

Royal Holloway, University of London
Course specification for an undergraduate award
Politics and Law (BA) (LM21)

Section 1 – Introduction to your course

This course specification is a formal document, which provides a summary of the main features of your course and the learning outcomes that you might reasonably be expected to achieve and demonstrate if you take full advantage of the learning opportunities that are provided. Further information is contained in the College prospectus, and in various handbooks, all of which you will be able to access online. Alternatively, further information on the College's academic regulations and policies can be found [here](#). Further information on the College's Admissions Policy can be found [here](#).

Your degree course in BA Politics and Law is delivered in three stages with a combination of mandatory modules and a range of optional modules.

While Royal Holloway keeps all the information made available under review, courses and the availability of individual modules, especially optional modules are necessarily subject to change at any time, and you are therefore advised to seek confirmation of any factors which might affect your decision to follow a specific course. In turn, Royal Holloway will inform you as soon as is practicable of any significant changes which might affect your studies.

The following is a brief description for some of the most important terminology for understanding the content of this document:

Degree course – May also be referred to as 'degree programme' or simply 'programme', these terms refer to the qualification you will be awarded upon successful completion of your studies.

Module – May also be referred to as 'course', this refers to the individual units you will study each year to complete your degree course. Undergraduate degrees at Royal Holloway comprise a combination of modules in multiples of 15 credits to the value of 120 credits per year. On some degree courses a certain number of optional modules must be passed for a particular degree title.

Section 2 – Course details			
Date of specification update	August 2022	Location of study	Egham Campus
Course award and title	Politics and Law (BA)	Level of study	Undergraduate
Course code	3411	UCAS code	LM21
Year of entry	2023/24		
Awarding body	Royal Holloway, University of London		
Department or school	Department of Law and Criminology	Other departments or schools involved in teaching the course	Politics, International Relations and Philosophy
Mode(s) of attendance	Full-time	Duration of the course	3 years
Accrediting Professional, Statutory or Regulatory Body requirement(s)	N/A		
Link to Coursefinder for further information:	https://www.royalholloway.ac.uk/studying-here/	For queries on admissions:	https://royalholloway.ac.uk/applicationquery

Section 3 – Degree course structure					
3.1 Mandatory module information					
The following table summarises the mandatory modules which students must take in each year of study					
Year	Module code	Module title	Credits	FHEQ level	Module status (Mandatory Condonable MC or Mandatory Non-Condonable MNC)
1	LL1001	Public Law (Constitutional, Administrative & Human Rights)	30	4	MC
1	LL1005	The English Legal System	15	4	MC
1	LL1006	Professional and Legal Skills	15	4	MC
1	PR1400	Introduction to Politics and Government	30	4	MNC
1	PR1500	Introduction to International Relations	30	4	MNC
2	LL2003	International and Comparative Human Rights Law	30	5	MC
2	LL2005	Public International Law	30	5	MC
3	LL3001	European Union Law	30	6	MC
3	LL3007	Jurisprudence	30	6	MC

This table sets out the most important information for the mandatory modules on your degree course. These modules are central to achieving your learning outcomes, so they are compulsory, and all students on your degree course will be required to take them. You will be automatically registered for these modules each year. Mandatory modules fall into two categories: 'condonable' or 'non-condonable'.

In the case of mandatory 'non-condonable' (MNC) modules, you must pass the module before you can proceed to the next year of your course, or to successfully graduate with a particular degree title. In the case of mandatory 'condonable' (MC) modules, these must be taken but you can still progress or graduate even if you do not pass them. Please note that although Royal Holloway will keep changes to a minimum, changes to your degree course may be made where reasonable and necessary due to unexpected events. For example: where requirements of relevant Professional, Statutory or Regulatory Bodies have changed and course requirements must change accordingly, or where changes are deemed necessary on the basis of student feedback and/or the advice of external advisors, to enhance academic provision.

3.2 Optional modules

In addition to mandatory modules, there will be a number of optional modules available during the course of your degree. Although Royal Holloway will keep changes to a minimum, new options may be offered or existing ones may be withdrawn. For example where reasonable and necessary due to unexpected events, where requirements of relevant Professional, Statutory or Regulatory Bodies (PSRBs) have changed and course requirements must change accordingly, or where changes are deemed necessary on the basis of student feedback and/or the advice of External Advisors, to enhance academic provision. There may be additional requirements around option selection; please contact the Department for further information.

In stage two, in addition to your mandatory modules, you must choose 60 credits worth of modules from available Departmental Stage Two modules in the Department of Politics, International Relations and Philosophy. In stage three, in addition to your mandatory modules, you must choose at least 60 credits worth of modules from available Departmental Stage Three modules in the Department of Politics, International Relations and Philosophy.

Section 4 - Progressing through each year of your degree course

For further information on the progression and award requirements for your degree, please refer to Royal Holloway's [Academic Regulations](#).

