



BA (Hons) Political Science with Combined Studies

Programme Specification

2024-2025

Contents

1. INTRODUCTION	3
2. OVERVIEW.....	4
3. ABOUT THE PROGRAMME	5
4. MISSION	5
5. PROGRAMME STRUCTURE	5
6. PROGRAMME OUTCOMES	8
7. KEY PROGRAMME OUTCOMES	8
Knowledge and Understanding (A).....	9
Cognitive Skills (B)	9
Practical and/or professional skills (C).....	10
Key Skills (D)	11
8. TEACHING, LEARNING, AND ASSESSMENT	12
Teaching Strategy	12
Assessment Strategy	12
9. ENTRY REQUIREMENTS	13
Admissions	13
Transfer Credit	13
10. EXIT AWARD REQUIREMENTS	13
11. STUDENT SUPPORT AND GUIDANCE	15
12. PLACEMENT.....	15
13. STUDY ABROAD	16
14. REGULATORY FRAMEWORK	16
Ensuring and Enhancing the Quality of the Programme.....	16
APPENDIX 1 Curriculum Map	20
Programme Specification Publication Dates	24

1. INTRODUCTION

This document describes the **BA (Hons) Political Science with Combined Studies** awarded by Richmond University American University in London, using the protocols required by *The Framework for Higher Education Qualifications in England, Wales, and Northern Ireland* (QAA, 2008).

The degree is delivered within the framework of a US Liberal Arts undergraduate degree programme.

Typically, students take the programme over 3.5 to 4 years (approximately 10 courses per year, with summer courses allowing for accelerated progress in some cases). Each undergraduate credit is equivalent, approximately, to 1 classroom contact hour per 15-week semester. On this basis, students are required to earn a total of a minimum 120 US academic credit hours in order to complete their degrees. Of the courses in the programme, half are at the “lower-division” taken in the first two years of study and coded 3000-4999, and half are at the “upper division”, taken in years three and four, and coded 5000-6999.

The degrees are also articulated in terms of UK Regulatory Frameworks, chiefly the *FHEQ* and the *Higher Education Credit Framework for England*. Each course has been assigned to an appropriate level on the *FHEQ*, based on the course’s learning outcomes and assessment strategies (note that the courses comprising the first year of the 4-year US undergraduate degree are normally at RQF Level 3). US undergraduate credit can generally be translated to ECTS and UK CATS credits in the following manner: 1 US credit = 2 ECTS credits = 4 UK CATS credits. So a US degree of 120 credits would translate as 240 ECTS credits and 480 UK CATS credits (with a minimum of 360 UK CATS credits at Levels 4-6 on the *FHEQ*).

Please note: This specification provides a concise summary of the main features of the programme and the learning outcomes that a typical student might reasonably be expected to achieve and demonstrate if s/he takes full advantage of the learning opportunities that are provided.

More detailed information on the learning outcomes, content, and teaching, learning and assessment methods of each course can be found in course specification documents and syllabi.

The accuracy of the information contained in this document is reviewed by the University and may be verified by the Quality Assurance Agency for Higher Education.

2. OVERVIEW

Programme/award title(s)	BA (Hons) Political Science with Combined Studies
Teaching Institution	Richmond American University in London
Awarding Institution	Richmond American University in London
Date of last validation	18 March 2022
Next revalidation	Spring 2027
Credit points for the award	120 US Credits 480 UK Credits at <i>FHEQ</i> Levels 3-6 (120 at Level 3; 120 at Level 4; 120 at Level 5; 120 at Level 6)
UCAS Code	University Code: R20 Political Science: L210
Programme start date	Fall 2022
Underpinning QAA subject benchmark(s)	QAA Benchmark Statement: Politics and International Relations (2019)
Professional/statutory recognition	N/A
Language of Study	English
Duration of the programme for each mode of study (P/T, FT,DL)	FT
Dual accreditation (if applicable)	Middle States Commission on Higher Education (First accredited 1981; renewed 1996 and 2006. Institutional Review scheduled for 2016.) QAA – Higher Education Review (AP) 2017
Date of production/revision of this specification	May 2023 (see chart at the end of this document for list of revisions)

3. ABOUT THE PROGRAMME

The **BA (Hons) Political Science with Combined Studies** programme at Richmond American University in London is a four year programme where the discipline is studied along side a range of other subjects. Progression through the programme is set out down each of the four columns of the Programme Outcome grid – with level-specific programme outcomes at each of the FHEQ Levels. The programme outcomes are then applied in each course on the programme through assessed, courses-specific learning outcomes. On successful completion of **BA (Hons) Political Science with Combined Studies** a student is expected to be able to demonstrate all of the Programme Outcomes.

