

DEFINITIVE COURSE RECORD

Course Title	BA (Hons) Politics and Sociology
Awarding Bodies	University of Suffolk
Level of Award ¹	FHEQ Level 6
Professional, Statutory and Regulatory Bodies Recognition	None
Credit Structure ²	360 Credits Level 4: 120 Credits Level 5: 120 Credits Level 6: 120 Credits
Mode of Attendance	Full-time and part-time
Standard Length of Course ³	3 years full-time
Intended Award	BA (Hons) Politics and Sociology
Named Exit Awards	BA Politics and Sociology DipHE Politics and Sociology CertHE Politics and Sociology
Entry Requirements ⁴	112 UCAS tariff points (or above), BBC (A-Level), DMM (BTEC). Plus GCSE grade A-C including English and Mathematics (or equivalent) or new GCSEs grade 4-9.
Delivering Institution(s)	University of Suffolk
UCAS Code	L200

This definitive record sets out the essential features and characteristics of the BA (Hons) Politics and Sociology course. The information provided is accurate for students entering level 4 in the 2021-22 academic year⁵.

Course Summary

Politics is about power, ideas and values. Sociology is about the major contours of the modern world. It is these contours of state, work, money and how people live that shapes the environment in which politics takes place. Sociology studies the patterns within the social environment in which politics operates. The study of politics and the study of sociology are often deeply intertwined but sometimes use different perspectives, methods and questions.

¹ For an explanation of the levels of higher education study, see the [QAA Frameworks for Higher Education Qualifications of UK Degree-Awarding Bodies \(2014\)](#)

² All academic credit awarded as a result of study at the University adheres to the [Higher education credit framework for England](#).

³ Where the course is delivered both full-time and part-time, the standard length of course is provided for the full-time mode of attendance only. The length of the part-time course is variable and dependent upon the intensity of study. Further information about mode of study and maximum registration periods can be found in the [Framework and Regulations for Undergraduate Awards](#).

⁴ Details of standard entry requirements can be found in the [Admissions Policy](#) and further details about Disclosure and Barring Checks (DBS) can be found on the [University's DBS webpage](#).

⁵ The University reserves the right to make changes to course content, structure, teaching and assessment as outlined in the [Admissions Policy](#).

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The Politics and Sociology course at Suffolk will give students the knowledge and space to engage deeply with political and social theory and philosophy and to assess the world around them. In addition to acquiring an understanding of British and international political structures and social trends, our course offers a distinct focus on political and social action across party politics and campaign and community politics. The course is also active in its delivery with an emphasis on group work, project work, employability and engagement with political organisations (broadly defined).

Course Aims

- To investigate the nature, forms, causes and consequences of politics.
- To study power and engage deeply with political and social theory and philosophy.
- To analyse local, national, regional and supranational power structures and their consequences for people.
- To allow for an engagement with (broadly defined) political organisations through the use of group work and project work.
- To develop subject specific, cognitive and employability skills for personal development, postgraduate study and a range of graduate careers.
- To investigate the changing nature of social life with its consequences for patterns of diversity, inequality, and injustice.
- To study and develop a critical account of the key features and debates in social theory that aim to explain social life.

Course Learning Outcomes

The following statements define what students graduating from the BA (Hons) Politics and Sociology course will have been judged to have demonstrated in order to achieve the award. These statements, known as learning outcomes, have been formally approved as aligned with the generic qualification descriptor for level 6 awards as set out by the UK Quality Assurance Agency (QAA)⁶.

Knowledge

1. Demonstrate knowledge and critical engagement with a range of approaches, theories, concepts, research findings and applications in the study of politics relating to the operation of power.
2. Show knowledge and critical analysis of some sociological approaches, theories, concepts, research and their applications.
3. Critically examine the social, economic, historical, and cultural contexts of political behaviour and the development, structure and operation of different political systems.
4. Give a thorough account of social diversity and inequalities.
5. Identify the contested nature of political ideas and concepts and their normative and empirical foundations.
6. Outline how politics manifests itself across and between a range of political actors, political systems and forms of organisation at local, national and international levels.

Intellectual skills

⁶ As set out in the [QAA Frameworks for Higher Education Qualifications of UK Degree-Awarding Bodies \(2014\)](#)

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7. Critically evaluate, interpret and synthesise political and sociological arguments, theories and evidence.
8. Identify, investigate, analyse and advocate solutions to political and social problems.
9. Develop a politically informed ethical and value framework and awareness about the major practical, political and moral challenges facing contemporary global society.

