA Politics, Philosophy and History
4	Programme Code(s)	UUBAPOPH_C (3 years full-time)
		UBAPOPHI_C (4 years part-time)
		UBAPOPHD_C (6 years part-time)
5	UCAS code	LV25
6	Home Department	Politics
7	Exit Award(s)	Dip HE, Cert HE
8	Duration of Study (number of years)	3 years full-time, 4 years part-time, 6 years decelerated
9	Mode of Study (FT/PT/DL)	Full time and Part time
10	Level of Award (FHEQ)	6
11	Other teaching depts or institution	History, Classics and Archaeology (HCA), Philosophy
12	Professional, Statutory Regulatory Body(PSRB) details	N/A
13	QAA Benchmark Group	N/A

14 | Programme Rationale & Aims

The BA Politics, Philosophy & History brings together three subjects in a unique combination. The programme is interdisciplinary, drawing on three of Birkbeck's Departments, and is unified by three core courses taught by members of all three contributing Departments and taken by all students on the degree. These core courses bring the three disciplines together and focus on problems they share in common.

The main aims are:

- 1. to enable mature students in full-time employment to undertake undergraduate study in Politics, Philosophy and History, in fulfilment of the mission of the College;
- 2. to enable students to develop and deepen their understanding of the conceptual and theoretical bases of the three disciplines, their methods of inquiry, and their domains of knowledge, with particular emphasis on using the methods of philosophical inquiry as tools for examining the other two disciplines;
- 3. to offer students the opportunity to develop and deepen their skills of critical evaluation and analysis; and
- 4. to enable students to develop and extend their key skills as a foundation for personal development, employment or further academic study.



¹⁵ Entry Criteria

The UCAS tariff is 120–128 points. The UCAS tariff score is applicable for students who have recently studied a qualification that has a UCAS tariff equivalence. Students who fail to achieve the required grades in A-Levels may still be considered for entry if they demonstrate the required level of intellectual commitment and potential.

Birkbeck also welcomes 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.

16 Learning Outcomes

Students completing the BA Politics, Philosophy & History will have:

- 1. demonstrated an ability to apply critically the main theories, models and concepts used in the three disciplines to the analysis of issues arising within and across those disciplines;
- 2. demonstrated knowledge and understanding of:
- a) the social, political, cultural and intellectual changes that gave rise to the modern system of states;
- b) the origins of modern conceptions of the human and the challenges to which it has been subjected by philosophers, scientists and politicians; and
- c) the distinctive approaches of the disciplines of Politics, Philosophy and History to the logic of social explanation, problems of meaning, and issues of historiography and historical interpretation.
- 3. expanded and deepened their knowledge of each of the three disciplines via the completion of at least two full course units in each discipline;
- 4. successfully completed an independent research project, where they have chosen the dissertation option as their final course unit;
- 5. extended and developed their analytical, evaluative and critical capacities; and
- 6. 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, working independently, and, where they have so chosen, using information technology.

17 | Learning, teaching and assessment methods

Lecturers provide an overview of issues relevant to the subjects being studied. Seminars allow students to explore issues in depth and, where students work in or have experience of areas related to their course, their experiences enrich discussion. Both methods are used to develop subject knowledge and understanding, and to foster key skills and analytical skills. Learning outcomes are defined for all courses and weekly assignments specified in written



guidance that is distributed to students. Teaching, learning and assessment are regularly reviewed in the light of student feedback, student achievement, external examiners' reports and peer monitoring. Students frequently consult staff outside formal teaching hours, often by e-mail. Teaching is supported by comprehensive written guidance designed to support independent learning. A detailed course book for each course 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 organisation and assessment. Further materials are distributed in class, and guidelines on dissertations, revision and exam techniques are provided to students during the year.

Assessment Methods: A mixture of essays and unseen written examinations across the taught modules. In addition, students are required to complete zero-weighted essays and other assignments which provide valuable formative feedback. 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.