4. MISSION

The **BA (Hons) Political Science with Combined Studies** programme aims to graduate students who are exceptionally strong in research methods in Political Science, as well as in three core areas of the discipline: global public policy; comparative politics and political systems (including in the developing world); and political theory and concepts. The programme seeks to ensure that throughout students engage with a broad range of ideas, actors, and institutions, and with themes such as gender, ethnicity and social inequality. Optional courses are offered from areas such as International Relations, American studies, and International History. Political Science is taught using a range of pedagogical approaches which reflect the international student body, whilst making the best use of emerging technologies. The courses also ensure that students in other disciplines can gain a sufficient understanding of Political Science to help conceptualise the political dimensions of their chosen fields. The programme provides a background both for further study and eventual careers, including work in government, civil society, international organisations, business, finance and the media.

5. PROGRAMME STRUCTURE

BA (Hons) Political Science with Combined Studies

A normal course load per academic year is 30 US credits, equivalent to 120 UK credits. Students complete 120 UK credits at Level 6 in the major.

Please note that students must complete all Liberal Arts requirements AND a minimum of 120 credits at each FHEQ level. The Liberal Arts programme offers more choice amongst levels, so students and advisors must ensure that both Liberal Arts requirements and overall level requirements are satisfied.

Black = Major requirements

Blue = General Education Liberal Arts Core requirements

Green = Electives/Gen Ed Electives

Table 1: Lower-Division / Levels 3 and 4 Degree Requirements

LOWER-DIVISION REQUIREMENTS

Programme specification and curriculum map – BA (Hons) Political Science with Combined Studies

RQF Level 3		US CREDITS	UK CREDITS
HST 3205	The Global Cold War	3	12
INR 3100	World Politics	3	12
PLT 3101	Political Ideologies	3	12
PLT 3102	Government, State, Politics	3	12
GEP 3105	Tools for Change	3	12
GEP 3180	Research and Writing I	3	12
Plus one of the following:		3	12
GEP 3150	Visual Thinking		
GEP 3170	Narratives of Change		
Plus one of the following:		3	12
ENV 3XXX	Any RQF Level 3 ENV course		
XXX 3XXX	RQF Level 3 Elective (only if satisfying ENV requirement at FHEQ Level 4)		
Plus:			
XXX 3XXX	RQF Level 3 Elective	3	12
XXX 3XXX	RQF Level 3 Elective	3	12
RQF Level 3 CREDIT TOTALS		30	120

FHEQ Level 4		US CREDITS	UK CREDITS
INR 4100	Introduction to International Relations	3	12
INR 4101	Global Politics in the C21st	3	12
PLT 4101	Modern Political Thought	3	12
PLT 4102	Rich World Poor World	3	12
GEP 4180	Research and Writing II	3	12
GEP 4105	Social Change in Practice	3	12
MTH 4120	Probability and Statistics 1	3	12
Plus one of the following:		3	12
ENV 4XXX	Any FHEQ Level 4 ENV course		
XXX 4XXX	FHEQ Level 4 Elective (only if satisfying ENV requirement at RQF Level 3)		
Plus:			
XXX 4XXX	FHEQ Level 4 Elective	3	12
XXX 4XXX	FHEQ Level 4 Elective	3	12
FHEQ Level 4 Credit Totals		30	120

Table 2: Upper-Division / Levels 5 and 6 Requirements

UPPER-DIVISION REQUIREMENTS

Programme specification and curriculum map – BA (Hons) Political Science with Combined Studies

