

BA Honours Social Science Combined
Guinah Houssein

This course has equipped me with analytical ability, logical thinking and touches all aspects of social, political and economic life worldwide.



Other related areas/courses you might be interested in:
English (p138) • Languages (p154) • Law (p159)
• Politics and International Relations (p189)

Criminal Justice BA Honours

The degree offers a broadly-based interdisciplinary course in criminal justice with clear vocational relevance. It focuses on the policy implications of theoretical perspectives on international dimensions, and the social inclusion agenda (with particular reference to race, gender and age), as well as developing research skills.

Course content

Year 1 (Credit Level 4)

There is flexibility to enable you to experience a number of social science perspectives. Core modules in the first year ensure that you develop the key study and transferable skills needed to complete your studies successfully, by focusing on skills relating to studying, library and information retrieval, information technology, group work, presentation and communication.

You take core modules on the key theoretical perspectives in the study of crime and justice, and an introduction to key institutions of the administration of criminal justice in England and Wales. Option modules provide an opportunity to experience perspectives from outside your chosen programme, allowing you to change course at the end of Year 1 (Credit Level 4) where appropriate. One of these option modules is a free choice module which can be taken from anywhere across the University.

Year 2 and Year 3 (Credit Levels 5 and 6)

Core modules are designed to give you a solid grounding in the important theories and institutions of the criminal justice system, together with a broad grounding in the range of research methods used in this interdisciplinary field. At Year 3 (Credit Level 6) you will also carry out a research project on a topic of your own choice. Options allow you to focus on more specific themes, including the ways in which experiences of crime and justice are differentiated according to race, gender or age; specific aspects of criminal justice policy and practice, such as crime prevention; forms of hidden crime, such as crimes of corporations and states themselves; specific forms of crime, such as violent crime; the relationship between crime and culture; and international dimensions of crime and justice. You will also have the opportunity to gain credits from a work experience placement in a criminal justice agency.

Length of course

Three-year, full-time;
five-year, part-time

UCAS code

M211

Location

Central London (Regent)

Teaching and assessment

A range of assessment methods are used. Some modules are assessed by course work only and some by a combination of course work and exam. Course work assessments include essays, presentations, book reviews, portfolio preparation and mini-projects.

Associated careers

There are opportunities in a range of statutory and voluntary agencies, including posts in policy development and crime prevention, as well as working directly with offenders. There are also many opportunities for postgraduate study.

Typical offer for September 2009

| Qualification type | Grade/points |
|-----------------------------|--------------|
| A Levels | BB/BCC |
| International Baccalaureate | 28 points |
| BTEC National Diploma | DMM |

See also entry requirements on p48.

For further information about Social and Historical Studies courses visit the School of Social Sciences, Humanities and Languages website at www.westminster.ac.uk/sshl

History remains among the most fascinating and rewarding of the arts and social science disciplines. The past is intriguing and alluring in its own right, but a genuine appreciation of the present can only be secured by a knowledge and understanding of the past.

This course offers an integrated approach to the study of modern history, including the fields of economic, social, political and cultural history. Particular attention is paid to the development of evaluative, analytical and research skills as well as to the acquisition of knowledge and understanding of the past.

Course content

Year 1 (Credit Level 4)

There is a lot of flexibility to enable you to experience a number of social science perspectives. Core modules in the first year ensure that you develop the key study and transferable skills needed to complete your studies successfully, by focusing on skills relating to studying, library and information retrieval, information technology, team and group work, presentation and communication. You take at least three subject-specific core modules from a list of broad survey modules in 19th and 20th Century European and British history.

Year 2 and Year 3 (Credit Levels 5 and 6)

You take five core modules, including a dissertation on a subject of your choice. You take a research methods module, and survey modules in 20th Century British, European and American history. Options: There is a broad range of option modules at Year 3 (Credit Level 6), including 20th Century American history, British economic and naval history, France, imperialism and decolonisation, Ireland in the 19th and early 20th centuries, military history, Nazi Germany, the British police, the cinema, the Cold War, the cultural history of the two world wars, the history of London, the history of the European Union, the Northern Irish troubles, the Russian revolution, the social history of England in the 20th Century, the Spanish Civil War, and women's history in the 19th and 20th centuries. You can also take an internship or work placement module in a London archive, repository or museum.

