

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
	<p>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.</p> <p>The main aims are:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 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
	<p>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.</p> <p>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.</p>
16	Learning Outcomes
	<p>Students completing the BA Politics, Philosophy & History will have:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 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: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 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
	<p>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</p>

	<p>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.</p> <p><i>Assessment Methods:</i> 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.</p>
--	---

18	Programme Structure
	<p>Description</p> <p>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.</p> <p>The Compulsory Modules:</p> <p>Three cross-disciplinary modules are taught by members of all three Departments:</p> <p><i>Rise of the Modern State</i> (30 credits at level 5) examines the social, political, cultural and intellectual changes which gave rise to modern political systems in Europe.</p> <p><i>Conceptions of the Human from the Enlightenment to Today</i> (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.</p> <p><i>Problems of Explanation and Interpretation</i> (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.</p> <p>In addition, students take 90 credits in level 4 modules:</p> <p>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)</p> <p>Option modules</p> <p>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,</p>

	so students find little difficulty in moving between subjects. A wide range of options is available to PPH students.			
Part-Time programme – 4 years				
Year 1				
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 SSPO119S5	Either Rise of the Modern State Or 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	Either Dissertation or Option	30	Option
6		Option	30	Option
6		Option	30	Option
Full-Time programme – 3 years				
Year 1				
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 SSPO119S5	Either Rise of the Modern State Or Conceptions of the Human from the Enlightenment to Today	30	Compulsory
5		Option	30	Option
Year 2				

Year of entry: 2022/23

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 from the Enlightenment to Today	30	Compulsory
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	Either Dissertation or 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 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
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 from the Enlightenment to Today	30	Compulsory
Year 3				
Level	Module Code	Module Title	Credits	Status*
5	POSO031S5 SSPO119S5	Either Rise of the Modern State Or Conceptions of the Human from the Enlightenment to Today	30	Compulsory
5 or 6		Option	30	Option
Year 4				
Level	Module Code	Module Title	Credits	Status*
6	POSO032S6	Either Problems of Explanation and Interpretation or Option	30	Compulsory
5 or 6		Option	30	Option
Year 5				
Level	Module Code	Module Title	Credits	Status*
6	POSO032S6	Either Problems of Explanation and Interpretation or Option	30	Compulsory
5 or 6		Option	30	Option
Year 6				

Year of entry: 2022/23

Level	Module Code	Module Title	Credits	Status*
6	POS0024S6	Either Dissertation <i>or</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

Year of entry: 2022/23

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 (<i>term/year</i>)	Autumn 1988
²¹	Date approved by TQEC	Spring 1988
²²	Date approved by Academic Board	Summer 1988
²³	Date(s) updated/amended	April 2020