18 | Programme Structure

Description

The BA Politics, Philosophy and History programme consists of 360 credits. Students take 30 credits from each department at level 4, two compulsory cross-disciplinary modules of 30 credits at level 5, and one compulsory cross-disciplinary module of 30 credits at level 6. Students take further options to the value of 180 credits, of which at least 90 credits must be at level 6. Options are usually taken equally from the three disciplines, i.e. 60 credits each in Politics, History and Philosophy respectively.

The Compulsory Modules:

Three cross-disciplinary modules are taught by members of all three Departments: *Rise of the Modern State* (30 credits at level 5) examines the social, political, cultural and intellectual changes which gave rise to modern political systems in Europe.

Conceptions of the Human from the Enlightenment to Today (30 credits at level 5) focuses on the history of the human from the eighteenth century Enlightenment to current debates over biotechnology and the future of human nature.

Problems of Explanation and Interpretation (30 credits at level 6) examines the approaches of the three disciplines to the logic of social explanation, problems of meaning, interpretation, historiography and historical interpretation.

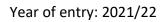
In addition, students take 90 credits in level 4 modules:

Approaching the Past (30 credits)

30 credits chosen from: Philosophy as the Art of Living: Modern Views (15 credits), Knowledge and Faith (15 credits), Identity, Mind and Free Will (15 credits) Governing by Numbers (30 credits)

Option modules

The discipline-specific modules from the three departments offer both a wide range of choice and the possibility of concentrating on one of the three subjects. As a focused interdisciplinary degree PPH is quite unlike joint-honours degrees. Politics, Philosophy and History are disciplines which share broadly similar teaching styles and expectations,





so students find little difficulty in moving between subjects. A wide range of options is available to PPH students.

Part-Time programme – 4 years

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YPAT	

Level	Module Code	Module Title	Credits	Status*
4	HICL200S4	Approaching the Past	30	Compulsory
4	SSPL016H4 SSPL012H4 SSPL011H4	30 credits from: Philosophy as the Art of Living: Modern Views (15 credits), Knowledge and Faith (15 credits), Identity, Mind and Free Will (15 credits)	30	Option
5 POSO031S5 Either Rise of the Modern State Or SSPO119S5 Conceptions of the Human			30	Compulsory

Year 2

Level	Module Code	Module Title	Credits	Status*
4	SSPO137S4	Governing by Numbers	30	Compulsory
5	POSO031S5 SSPO119S5	Either Rise of the Modern State Or Conceptions of the Human	30	Compulsory
5 or 6		Option	30	Option

Year 3

Level	Module Code	Module Title	Credits	Status*
6	POSO032S6	Problems of Explanation and Interpretation	30	Compulsory
5 or 6		Option	30	Option
5 or 6		Option	30	Option

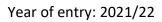
Year 4

Level	Module Code	Module Title	Credits	Status*
6	POSO024S6	<i>Either</i> Dissertation o <i>r</i> Option	30	Option
6		Option	30	Option
6		Option	30	Option

Full-Time programme – 3 years

Year 1

Level	Module Code	Module Title		Status*
4	HICL200S4	Approaching the Past		Compulsory
4	SSPL016H4 SSPL012H4 SSPL011H4	30 credits from: Philosophy as the Art of Living: Modern Views (15 credits), Knowledge and Faith (15 credits), Identity, Mind and Free Will (15 credits)	30	Option
5	POSO031S5 SSPO119S5	Either Rise of the Modern State Or Conceptions of the Human from the Enlightenment to Today		Compulsory
5		Option 3		Option
Year 2				





