

DEFINITIVE COURSE RECORD

Course Title	BA (Hons) History and Religious Studies
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) History and Religious Studies
Named Exit Awards	None
Entry Requirements ⁴	Typical offer; 110 UCAS points
Delivering Institution(s)	University of Suffolk at West Suffolk College
UCAS Code	V102

This definitive record sets out the essential features and characteristics of the BA (Hons) History and Religious Studies course. The information provided is accurate for students entering level 4 in the 2017-18 academic year⁵.

Course Summary

History

Historians often draw on historical literary texts to enrich understanding of historical contexts. History is designed to develop students’ understanding of historical processes through the study of a range of periods and geographical contexts, promoting awareness of continuity and change. Modules span the early modern period to the present and embrace two identifiable strands: British Social and Cultural History and Family and Community History. Over the course of study, students experience key varieties of history with their distinctive focus, theoretical underpinnings and methodological approaches. The combination will provide a valuable opportunity to develop more versatile skills and perspectives. Importantly however, interdisciplinary connections can be readily made between your chosen subjects enabling you to apply ideas from each area to enhance understanding and enjoyment of the other.

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](#)

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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Religious Studies

Religious Studies aims to explore a broad swathe of world religions and non-theistic philosophies to gain both an historical and contemporary understanding of how large groups of people view the world and the nature of Life itself. The course makes neither assumptions about the truth of metaphysical claims nor attempts to “prove” that one ideology is superior to another, but seeks to understand each belief system on its own terms.

The course focusses on central texts and engages in literary exegesis and historical contextualisation. It also explores the historical and social development of major religious movements and their interaction both with each other and also non-religious forces (such as governments, scientific advances etc.).

Course Aims

History

- To provide an intellectually satisfying and worthwhile experience of studying and learning within the distinctive academic framework of History
- To encourage the development of intellectual maturity, openness of mind and an imaginative and creative approach to problem-solving
- To enable students to develop a capacity for sophisticated analytical thinking and judgement
- To enable students to develop a range of subject specific and transferable skills of value in employment including high-order skills in oral and written communication and in the gathering, interpretation and presentation of information
- To provide the opportunity for students to gain confidence in working both independently and as members or leaders of a group or team
- To prepare students to undertake further study in History or in related fields.

Religious Studies

- Give an overview of the development of theological thought from early animism, through polytheism and on to monotheism and non-theistic philosophies
- Outline the major religious traditions extant in the world today, setting out their central teachings, ethical codes, festivals and modes of worship
- Tackle some of the major moral dilemmas found in many religions, especially dealing with issues of suffering and cruelty
- Develop student skills in exegesis of a variety of texts that are held to be sacred
- Expound research issues both in the study of ancient and modern religions
- Contrast eastern and western modes of thought and their mutual interactions

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- Create opportunities to consider the artistic, ethical, gendered, social, political and cultural characteristics of religion(s)
- Foster empathetic engagement with both the familiar and unfamiliar
- Explore in an interdisciplinary way, the interface between religious studies, and other combined honours subjects of Ethics, History and Sociology
- Promote self-critical awareness of presuppositions and encouraging constructive and critical exposition of arguments for a particular position

Course Learning Outcomes

The following statements define what students graduating from the BA (Hons) History and Religious Studies 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 4/5/6 awards as set out by the UK Quality Assurance Agency (QAA)⁶.

History

1. The ability to develop and sustain historical arguments in a variety of literary forms, formulating appropriate questions and utilising evidence
2. An ability to interrogate, read, analyse and reflect critically and contextually upon contemporary texts and other primary sources, including visual and material sources like paintings, coins, medals, cartoons, photographs and films
3. An appreciation of the complexity of reconstructing the past, and the problematic and varied nature of historical evidence
4. An ability to analyse continuity and change over extended time spans
5. A command of comparative perspectives, which may include the ability to compare the histories of different countries, societies, or cultures

Generic and graduate skills

6. Critical evaluation of arguments, assumptions, abstract concepts and data (that may be incomplete), to make judgements, and to frame appropriate questions to achieve a solution - or identify a range of solutions - to a problem
7. Confidence to communicate information, ideas, problems and solutions to both specialist and non-specialist audiences
8. Awareness of contextual and interpersonal factors in groups and teams
9. The qualities and transferable skills necessary for employment requiring the exercise of initiative and personal responsibility, decision-making in complex and unpredictable contexts and the learning ability needed to undertake appropriate further post-graduate study and/or training of a professional or equivalent nature

