

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	BA Politics DipHE Politics CertHE Politics
Entry Requirements ⁴	Typical Offer: 112 UCAS tariff points (or above), BBC (A-Level), DMM (BTEC) or Access to HE Diploma - a minimum of 30 Level 3 credits at merit grade or above. All applicants are required to hold GCSE English and Maths at Grade C/4 or above.
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 2023-24 academic year⁵.

¹For 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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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 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.

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

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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 political ideas and concepts and their normative and empirical foundations.
4. 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

5. Critically evaluate, interpret and synthesise political arguments, theories and evidence.
6. Identify, investigate, analyse and advocate solutions to political problems.
7. 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

8. Effectively identify, interpret and evaluate political research and debate from a range of sources.
9. Design, conduct, analyse and report political research using quantitative, qualitative or comparative approaches and drawing on primary and secondary sources using appropriate analysis techniques, software and equipment.
10. Communicate ideas, arguments and analysis effectively and fluently, both orally and in writing.
11. 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 / Professional Standards:

- Politics and International Relations Subject Benchmark Statement (December 2019).

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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 Skills	20	Requisite
History of Political Thought	20	Requisite
Current Political Disputes	20	Requisite
Grassroots Politics and Activism	20	Requisite
Policy and Politics	20	Requisite
Social Change	20	Requisite
Level 5 Modules		
Understanding Research	20	Mandatory
Contemporary Political Theory	20	Requisite
Social Justice and Policy	20	Requisite
Political Argumentation and Persuasion	20	Requisite
Political Discourse	20	Optional
Globalization	20	Optional
The Global Cold War: From Berlin to Beijing	20	Optional
Level 6 Modules		
Independent project	40	Mandatory
Political Engagement and Professional Development	20	Requisite
Comparative Politics	20	Requisite
Gender and Sexuality	20	Optional
Genocide in History and Memory	20	Optional
Britain at War in the Twentieth Century	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

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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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. Students who leave the course early may be eligible for a BA Politics 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 on successful completion of 240 credits including all mandatory modules at levels 4 and 5; a CertHE Politics on successful completion of 120 credits including all mandatory modules at levels 4.

Course Delivery

The course is delivered at University of Suffolk. Students studying full-time on BA (Hons) Politics are likely to have approximately 288 tutor-structured learning hours (which includes contact time) for level 4, 216 tutor-structured learning hours for level 5, and 216 tutor-structured learning hours for level 6. Tutor-structured learning hours will be a mix of lectures, seminars, workshops, tutorial sessions, and guided learning activities 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 coursework (including essays, reports, presentations, group work, reflective learning journals and research projects).

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	£9,250 per year
Part-time UK	£1,454 per 20 credit module
Full-time EU/International	£13,992 per year
Part-time EU/International	£2,332 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](#).