FHEQ Level 5		US CREDITS	UK CREDITS
INR 5102	Global Development Politics	3	12
PLT 5101	Capitalism and its Critics	3	12
PLT 5102	Democracy and its Enemies	3	12
PLT 5103	Politics of Environmentalism	3	12
PLT 5201	Research Methods: Social Sciences	3	12
plus one of the following:		3	12
AMS 5100	Politics and Election in the USA		
COM 5215	Political Communications		
CRM 5400	Terrorism and Counter-Terrorism		
HST 5105	Rise Of The Right: History of Fascisms		
HST 5110	Nationalism And Conflict		
HST 5101	Russian History and Politics		
INR 5104	Globalization and Anti-Globalization		
INR 5101	Conflict and Conflict Resolution		
INR 5105	International Human Rights		
INR 5103	Global Energy Politics		
PLT 5205	British Politics: Inside Parliament		
Plus one of the following:		3	12
GEP 5101	Service Learning: Digital Collaboration		
GEP 5102	Service Learning: Leadership in a Changing World		
GEP 5103	Service Learning: Environment and Society		
GEP 5104	Service Learning: Global Citizenship and Migration		
Plus:			
XXX 5XXX	FHEQ Level 5 Elective	3	12
XXX 5XXX	FHEQ Level 5 Elective	3	12
XXX 5XXX	FHEQ Level 5 Elective	3	12
FHEQ Level 5 Credit Totals		30	120

FHEQ Level 6		US CREDITS	UK CREDITS
PLT 6101	Contemporary Political Theory	4	16

PLT 6102	Policy-Making in a Globalized World	4	16
PLT 6104	Sustainable Development	4	16
PLT 6103	Political Sociology: Power, State and Society	4	16
PLT 6296	Senior Seminar in Political Science 1	3	12
PLT 6297	Senior Seminar in Political Science 2	3	12
plus one of the following		4	16
AMS 6101	The American Presidency		
AMS 6102	American Culture Wars		
INR 6102	Politics of International Law		
INR 6104	Peace and Justice		
INR 6103	Diplomatic Studies		
PLT 6105	The European Union		
PLT 6901	World Internship Political Science		
PLT 6902	Internship In Political Science		
Plus the following:			
XXX 6XXX	FHEQ Level 6 Elective	4	16
FHEQ Level 6 Credit Totals		30	120

6. PROGRAMME OUTCOMES

Programme-level learning outcomes are identified below. Please refer to the Curriculum Map at the end of this document for details of how outcomes are deployed across the study programme.

7. KEY PROGRAMME OUTCOMES

Upon completing the **BA (Hons) Political Science with Combined Studies** students should have:

- A. THEORETICAL KNOWLEDGE BASE: Acquired knowledge and understanding of the theory, concepts, and analytical tools used in Political Science.
- B. PRACTICAL KNOWLEDGE BASE: Placed questions of political order and disorder, decision-making and political contestation at the centre of analysis.
- C. COGNITIVE SKILLS: Demonstrated knowledge and understanding of key methods of Political Science, including critical reflection upon a range of primary and secondary sources.
- D. PERSONAL DEVELOPMENT: Developed a range of cognitive, communication and social skills relevant to their intellectual, vocational and personal development.

Knowledge and Understanding (A)

LEVEL 3

- i. Demonstrates an understanding of core political ideologies and concepts used to study political science and international relations.

LEVEL 4

- i. Demonstrates a broad understanding of the main intellectual paradigms and debates in international relations and political thought.
- ii. Demonstrates a broad and historical understanding of theories of economic and political development.

LEVEL 5

- i. Demonstrates a critical engagement with theories and concepts used, and key debates in, political thought and political theory.
- ii. Demonstrates a critical engagement with theories and concepts used to analyse and explain institutional and policy issues such as those pertaining to the environment, development and democracy.

LEVEL 6

- i. Demonstrates a systematic understanding of the major thinkers and intellectual paradigms in political science.
- ii. Demonstrates the ability to develop critical responses to, and a systematic and historical understanding of, theoretical approaches taken in various sub-fields of the discipline.
- iii. Demonstrates a systematic understanding of theoretical approaches to policy making and policy processes.
- iv. Demonstrates a systematic understanding of key texts and debates in the subject area, and the reflexive relationship between these and empirical studies of political science.

Cognitive Skills (B)

LEVEL 3

- i. Demonstrates an understanding of core institutions, practices and systems of politics and international relations.

LEVEL 4

- i. Demonstrates a broad understanding of key issues, problems and challenges in contemporary international relations.
- ii. Demonstrates a broad insight into the historical development of global inequalities, and the practices that have exacerbated or alleviated this.

LEVEL 5

- i. Demonstrates a detailed understanding of political and economic institutions, practices and systems, at the domestic, regional and global levels.

- ii. Demonstrates a detailed understanding of the continuities and transformations evident in the core thematic debates relating to globalization, environment and development.

