

DEFINITIVE COURSE RECORD

Course Title	BA (Hons) Politics
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
Named Exit Awards	DipHE Politics CertHE Politics
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 course. The information provided is accurate for students entering level 4 in the 2019-20 academic year⁵.

Course Summary

Politics at Suffolk seeks to enable students to take an informed, independent perspective on the nature, forms, causes and consequences of politics. This will consider political theory, British politics and international comparative politics and throughout the course, you will maintain a critical focus on how political ideas and policies translate into ‘real, felt’ political action and outcomes ‘on the ground’. This includes, for example, relating theory to contemporary social justice and social policy issues. It also includes students’ active engagement in the subject and the course is built around a backbone of students’ involvement in project work, applied social science research and opportunities for political engagement and professional development. By the end of the course, as well as having gained a good, broad

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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knowledge of political science, students will be ready to enter employment or further study with skills in political analysis, critical awareness of the organisational context of change and influence, and interpersonal skills in advocacy and persuasion.

Politics graduates have an important range of analytical, data and organisational skills applicable to a full range of graduate opportunities.

Course Aims

- To investigate the nature, forms, causes and consequences of politics
- To study power and engage deeply with political 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 on 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 promote increasing participation in education for the local community by supporting a range of learners, including non-traditional entrants, at degree level

Course Learning Outcomes

The following statements define what students graduating from the BA (Hons) Politics 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. Critically examine the social, economic, historical, and cultural contexts of political behaviour and the development, structure and operation of different political systems
3. Identify the contested nature of normative ideas and concepts that form the foundation of politics
4. Recognise the links between politics and related disciplines in social sciences and humanities
5. Explore normative and positive factors accounting for political change

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

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6. Outline the links between a range of political actions and forms of organisation at local, national, regional and supranational levels

Intellectual skills

7. Compare different political systems and contexts
8. Develop and communicate reasoned arguments through synthesis of relevant information and critical judgement
9. Critically evaluate, interpret and synthesise political arguments, theories and evidence
10. Identify, investigate, analyse and advocate solutions to political problems
11. 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

12. Effectively select, organise and manage information from a range of sources
13. Design, conduct, analyse, and report political research using quantitative, qualitative, or comparative approaches and primary and secondary sources using appropriate data analysis techniques, software and equipment
14. Interpret and evaluate political research
15. Communicate ideas effectively and fluently, both orally and in writing
16. Have experience and reflect upon a leadership role in relation to a task or set of tasks
17. Perform and work effectively in a team and critically reflect upon own and others contribution to team work
18. Negotiate complex issues with others
19. Set, plan, organize and reflect upon a complex and extended task/brief/ project

Course Design

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

- Politics and International Relations Benchmark statement 2015

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Course Structure

The BA (Hons) Politics 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 Research Skills	20	M
History of Political Thought	20	M
Politics and Policy	20	R
Current Political Disputes	20	R
Grassroots Politics and Activism	20	R
One from the following:		
Migration and Ethnicity	20	O
Social Change	20	O
Environment and Society	20	O
Media, Crime and Deviance	20	O
Level 5 modules		
Secondary Data Research	10	M
Qualitative Research Design and Analysis	10	M
Contemporary Political Theory	20	R
Social Justice and Policy	20	R
Political Argument and Persuasion	20	R
Two from the following:		
Political Sociology	20	O
Globalization	20	O
The Cold War	20	O
Political Discourse	20	O
Level 6 modules		
Dissertation	40	M
Political Engagement and Professional Development	20	M

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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Comparative Politics	20	R
Two from the following:		
Gender and Sexuality	20	O
International Development	20	O
A History of Genocide (L5 prerequisite)	20	O
Human Rights	20	O
Planning and Communities	20	O

Option modules available in any year will be communicated to you prior to your enrolment each year to facilitate module choice according to specialist staff availability.

Awards

On successful completion of the course, students will be awarded a BA (Hons) Politics. Students who leave the course early may be eligible for a DipHE Politics on successful completion of 240 credits including all mandatory modules at levels 4 and 5, or a CertHE Politics 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 are likely to have approximately 240 contact hours for level 4, 220 contact hours for level 5 and 150 contact hours for level 6. The contact hours will be a mix of lectures, seminars, workshops, and tutorials. 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 24 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 two examinations depending on the options chosen.

Course Team

The academic staff delivering this course are drawn from a specialist politics and social science teaching team.

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Course Costs

Students undertaking BA (Hons) Politics 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	£11,790 per year
Part-time International	£1,965 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](#).