Progression throughout the year/s is monitored through performance in summative or formative coursework assignments. Please note that if you hold a Student Visa and you choose to leave (or are required to leave because of non-progression) or complete early (before the course end date stated on your CAS), then this will be reported to UKVI.

All first year students on single, joint or combined honours courses offered all or in part by the School of Humanities, School of Performing and Digital Arts, or department of Politics, International Relations and Philosophy are required to pass a Moodle-based writing skills quiz in order to progress into the second year of study. The pass mark for the test is 60%. Certificates of Distinction are awarded to students who achieve at least 80% in the quiz. Students may attempt the quiz as often as they wish with no penalties or capping. Students who meet the requirements for progression as stipulated in the [College's Undergraduate Regulations](#) (Section: Conditions for progression to the next stage) but fail to pass the Moodle-based quiz will not be permitted to progress into their second year of academic study at the College.

Section 5 – Educational aims of the course

- to provide students with a systematic understanding and knowledge of Politics at all levels and in all its forms;
- to provide an intellectually exacting and stimulating learning experience in social and political science for students from a wide variety of backgrounds, some of whom will be studying it for the first time;
- to give students the knowledge and understanding of social and political science that will enable them to use its distinctive concepts and approaches, whilst maintaining a reflexive awareness of their contested nature and the problems associated with them;
- to provide a sound and extensive knowledge in the foundations and content of the law of England and Wales;
- to provide a sound and extensive knowledge in the foundations and content of international law;
- to engage students in the process of reading and analysing legal texts, to develop independent thinking and judgement regarding sources of law and how it is made and developed;
- to encourage students to appreciate broader international and comparative perspectives of law;
- to promote critical dialogue on the role of law within a modern societal context and an appreciation of its continuing social and political importance;
- to offer a learning framework that will assist students in gaining those cognitive and social skills that will be part of their intellectual, vocational and personal development, and encourage them to achieve their full potential;
- to foster the intellectual development of students and, in particular, to encourage their capacity for critical analysis and independent thought both as a worthwhile educational goal in its own right and to provide employers with highly skilled and motivated graduates;
- to develop key legal communication skills;
- to develop legal research skills and e-resource search and IT techniques; and
- to provide a curriculum that draws on recent staff scholarship and a broader research culture of intellectual enquiry and debate.

Section 6 - Course learning outcomes

In general terms, the courses provide opportunities for students to develop and demonstrate the following learning outcomes. (Categories – Knowledge and understanding (K), Skills and other attributes (S), and Transferable skills (*))

<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Knowledge of the distinctive characteristics of political science and law, as well as of recent and current developments in the fields and controversies associated with these developments;(K) 2. Knowledge of the nature and significance of politics as a human activity; (K) 3. Knowledge of different political systems, the nature and distribution of power within them and the different social, economic, historical and cultural contexts within which they operate;(K) 4. Knowledge of modern normative political theory and its application to public policy and political controversies ;(K) 5. Knowledge of the principal foundations and features of the English Legal System, including its legal institutions, procedures, and sources of law. Included in this is European Union (EU) Law and the legal relationship of the various EU institutions to the United Kingdom and other EU Member States; (K) 6. Knowledge of the core foundations, concepts, values and rules operating in a range of substantive areas within the English Legal system, drawing on the fundamental principles underpinning the common law, as well as an in depth knowledge of selected specialist areas of law; (K) 7. Knowledge of the relationship between the law and society within its historical, socio-economic and contemporary political context;(K) 8. The application of political and legal analyses to sub-disciplinary specialisms ; (S) 9. The ability to produce a synthesis of relevant doctrinal and policy issues in relation to a law topic; (S) 10. Learning and general study skills; (S) 11. Gather, organise and deploy evidence, data and information from a variety of sources; (S) 12. Written and oral communication skills in a variety of contexts, including the format of a piece of legal advice; (S) 13. The capacity to identify, investigate, analyse, formulate and advocate solutions to political and legal problems; (S) 14. The ability to conduct independent legal research using both paper and electronic sources, including research into areas of law not previously studied; (S) 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 17. The ability to provide an informed and reasoned opinion based on case law and statute of the possible legal solutions; (S) 18. The ability to produce a legal opinion using a variety of practitioner skills, including a synthesis of relevant legal issues, concise argument and critical judgment; (S) 19. The ability to apply the concepts, theories and methods used in political science to the analysis of political institutions and practices; (S) 20. The ability to apply political analysis to different political phenomena and to help resolve political problems; (S) 21. The ability to evaluate critically political issues and events using the methods of academic political science; (S) 22. The ability to carry out an independent investigation of a political topic or issue and to produce a coherent written account; (S) 23. The ability to apply relevant information technology to political science research; (S) 24. The ability to use correct political science and legal terminology and correct methods of citation and referencing; (S) 25. The ability construct reasoned arguments, synthesise relevant information and exercise critical judgment; (S) 26. The ability to use communication and information technology skills to retrieve and present information; (S) 27. Skills of time planning, the management one's own learning and making use of constructive feedback; (S) 28. The capacity to present, orally and in writing, balanced and well-constructed arguments; (S) 29. The ability to respond effectively to the arguments of others; (S) * 30. The ability to assume personal responsibility for a task and study independently; (S) * 31. Self-awareness and civic awareness; (S) * 32. The ability to work in a group and time manage work load. (S) 33. An enhanced ability to communicate fluently and effectively in speech and writing; (S) * 34. The ability to work collaboratively with others to achieve common goals;*
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| <p>15. The ability to work independently with initiative, self-organisation and good time-management;*</p> <p>16. To become proficient in the use of internet and email (with appropriate level of formality) for a professional subject;*</p> | |
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Section 7 - Teaching, learning and assessment