LEVEL 6

- i. Demonstrates a systematic understanding of policy making and the policy process, at the domestic, regional and global levels.
- ii. Demonstrates a systematic insight into the cultural, economic, environmental, geographical, historical, international and social dimensions of political science, and of the significance of these for the subject area.
- iii. Demonstrates a systematic understanding of a core problem or issue in the subject area, along with sophisticated application of theoretical knowledge to empirical evidence.
- iv. Demonstrates a systematic understanding of major thematic debates in political science, with a sophisticated disciplinary analysis that utilises knowledge from other cognate fields as is appropriate.

Practical and/or professional skills (C)

LEVEL 3

- i. Demonstrates the ability to gather, organise and deploy ideas and information in order to communicate arguments effectively in written, oral or other forms, with an understanding of appropriate methods.

LEVEL 4

- i. Demonstrates the ability to gather, organise and deploy ideas and information in order to evaluate their strengths and weaknesses, and express them effectively in written, oral or other forms.
- ii. Demonstrates a broad understanding of quantitative and/or qualitative research methods
- iii. Demonstrates an ability to judge the reliability of sources, and begins to identify the strengths and weaknesses of concepts and theoretical frameworks.

LEVEL 5

- i. Demonstrates the ability to formulate and synthesize arguments cogently, retrieve and generate information, and select appropriate criteria to evaluate sources, with a detailed understanding of quantitative and/or qualitative methods.
- ii. Delivers work with limited supervision to a given length, format, brief and deadline, properly referencing sources and ideas and making use, as appropriate, of a problem-solving approach.
- iii. Exercises a degree of independent and informed critical judgement in analysis.

LEVEL 6

- i. Demonstrates the ability to gather, organise and deploy complex and abstract ideas and information in order to formulate arguments cogently, and express them effectively in written, oral or other forms.
- ii. Demonstrates the ability to organise and manage supervised, self-directed projects, through which a sophisticated understanding of research methods is demonstrated.

- iii. Demonstrates the ability to produce detailed analyses of competing perspectives and concepts, to make comparisons and connections and to identify the possibility of new concepts.
- iv. Demonstrates the ability to provide critically appraisals of some of the widespread common sense understandings and misunderstandings of the subject area, and the debates and disagreements to which these give rise.

Key Skills (D)

LEVEL 3

- i. Demonstrates an awareness of views other than their own and adapts behaviour to meet obligations in personal and/or group outcomes and/or outputs.

LEVEL 4

- i. Acts with limited autonomy under direction or supervision and engages in evaluation of own work and capabilities and outputs in key areas.
- ii. Demonstrates broad skills that are relevant to the workplace, including the ability to work productively in a group or team, and to recognise factors that affect performance, including changing contexts, audiences and degrees of complexity.
- iii. Demonstrates the ability to use a range of information communication technology (ICT) skills to perform tasks.

LEVEL 5

- i. Demonstrates well-developed skills that will translate into the workplace, including the ability to work effectively within a group or team, to engage in self-reflection, and to adapt own actions and interpersonal communication skills to changing contexts, audiences and degrees of complexity.
- ii. Delivers work with limited direction or supervision, demonstrating the capacity to consider and evaluate their own work using justifiable criteria.
- iii. Demonstrates the ability to adapt to complex and non-routine performance tasks using information communication technology (ICT).

LEVEL 6

- i. Demonstrates the ability to act with minimal direction or supervision, to engage in self-reflection, use feedback to analyse own capabilities, appraise alternatives, and plan and implement actions.
- ii. Demonstrates personal responsibility and professional codes of conduct, while taking responsibility for their own work, learning and development, and effectiveness in professional and interpersonal communication.
- iii. Demonstrates flexible skills that translate directly into the workplace, including the ability to plan and manage for changing contexts, audiences and levels of complexity, and advanced group or team work capacities, for example listening, contributing, leading, negotiating and proactively managing conflict as is appropriate.
- iv. Demonstrates the ability to flexibly locate their own normative views and cultural commitments within the practice of research, with a level of autonomy.

8. TEACHING, LEARNING, AND ASSESSMENT

Teaching Strategy

The teaching and learning strategy adopted within the BA (Hons) Political Science with Combined Studies degree is based on the understanding that all students will be treated as active learners. Clearly, the precise approach will vary from course to course, depending on the learning outcomes relevant to each class.