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

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10. The ability to gather and deploy evidence and data to find, retrieve, sort and exchange new information
11. An ability to design, research, and present a sustained and independently conceived dissertation/project in accordance with the academic conventions of History, or an *interdisciplinary* dissertation that includes History, in accordance with appropriate academic conventions
12. critical understanding and more detailed knowledge of a wider breadth of History, at least some of which is at, or informed by, the forefront of defined aspects of History as a discipline, (acquired through the study of two level 6 History modules and an undergraduate dissertation/project registered in History, or three level 6 History modules and an undergraduate dissertation/project registered as interdisciplinary that includes History)
13. The ability to gather and deploy evidence and data to find, retrieve, sort and exchange new information
14. An ability to design, research, and present a sustained and independently conceived dissertation/project in accordance with the academic conventions of History, or an *interdisciplinary* dissertation that includes History, in accordance with appropriate academic conventions

Religious Studies

1. Discuss and demonstrate, where appropriate, critical comprehension of the religion's or religions' classic sources and their subsequent articulations by some interpreters of the tradition(s) in different historical periods and in different social or geographical settings
2. Critique the ways in which theological teachings and textual exegesis change and so revise the understanding of scripture-based religions
3. Differentiate between understandings and uses of various texts held to be sacred by different cultures
4. Analyse religious narratives to unpack their deeper symbolism and spiritual lessons
5. Demonstrate intellectual flexibility through the practice of a variety of complementary methods of study, for example, philosophical, historical, dogmatic, exegetical, phenomenological, linguistic, hermeneutical, empirical, speculative, social scientific, archaeological, practical, pastoral
6. Demonstrate awareness of and critical assessment of religious contributions to debate in the public arena concerning, for example, values, evil, truth, beauty, identity, health, peace and justice
7. Demonstrate a critical understanding of how personal and communal identities and motivations are shaped by religion, the importance of such identities and how this has both positive and negative effects
8. Demonstrate a capacity to apply formal learning to concrete social and vocational contexts

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Generic skills

9. Engage with empathy, integrity and critical reflection with the convictions and behaviours of others
10. Undertake independent or self-directed study or learning (including time management) and reflect on one's strengths and weaknesses as a learner
11. Identify, gather and analyse primary data and source material, whether through textual studies or fieldwork

Course Design

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

- History (2014)
- Theology and Religious Studies (2014)

Course Structure

The BA (Hons) History and Religious Studies comprises modules at levels 4, 5 and 6.

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

Module	Credits	Module Type ⁷		Module	Credits	Module Type
History				Religious Studies		
Level 4						
Introduction to Historical Studies	20	R		Classical Polytheism	20	R
From Cradle to Grave in England, 1560-1720	20	R		Emergence of Monotheism	20	R
Introduction to Political Ideas	20	R		Philosophy of Religion	20	R
Level 5						
<p>Dissertation/Project Preparation (20 credits, Mandatory) NB This is a mandatory module and pre-requisite for the final year undergraduate Dissertation. For the remaining modules at Level 5, choose two modules from one subject and three modules from the other.</p>						
Listening to the Past	20	O		Indian Religions and Cultures	20	O
Mentalities of Empire 1750-1950	20	O		The Problem of Evil	20	O
Britain in the Nineteenth Century	20	O		Heresy and Dissent	20	O

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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Level 6						
<p>Undergraduate Dissertation/Project (40 credits, Mandatory) <i>The undergraduate Dissertation is mandatory.</i></p> <p><i>NB It is not possible to register for a History Dissertation in this combination If Dissertation is to be in Religious Studies, choose one Religious Studies module and all three History modules If Dissertation is to be interdisciplinary, i.e. in History and Religious Studies, choose both Religious Studies modules and any two History modules</i></p>						
Families and Households in Britain 1800-2000	20	O		Contemporary Christianity	20	O
Aspects of East Anglian History and Heritage	20	O		East Asian Religions	20	O
The Spanish Civil War	20	O				

Awards

On successful completion of the course, students will be awarded a BA (Hons) History and Religious Studies. Students who leave the course early may be eligible for a DipHE on successful completion of 240 credits including all mandatory modules at levels 4 and 5, or a CertHE on successful completion of 120 credits including all mandatory modules at level 4.

Course Delivery

The course is delivered at the University of Suffolk at West Suffolk College. Students studying full-time on BA (Hons) History and Religious Studies are likely to have approximately 10 contact hours per week. The contact hours will be a mix of lecture, seminar, discussions and site visits where appropriate. Students will normally be expected to undertake 25 hours of independent study in an average week, 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 up to 6 examinations depending on the module options chosen.

Course Team

The academic staff delivering this course are drawn from a team that includes teaching specialists and current practitioners. All staff are qualified in their subjects with their own specialist knowledge to contribute.

Course Costs

Students undertaking BA (Hons) History and Religious Studies 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	£10,080 per year
Part-time International	£1,680 per 20 credit module

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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 equipment, materials, optional field trips, and exhibitions amounting to approximately £50 per year. Further costs also include parking (£2 per day) and the additional items listed below:

- The library resources are wide ranging but should you need an inter-library loan there may be a charge; please refer to the [Library Resources](#) website for further information
- Essential texts £250

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](#).