Length of course

Three-year, full-time;
five-year, part-time

UCAS code

V100

Location

Central London (Regent)

Teaching and assessment

At the University of Westminster we make full use of innovative and traditional teaching approaches to bring the past alive, while supporting, training and equipping you with the full range of skills of the contemporary historian. A wide variety of assessment methods is used. Some modules are assessed by course work only and some by a combination of course work and exam. Course work assessments include essays, presentations, book reviews, portfolio preparation and mini-projects. You can also undertake a credit-bearing work placement in an archive, such as the House of Lords Records Office, the London Metropolitan Archive, or the Imperial War Museum.

Associated careers

Historians have a wide range of research, analytical, and evaluative skills. They know how to work on their own, to manage their own time, to work collaboratively, to synthesize a mass of data, to work to a brief, and to argue a case. As such, they are highly sought after by employers in the media, in education, the Civil Service and in all sectors of industry.

Typical offer for September 2009

| Qualification type | Grade/points |
|-----------------------------|--------------|
| A Levels | BB/BCC |
| International Baccalaureate | 28 points |
| BTEC National Diploma | DMM |

See also entry requirements on p48.

Sociology BA Honours

Sociology examines theories of everyday life and questions the way you interpret the world. It is an ideal subject to prepare you for any career as it enables you to think beyond your own immediate experience. Sociological theories provide a framework for thinking about society from different standpoints, raising issues you may never have considered. Research methods provide the tools of sociological investigation, and this course offers a range of specialist option modules which cover different aspects of society and reflect the research interests of the teaching team.

Course content

Year 1 (Credit Level 4) modules provide an introduction to sociology which look at the self in relation to society, culture, the centrality of work and an overview of British sociology. Following these modules, you go on to examine the theoretical perspectives and research methods of sociology in more depth, choosing from a range of specialist options, including race, gender, sexuality, body, culture, the media, feminisms, education, youth and health. At Year 3 (Credit Level 6) you have the opportunity to design and conduct your own research and to prepare a dissertation, an in-depth study of a topic of your own choice.

Length of course

Three-year, full-time;
five-year, part-time

UCAS code

L300

Location

Central London (Regent)

Teaching and assessment

Teaching is geared towards making you an independent learner through lectures, seminars and workshops. Assessment is designed to meet the learning outcomes of modules through essays, logs, portfolios, reviews, presentations, and exams.

Associated careers

A degree in Sociology prepares you for most professional careers because it develops critical self and social awareness and an ability to think beyond the obvious. Specifically, many Sociology students enter professions such as teaching and social work or join the Civil Service, local government or voluntary organisations, and sometimes business and commercial organisations. A number of students are inspired to further study for Masters degrees and PhDs, and subsequently make the transition to academic jobs in teaching and/or research at this and other universities.

Typical offer for September 2009

| <i>Qualification type</i> | <i>Grade/points</i> |
|-----------------------------|---------------------|
| A Levels | BB/BCC |
| International Baccalaureate | 28 points |
| BTEC National Diploma | DMM |

See also entry requirements on p48.

Social Science Combined BA Honours

In this course you can combine modules from two half-degree sets, and you will receive a named award reflecting your choice of sets. There are a total of 14 sets that may be taken in combination with each other. The sets can be combined on a joint basis, where you study an equal number of modules from both of your chosen sets, or you may wish to combine modules from your chosen sets on a major/minor basis.

Course content – half-degree sets

Criminology gives you a thorough grounding in the study of crime and crime control, including an understanding of the penal system. The modules draw upon theories and explanations from a range of social science disciplines, although the emphasis is sociological.