The generic components of our teaching and learning strategy normally involves a variety of approaches and include delivering many of the following:

- Regular use of formal lecture sessions in all courses.
- Occasional workshops and seminars in some courses.
- Regular use of individual and/or team-based projects in all courses.
- Regular use of self-directed and directed reading in all courses.
- Peer-tutoring led by advanced students in many courses.
- Use of audio-visual and library resources in some courses.
- Regular use of tutor- and student-led discussion groups via e-learning platforms such as PowerCAMPUS (or Blackboard) in many courses.

The combination of teaching and learning approaches mentioned above develops our students' knowledge, thinking skills and practical skills.

Their knowledge is acquired through

- Structured lectures and supporting materials
- Directed reading and use of internet materials
- Independent research

Their cognitive skills are developed through

- Conducting research
- Making presentations and preparing other assessments
- Helping others to learn

Their practical skills are gained through

- Application of theory to practices encountered during internships
- Using information technology to retrieve and manipulate data
- Negotiating by means of team-based projects

Their key skills are gained through

- Employing and using appropriate linguistic skills
- Independent learning

Assessment Strategy

The assessment strategies we use with our BA (Hons) Political Science with Combined Studies degree speak directly to how we anticipate progression with student learning to take place.

In terms of following up with the assessment of student learning and consistent with US liberal arts traditions, our classes rely on the system of continuous assessment on a course-by-course basis and throughout any given semester. This approach often involves the use of Programme specification and curriculum map – BA (Hons) Political Science with Combined Studies

term-papers, portfolios of work, quizzes, mid-semester and final exams as well as student presentations and general class discussion. Not every component applies to every course, but most do relate to many of the classes that are offered. Many of our courses involve a site visit or require attendance at a public lecture as well. Students generally find these events to be extremely valuable to their learning.

Most of the courses will follow the University Assessment Norms, however some may follow specialised norms, as listed in each CSD. See the Assessment Norm Policy for full details: <https://www.richmond.ac.uk/university-policies/>

Each senior will end their programme with a dissertation which will normally have 8,000-10,000 words.

9. ENTRY REQUIREMENTS

Admissions

Details of the entry requirements, including English language requirements, may be found at the appropriate page of the University website listed below, where a comprehensive Admissions Policy and Summary of Practice document is also published.

<https://www.richmond.ac.uk/undergraduate-admissions/>

Transfer Credit

Prospective students with specific levels of subject achievement in Advanced Placement Tests, GCE A Levels and some other UK and international qualifications may enter with Advanced Credit and be given exemption from certain courses of the programme. Please see the Transfer Credit Policy Undergraduate for details.

10. EXIT AWARD REQUIREMENTS

An exit award is defined as a lower award than one for which the student is registered. Such an award may be conferred if a student completes part, but not all, of the requirements of the programme for which he or she is registered. Students may not enter the university registered for an exit award.

Associate of Arts Degree in General Studies (US)

The US Associate of Arts (AA) degree can be awarded as an exit degree for those students completing the following minimum requirements.

30 US / 120 UK credits at RQF Level 3

30 US / 120 UK credits at FHEQ Level 4

Of the total number of credits required for the AA degree, 30 US/120 UK credits must be completed at Richmond. Students must obtain a minimum cumulative GPA of 2.0 and a major of 2.0 in order to qualify for this degree. Latin Honours are not applied to the AA Degree.

The requirements for the AA degree are outlined in Table 1 above. All Level 3 and 4 Major and General Education Liberal Arts Core Requirements must be completed.

Certificate of Higher Education: Political Science (UK)

The UK Certificate of Higher Education (CertHE) can be broadly aligned with the US Associate of Arts Degree, but the CertHE does not require the completion of 30 US/120 credits at RQF Level 3. Students who qualify for the AA degree will automatically qualify for the CertHE. But students may qualify for a CertHE without fulfilling the requirements for a US AA degree if they have not completed all of the RQF Level 3 requirements necessary to obtain the AA.

The UK CertHE can be awarded as an exit award for those students completing the following minimum requirements.

120 credits at FHEQ Level 4

- Pass (normally a GPA of between 1.85 and 2.99 for all Level 4 courses)
- Merit (normally a GPA of 3.0 to 3.54)
- Distinction (normally a GPA of 3.55 and above for all level 4 courses)

Of the total number of credits required for the UK CertHE, 15 US/60 UK credits must be completed at Richmond.

The requirements for the UK CertHE are outlined in the section of Table 1 pertaining to FHEQ Level 4 requirements. All Level 4 Major and General Education Liberal Arts Core Requirements must be completed.