Teaching and learning on your course is closely informed by the active research of staff, particularly in the areas of Politics and Law. In general terms, the course provides an opportunity for you to develop and demonstrate the learning outcomes detailed herein.

Teaching and learning is mostly by means of lectures, seminars, coursework/essay, oral presentations and guided independent study. Assessment of knowledge and understanding is typically by formal examinations, coursework, examined essays, oral presentations and the optional dissertation. In addition, students may be involved in workshops and may produce various forms of creative work. The course is informed by national standards of legal education, and good practice across the legal higher educational sector. It includes elements of problem-based learning and encourages students to develop their own independent learning skills and reflective learning practice.

Students are expected to be active partners in their studies with shared responsibilities for their learning and achievement. The course is designed to meet the academic needs of the students, and to producing students who engage fully with the intellectual challenges of undertaking a degree in Politics and Law. The course focuses on developing key (transferable) skills outcomes relevant both to the specific modules and to the overall Politics and Law course as a whole, encompassing both classroom-based teaching methods such as traditional seminars and lectures, and also directed independent study.

Full details of the module and assessments for individual modules can be obtained on the department [webpage](#) and more specific information is listed in the student handbook.

Contact hours come in various forms and may take the form of time spent with a member of staff in a lecture or seminar with other students. Contact hours may also be laboratory or, studio-based sessions, project supervision with a member of staff, or discussion through a virtual learning environment (VLE). These contact hours may be with a lecturer or teaching assistant, but they may also be with a technician, or specialist support staff.

The way in which each module on your degree course is assessed will also vary, however, the assessments listed above are all 'summative', which means you will receive a mark for it which will count towards your overall mark for the module, and potentially your degree classification, depending on your year of study. On successful completion of the module you will gain the credits listed. 'Coursework' might typically include a written assignment, like an essay. Coursework might also include a report, dissertation or portfolio. 'Practical assessments' might include an oral assessment or presentation, or a demonstration of practical skills required for the particular module

More detailed information on modules, including teaching and learning methods, and methods of assessment, can be found via the online [Module Catalogue](#). The accuracy of the information contained in this document is reviewed regularly by the university, and may also be checked routinely by external agencies, such as the Quality Assurance Agency (QAA).

Section 8 – Additional costs
There are no single associated costs greater than £50 per item on this degree course.
These estimated costs relate to studying this particular degree course at Royal Holloway. General costs such as accommodation, food, books and other learning materials and printing etc., have not been included, but further information is available on our website.

Section 9 – Indicators of quality and standards	
QAA Framework for Higher Education Qualifications (FHEQ) Level	4-6
Your course is designed in accordance with the FHEQ to ensure your qualification is awarded on the basis of nationally established standards of achievement, for both outcomes and attainment. The qualification descriptors within the FHEQ set out the generic outcomes and attributes expected for the award of individual qualifications. The qualification descriptors contained in the FHEQ exemplify the outcomes and attributes expected of learning that results in the award of higher education qualifications. These outcomes represent the integration of various learning experiences resulting from designated and coherent courses of study.	
QAA Subject benchmark statement(s)	http://www.qaa.ac.uk/quality-code/subject-benchmark-statements
Subject benchmark statements provide a means for the academic community to describe the nature and characteristics of courses in a specific subject or subject area. They also represent general expectations about standards for the award of qualifications at a given level in terms of the attributes and capabilities that those possessing qualifications should have demonstrated.	

Section 10– Intermediate exit awards (where available)		
You may be eligible for an intermediate exit award if you complete part of the course as detailed in this document. Any additional criteria (e.g. mandatory modules, credit requirements) for intermediate awards is outlined in the sections below.		
Award	Criteria	Awarding body
Diploma in Higher Education (DipHE)	Pass in 210 credits of which at least 90 must be at or above FHEQ Level 4 and at least 120 of which must be at or above FHEQ Level 5	Royal Holloway and Bedford New College

Certificate in Higher Education (CertHE)	Pass in 120 credits of which at least 90 must be at or above FHEQ Level 4	Royal Holloway and Bedford New College
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