Level	evel Module Code Module Title Credits Status*		Status*	
4	SSPO137S4	Governing by Numbers		Compulsory
5	POSO031S5	1S5 Either Rise of the Modern State Or		Compulsory
SSPO119S5		Conceptions of the Human from the	30	,
33. 3 = 2333		Enlightenment to Today		
5 or 6		Option	30	Option
5 or 6		Option	30	Option
Year 3			•	
Level	Module Code	Module Title	Credits	Status*
6	POSO032S6	Problems of Explanation and Interpretation	30	Compulsory
6		Option	30	Option
6		Option	30	Option
6	POSO024S6	<i>Either</i> Dissertation o <i>r</i> Option	30	Option
Part-time	programme – 6	years		
Year 1				
Level	Module Code	Module Title	Credits	Status*
4	HICL200S4	Approaching the Past	30	Compulsory
4	SSPL016H4	30 credits from: Philosophy as the Art of	30	Option
	SSPL012H4	Living: Modern Views (15 credits),		
	SSPL011H4	Knowledge and Faith (15 credits), Identity,		
Mind and Free Will (15 credits)				
Year 2				
Level	Module Code	Module Title	Credits	Status*
	4 SSPO137S4 Governing by Numbers		30	Compulsory
5	POSO031S5	Either Rise of the Modern State Or	30	Compulsory
	SSPO119S5	Conceptions of the Human		
from the Enlightenment to Today				
Year 3 Level	Module Code	Module Title	Credits	Status*
5	POSO031S5	Either Rise of the Modern State Or	30	Compulsory
3		Conceptions of the Human from the	30	Compaisory
	SSPO119S5	Enlightenment to Today		
5 or 6		Option	30	Option
Year 4	1	· · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · ·		<u>'</u>
Level	Module Code	Module Title	Credits	Status*
6	POSO032S6	Either Problems of Explanation and	30	Compulsory
		Interpretation <i>or</i> Option		
5 or 6 Option		Option	30	Option
Year 5				•
Level	Module Code	odule Code Module Title Credits S		Status*
6 POSO032S6		Either Problems of Explanation and	30	Compulsory
Interpretation <i>or</i> Option				
5 or 6 Option 30 Option		Option		
Year 6	1			ı
reur o				



Level	Module Code	Module Title	Credits	Status*
6	POSO024S6	<i>Either</i> Dissertation o <i>r</i> Option	30	Option
6		Option 30		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

Indicative list of options

Politics

Contemporary British Politics

Introduction to International Political Economy

Democracy and Authoritarianism

War & Modern Society

Social and Political Theory

The Politics of European Integration

Food, Politics, and Society

Capitalism and the Politics of Markets

Parliamentary Studies

American Politics and Foreign Policy

British and Comparative Foreign Policy

Politics and the Middle East

Challenges in Contemporary Politics

Philosophy (15 credit option modules)

Epistemology

Metaphysics

Philosophy of Mind

Philosophy of Science

Social Epistemology

Philosophy of Psychology

Philosophy & Evolution

Philosophical Logic

Propositions and other Intentional Objects

Fiction and Language

Ethics

Political Philosophy

Art and Value

Philosophy, Business & Society

Gender & Philosophy

Morality, Nature & Evolution

Moral Responsibility

The Idea of Freedom;

The Power of Art: Historical Themes

Metaethics

History of Ancient Philosophy

History of Modern Philosophy

Philosophy of Kant

Berkeley & Leibniz

Aristotle's Biology and Ethics

Birkbeck UNIVERSITY OF LONDON

Year of entry: 2021/22

Nietzsche Hegel Adorno & Foucault Biology of Evil Philosophy of Spinoza Early Modern Philosophy of Mind

History

Crime, Poverty and Protest in England and Beyond, 1500-1800

The Reconstruction of Europe 1945-50

People, Culture and Ideas in Modern Britain and Ireland Britannia's Embrace: The British Empire and the World

The Colonial Gaze: Western Perceptions of Asia, Africa and the Middle East, 1600-1960

Work and Play in Early Modern Britain Medicine and Power in Modern Africa

Intimate Britain: Family, Society and Culture, 1832-1918 A Hundred Years of the Russian Revolution, 1891-1991

19	Programme Director	Sam Ashenden
20	Start Date (term/year)	Autumn 1988
21	Date approved by TQEC	Spring 1988
22	Date approved by Academic Board	Summer 1988
23	Date(s) updated/amended	April 2020