

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	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 2019-20 academic year⁵.

Course Summary

Politics is about the operation of power, and its impact on people in political units of countries, counties, towns, villages or communities. The operation of power may result in war, gradual economic growth or funding for a village hall, but all are clearly political. Politics studies the changing process of making decisions in different political arena. 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 sociology are often deeply intertwined but sometimes use different perspectives, methods and questions. There

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](#).

DEFINITIVE COURSE RECORD

is a key political sociology module at level 5 to explore the links. This gives graduate of both politics and sociology a powerful insight into how the world works.

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 students' knowledge, critical understanding and skills in sociology
- To cultivate a questioning and critical approach to the understanding of human behaviour and society
- To encourage cognitive development and autonomous learning
- 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 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 4/5/6 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 and sociology
2. Critically examine the social, economic, historical, and cultural contexts of political behaviour and the development, structure and operation of different political systems
3. Recognise the links between politics and sociology in the social sciences
4. Examine a range of processes that underpin social change

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

DEFINITIVE COURSE RECORD

5. Give a thorough account of the impact of social diversity and inequality

Intellectual skills

6. Compare different political systems and contexts
7. Develop and communicate reasoned arguments through synthesis of relevant information and critical judgement
8. Critically evaluate, interpret and synthesise political and sociological arguments, theories and evidence
9. Develop a politically and socially informed ethical and value framework and awareness about the major practical, political, social and moral challenges facing the contemporary world
10. Evaluate the distinctiveness of sociological arguments and perspectives
11. Evaluate, use and develop sociological arguments and evidence in a range of social contexts

Capability and employability skills

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

Course Design

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

- Politics and International Relations Benchmark statement 2015
- Sociology Benchmark statement 2016

DEFINITIVE COURSE RECORD

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 Research Skills	20	M
History of Political Thought	20	M
Introduction to Sociology	20	M
One or two from		
Current Political Disputes	20	O
Politics and Policy	20	O
Grassroots Politics and Activism	20	O
One or two from		
Social Change	20	O
Migration and Ethnicity	20	O
Media, Crime and Deviance	20	O
Level 5 modules		
Secondary Data Research	10	M
Either Questionnaire Design and Analysis	10	O
Or Qualitative Research Design and Analysis	10	O
Contemporary Political Theory	20	R
Social Theory	20	M
Political Sociology	20	R
One from		
Social Justice and Policy	20	O
Political Argument and Persuasion	20	O
Political Discourse	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](#)

DEFINITIVE COURSE RECORD

Module title	Credits	Module type ⁷
One from		
Globalization	20	O
Sociology of Health & Illness	20	O
The World of Work	20	O
Level 6 modules		
Dissertation (50/50)	40	M
Comparative Politics	20	R
One from		
Political Engagement and Professional Development	20	O
International Development	20	O
Two from		
Gender and Sexuality	20	O
Technology and Material Civilization	20	O
Mental Health Policy and Practice	20	O
Human Rights	20	O
Sociology of Law	20	O
Drugs, Crime and Society	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 and Sociology. Students who leave the course early may be eligible for 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 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.

DEFINITIVE COURSE RECORD

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.

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	£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](#).