Capability and employability skills

10. Effectively identify, interpret and evaluate political and sociological research and debate from a range of sources.
11. Design, conduct, analyse and report political and sociological research using quantitative, qualitative or comparative approaches and drawing on primary and secondary sources using appropriate analysis techniques, software and equipment.
12. Communicate ideas, arguments and analysis effectively and fluently, both orally and in writing.
13. Perform, work effectively and negotiate with others in a team and critically reflect upon own and others' contribution to team work.

Course Design

The design of this course has been guided by the following QAA Benchmarks:

- Politics and International Relations Benchmark statement 2019.
- Sociology Benchmark statement 2019.

Course Structure

The BA (Hons) Politics and Sociology comprises modules at levels 4, 5 and 6.

Module Specifications for each of these modules is included within the course handbook, available to students on-line at the beginning of each academic year.

Module title	Credits	Module type ⁷
Level 4 modules		
Social Science Skills	20	Requisite
History of Political Thought	20	Requisite
Sociological Imagination	20	Requisite
Grassroots Politics and Activism	20	Requisite
Policy and Politics	20	Requisite
Social Change	20	Requisite
Level 5 modules		
Understanding Research	20	Mandatory

⁷ Modules are designated as either mandatory (M), requisite (R) or optional (O). For definitions, see the [Framework and Regulations for Undergraduate Awards](#)

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Module title	Credits	Module type ⁷
Contemporary Political Theory	20	Requisite
Social Justice and Policy	20	Requisite
Social Theory	20	Optional
Globalization	20	Requisite
Political Argumentation and Persuasion	20	Optional
Political Discourse	20	Optional
Medical Sociology	20	Optional
Level 6 modules		
Independent project	40	Mandatory
Political Engagement and Professional Development	20	Requisite
Comparative Politics	20	Requisite
Gender and Sexuality	20	Requisite
Genocide in History and Memory	20	Optional
Data Analysis and Visualisation for Social Scientists	20	Optional

Optional modules available in any year will be communicated to you prior to your enrolment to facilitate module choice. Some optional modules may not run in every year of study, and the availability of optional modules depends on the level of student demand, the availability of specialist staff and timetabling constraints. In addition, we regularly review our curriculum to ensure it is up-to-date, relevant, draws on the latest research and addresses contemporary issues. As a result, the modules we offer may change over the course of your degree.

Awards

On successful completion of the course, students will be awarded a BA (Hons) Politics and Sociology. Students who leave the course early may be eligible for a BA Politics and Sociology on successful completion of 300 credits at Level 4 or above (including at least 180 credits at Level 5 or above and at least 60 credits at Level 6), a DipHE Politics and Sociology on successful completion of 240 credits including all mandatory modules at levels 4 and 5, or a CertHE Politics and Sociology on successful completion of 120 credits including all mandatory modules at level 4.

Course Delivery

The course is delivered at University of Suffolk. Students studying full-time on BA (Hons) Politics and Sociology are likely to have approximately 12 hours per week (288 hours per year) structured learning for level 4, 9 hours per week (216 hours per year) structured learning for level 5 and 8 hours per week (192 hours per year) structured learning for level 6. Tutor structured learning will be a mix of lectures, seminars, workshops, tutorials and guided

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learning activities which take place on campus and through our online learning environment. There is an optional work placement and work shadowing opportunity equivalent to 10 days in the final year of study. Students will normally be expected to undertake 28 hours of independent study in an average week at level 4, (672 hours per year), 31 hours of independent study at level 5, (744 hours per year) and 32 hours of independent study at level 6, (768 hours per year), but should be prepared for this to vary based on assignment deadlines and class exercises.

Course Assessment

A variety of assessments will be used on the course to enable students to experience and adapt to different assessment styles. The assessment methods used will be appropriate to assess each module's intended learning outcomes. Assessment on the course overall will be mostly coursework (including essays, reports, presentations, group work, reflective learning journals and research projects) with two examinations.

Course Team

The academic staff delivering this course are drawn from specialist politics, sociology and social science teaching teams. All staff are qualified in their subjects with their own specialist knowledge to contribute.

Course Costs

Students undertaking BA (Hons) Politics and Sociology will be charged tuition fees as detailed below.

Student Group	Tuition Fees
Full-time UK/EU	£9,250 per year
Part-time UK/EU	£1,454 per 20 credit module
Full-time International	£12,150 per year
Part-time International	£2,025 per 20 credit module

Payment of tuition fees is due at the time of enrolment and is managed in accordance with the Tuition Fee Policy.

Students are likely to incur other costs for books and optional field trips amounting to approximately £200 per year.

Academic Framework and Regulations

This course is delivered according to the Framework and Regulations for Undergraduate Awards and other academic policies and procedures of the University and published on the [website](#).