Diploma of Higher Education in Political Science (UK)

The UK Diploma of Higher Education (DipHE) has no US equivalent. The UK DipHE can be awarded as an exit award for those students completing the following minimum requirements.

120 credits at FHEQ Level 4

120 credits at FHEQ Level 5

- Pass (normally a GPA of between 1.85 and 2.99 for all Level 4 courses)
- Merit (normally a GPA of 3.0 to 3.54)
- Distinction (normally a GPA of 3.55 and above for all level 4 courses)

Of the total number of credits required for the UK DipHE, 15 US/60 UK Level 4 credits and 15 US/60 UK Level 5 credits must be completed at the University.

Programme specification and curriculum map – BA (Hons) Political Science with Combined Studies

The requirements for the UK DipHE are outlined in the sections of Table 1 and Table 2 above pertaining to FHEQ Level 4 and FHEQ Level 5 requirements. All Level 4 Major and General Education Liberal Arts Core Requirements must be completed. Level 6 courses can be “dipped-down” to fulfil missing Level 5 credits.

Students may not be awarded more than one UK exit award and the University Examination Board will recommend the most relevant one for the individual student circumstance.

11. STUDENT SUPPORT AND GUIDANCE

There is a range of student support and guidance, for both academic and general wellbeing, available to students. This is accomplished through a range of programmes and services which positively impact learning as well as the total student life experience.

All students have an allocated full-time faculty member who acts as their academic adviser. Academic Advisers have on-going responsibility for students’ academic progress, meeting with each advisee at least once per semester. Advisers assist students with registration, enabling smooth progression through the degree. They also advise on postgraduate and career opportunities, and also provide pastoral support in many cases.

A range of Maths, English, Technology and Writing workshops have been established to support students with particular needs in these areas. Librarians are on hand to assist with library use, which includes instruction in web-based resources.

The University endeavours to make all practical and reasonable adjustments to ensure students are able to fully participate in the University community. Students who declare a physical disability or a special educational need are supported to ensure the quality of their educational experience meets their individual requirements. SEN students, for instance, receive extra time in examinations, and have the option of writing exams on university-provided computers, and/or of taking exams in a separate room.

The University operates a well-staffed Student Affairs department that provides services intended to support and encourage student welfare, safety and development. This department oversees medical registration of students and provides counseling services. It also organizes a range of extracurricular activities and travel designed to further enhance students’ educational experiences. Disciplinary and social grievance procedures are also overseen by this department.

12. PLACEMENT

The Internship Office the University offers a formal mechanism through which students may receive work-placement opportunities. These placements are supervised, career-related work experiences combined with reflective, academic study that help students apply theoretical knowledge in the workplace. Participation in the internship programme is optional, but students who choose to take up a placement receive academic credit for their placement and associated academic work (see level 6 options).

Expectations with regard to careers education, information, advice and guidance (as outlined in the section on Enabling Student Achievement in *The UK Quality Code for Higher Education*) are handled by the university's Student Affairs department. This department conducts a variety of career services for students, ranging from resource provision to a CV service, and in particular through the LEAD (Leadership, Education and Development) seminar series.

In addition to these services, the alumni office offers networking opportunities where students may contact alumni working in a variety of fields. The alumni office also offers these services via social media such as LinkedIn and Facebook.

13. STUDY ABROAD

Richmond students have the option to take a leave of absence and travel away from the university as a 'study abroad'. With 40 partnerships spread over five continents, students are able to select from a wide range of partners. All courses taken elsewhere must be pre-approved by Registry Services.

14. REGULATORY FRAMEWORK

The **BA (Hons) Political Science with Combined Studies** is operated under the policy and regulatory frameworks of Richmond American University in London, the Middle States Commission on Higher Education, the Framework of Higher Education Qualifications, and the UK Quality Code for Higher Education.

Also key to the background for this description are the following documents:

- QAA (2018). The Revised UK Quality Code for Higher Education. (www.qaa.ac.uk)
- QAA (2008). Higher Education Credit Framework for England: guidance on academic credit arrangements in Higher Education in England.
- SEEC (2016). Credit Level Descriptors for Higher Education. Southern England Consortium for Credit Accumulation and Transfer (www.seec.org.uk).
- Middle States Commission on Higher Education. Standards for Accreditation and Requirements of Affiliation. 2014: Thirteenth Edition; Rev. Ed. 2015. (<http://www.msche.org/publications/RevisedStandardsFINAL.pdf>)

Ensuring and Enhancing the Quality of the Programme

The **BA (Hons) Political Science with Combined Studies** features detailed published educational objectives that are consistent with the mission of the institution. All course

outlines contain course specific objectives that are regularly monitored by the individual instructors and by the faculty as a group.

The University has several methods for evaluating and improving the quality and standards of its provision. These include:

- External Examiners
- Internal Moderation
- Student representation
- Curricular change approval process
- Annual Programme Monitoring and Assessment
- Formal Programme Review, every 5 years
- Course evaluation
- Student satisfaction surveys and the NSS
- Feedback from employers

BA (Hons) Political Science with Combined Studies is provided through a system of ongoing evaluations that demonstrate achievement of the programme's objectives, and uses the results to improve the effectiveness of the programme. Ongoing evaluation is carried out for both US (the Middle States Commission on Higher Education) and UK (QAA) reviews. The University is a voluntary subscriber member of the QAA, and underwent its first full Institutional Review in May 2013 and a Higher Education Review (AP) in 2017.

LIBRARY RESOURCES

Books

Faculty and Students are encouraged to help in the purchase of library resources and submit requests for new purchases relating to and supporting their subject areas and research. Details of selected new acquisitions are publicized on the library subject pages and online catalogue.

The library also purchases academic ebooks to support students required reading, as well as cataloguing open access resources. These books are made available through the library catalogue.

Every year, the library collection is reviewed and non-relevant or out of date stock is withdrawn. Analysis of loans compared to purchases and new publications within core subject areas are used to drive additional purchases to make sure that the collection remains relevant and current.

Journals

At present the Library subscribes directly to approximately 30 periodical titles. Where electronic access is provided with a subscription this has been made available through the library's online Publications Finder.

In consultation with faculty the Library regularly reviews its periodical subscriptions, ensuring relevant coverage is provided as the curriculum changes.

Online journal databases

Full text e-journal services include access to Ebsco's: Academic Search Premier, Art Full Text, Business Source Premier, Communication and Mass Media Complete, Education Full Text, International Bibliography of Theatre & Dance, International Security & Counter Terrorism Reference Center, SPORTDiscus and PsycArticles; WARC and JSTOR. These provide access to around 42,000 titles, as well as business and market data and case studies.

In addition, students are directed to a multitude of other online databases which they can search for citations including Google scholar and subject specific internet gateways.

In all cases where the full text is neither in the library's subscription resources nor available online the Library provides free inter-library loans to students and faculty using the services of the British Library (BL On Demand).

Access to the e-journal databases can be found on the Library portal.

Other online resources

Other online resources include the Proquest: Global Newsstream. This is used to access 4,000 titles, mainly national and international newspapers but also to related newswires and monitoring services. We also have a subscription to FT Education which provides on-line and mobile access to the newspaper archive as well as a wide range of digital and multi-media features, in-depth reports on a wide range of business and political topics and a digital learning tool that allows students and faculty to annotate and share articles. Additionally, the Statista platform provides easy access to over 1,900,000 statistics on a wide range of business & social topics from over 22,500 sources as well as industry reports, research dossiers and market outlooks. A subscription to Mintel Academic provides access to market research data and expertise across the retail, media and financial services sectors in the UK as well as global trends and consumer behaviour analysis.

There are pages of subject related resources on the library's portal which aim to guide students to quality internet material as well as the most relevant subscription resources.

Scanning/Digitising

Under CLA licence the library provides online access to scanned materials from the library print collection to faculty. These can then be accessed by students on a particular course of study through the member of faculty's Blackboard pages.

Library Instruction

Students are encouraged to complete a library induction session online and visit the library during Orientation. Under the Liberal Arts Core, professional librarians teach information literacy and research skills to students as an integral part of GEP 3105 Tools for Change, GEP 4105 Social Change in Practice, GEP 3180 Research & Writing I and GEP 4180 Research & Writing II courses. In addition, further sessions on subject specific resources, tailored to individual assignments as required, are offered on Upper Division courses. Students can also receive individual, tailored help with resources, research skills and referencing on a one-to-one basis either in person or online throughout their studies.

APPENDIX 1 Curriculum Map

PLT CORE COURSES

CORE COURSES FROM OTHER AREAS

PLT OPTIONAL COURSES

OPTIONAL COURSES FROM OTHER AREAS

LEVEL 3	PLT 3101 Political Ideologies	PLT 3102 Government, State, Politics		HST 3205 Global Cold War	INR 3100 World Politics
Ai	X	X		X	
Bi		X		X	X
Ci	X	X		X	X
Di	X	X		X	X

LEVEL 4	PLT 4102 Rich World/ Poor World	PLT 4101 Modern Political Thought		INR 4100 Intro to IR	INR 4101 Global Politics in the C21st	MTH 4120 Prob & Stats I
Ai		X		X		
Aii	X					
Bi					X	
Bii	X					
Ci	X	X		X	X	
Cii						X
Ciii	X	X		X	X	
Di		X		X		
Dii	X				X	
Diii	X			X	X	X

LEVEL 5	PLT 5101 Capitalism and its Critics	PLT 5102 Democracy and Its Enemies	PLT 5103 Politics of Environmentalism	PLT 5201 Research Methods		INR 5102 Global Development Politics		PLT 5205 British Politics and Parliament
Ai	X	X						
Aii		X	X			X		X
Bi	X	X						X
Bii			X			X		
Ci				X				
Cii	X	X	X	X		X		X
Ciii	X	X	X	X		X		X
Di		X	X	X		X		X
Dii	X	X		X				X
Diii			X	X		X		

LEVEL 5	AMS 5100 Politics and Elections in the USA	COM 5215 Political Communications	CRM 5400 Terrorism and Counter- Terrorism	HST 5105 Rise of the Rights: A History of Fascisms	HST 5110 Nationalism and Conflict	HST 5101 Russian History and Politics	INR 5104 Globalization and Anti- Globalization	INR 5101 Conflict and Conflict Resolution	INR 5105 International Human Rights	INR 5103 Global Energy Politics	PLT 5205 British Politics: Inside Parliament
Ai			X	X	X	X		X	X		
Aii		X					X			X	X
Bi	X		X	X	X	X		X	X		X
Bii		X					X			X	
Ci	X		X	X							
Cii	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X		X
Ciii	X		X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
Di	X	X	X		X	X	X	X	X	X	X
Dii	X	X		X	X	X	X	X		X	X
Diii	X		X	X	X	X					

LEVEL 6	PLT 6200 Contemporary Political Theory	PLT 6205 Policy-Making in Globalized World	PLT 6104 Sustainable Development	PLT 6296 Senior Seminar I	PLT 6297 Senior Seminar II	PLT 6400 Political Sociology		PLT 6105 The European Union	PLT 6901/6902 Internship/ World Internship
Ai	X								
Aii		X				X		X	
Aiii		X				X		X	
Aiv				X	X				
Bi		X				X		X	
Bii		X	X			X		X	
Biii				X	X				
Biv	X		X	X	X				
Ci	X			X	X	X			X
Cii		X	X	X	X	X		X	
Ciii	X	X		X	X	X		X	X
Civ			X	X	X				
Di			X	X	X				X
Dii	X	X	X	X	X	X		X	X
Diii		X	X		X	X		X	X
Div	X		X	X	X	X			X

LEVEL 6	AMS 6101 The American Presidency	AMS 6102 American Culture Wars	INR 6102 Politics of International Law	INR 6104 Peace and Justice	INR 6103 Diplomatic Studies
Ai					
Aii		X	X	X	X
Aiii	X				X
Aiv	X		X		
Bi	X		X	X	X
Bii	X	X			
Biii		X			
Biv			X	X	
Ci	X	X	X	X	X
Cii	X				
Ciii	X	X	X	X	X
Civ		X			
Di					
Dii	X	X	X	X	X
Diii			X		
Div	X	X		X	

Faculty may access the KILO map: [KILO KPO Tables](#)

Programme Specification Publication Dates

First Edition	June 2007
Revision 1	February 2008
Revision 2	June 2009
Revision 3	October 2010
Revision 4	February 2012
Revision 5	June 2012 (substantive revision, including <i>FHEQ</i> and credit mapping)
Revision 6	August 2013
Revision 7	May 2014
Revision 8	May 2015
Revision 9	April 2016
Revision 10	May 2017
Revision 11	April 2018
Revision 12	May 2019
Revision 13	May 2020
Revision 14	May 2021
Revision 15	July 2022
Revision 16	May/June 2023
Revision 17	March 2024