Cultural Studies develops an interdisciplinary approach to the study of both 'high' and 'popular' culture. Historical and global in its outlook, our programme offers you the opportunity to debate issues relating not only to contemporary Western cultures but also to cultures throughout the world, in a historical and comparative way. You will gain new knowledge and deepen your understanding of cultural processes, practices, and meanings. You will also develop skills in critical analysis, close reading and theoretically-informed interpretations. Above all, Cultural Studies at Westminster will provide you with the skills to think critically and creatively about yourselves and the world around you.

Development Studies (title subject to approval) introduces you to the key themes, issues and concerns within the contemporary developing and less developed countries. It emphasises the multi-dimensional nature of the processes involved in all aspects of development, and alerts you to the diversity of development experience at both national and global levels.

Economics develops an understanding of the key concepts, theories and methodologies of economics. It focuses on microeconomics, macroeconomics and econometrics, and offers a range of options in applied areas. These modules are hosted by the Westminster Business School.

European Politics* develops an interdisciplinary approach to the study of contemporary Europe, addressing developments both within the European Union and in other parts of Europe, and exploring definitions of European identity. It encourages a critical appreciation of integration theory through a study of pan-European integration processes.

History offers you access to a wide range of modules in modern British, European and American history, many of which will provide a secure historical foundation for your studies in your other discipline. Our modules are designed to make the best of our central London location, enabling you to develop your research and analytical skills, while acquiring a secure knowledge and understanding of the origins and development of our modern world.

International Relations* provides an introduction to the methods, scope and theoretical perspectives that constitute international relations. It presents a recent history of global politics and provides a framework for understanding the contemporary global system and the distribution of power throughout the global, regional and national levels of that system.

Politics* considers the key themes and approaches of politics. The modules cover a wide range of academic specialisms and particular interests, but share a common concern with the relationship between state, nationhood and society in the modern world, and the complex interplay between domestic and international politics.

Length of course

Three-year, full-time;
five-year, part-time

UCAS code

LMV0

Location

Central London (Regent)

Teaching and assessment

A range of teaching methods are used and these will vary according to the combination of subjects which you choose to study. You will encounter various types of assessment, designed to meet the learning outcomes of the specific modules you choose. Depending on the modules you take, you may be assessed by exam, essay, research report, oral presentation, group work, poster presentation or a contribution to an electronic discussion board.

Associated careers

The course provides graduate-level skills appropriate for a wide range of careers. Specific opportunities will be related to the disciplines which you have chosen to study in your course.

Typical offer for September 2009

| Qualification type | Grade/points |
|-----------------------------|--------------|
| A Levels | BB/BCC |
| International Baccalaureate | 28 points |
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See also entry requirements on p48.

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Social Science Combined BA Honours

Psychology covers the main core areas of psychology, including social, developmental and cognitive psychology. It gives you an insight into current issues and research findings, and emphasises practical and applied aspects of psychology.

Socio-Legal Studies offers a broader approach to the study of law than is typically found in conventional law courses. It develops an understanding of the social, political and ideological characteristics of law and the legal system. Modules will introduce you to such issues as gender and race discrimination, civil liberties and human rights, welfare rights and social policy, as well as various aspects of the criminal justice system.

Sociology gives you a thorough grounding in sociological theory and method, and will stimulate a critical understanding of society and social processes. Through the modules offered, you will consider issues of education, equality of opportunity, gender, health and illness, psychoanalytic theory, race and ethnicity, and youth.

Urban Studies (title subject to approval) equips you with an understanding of basic concepts, knowledge and methodologies in city studies. A range of specialist option modules will provide an opportunity to improve skills and knowledge in a variety of applied areas.

War and Conflict Studies* places the study of war and conflict in a historical, contemporary and comparative context. It examines the relationship between war, society and culture; it analyses the practice of warfare and its impact; and it evaluates the prescriptions for the limitation, regulation, prevention and resolution of war and conflict.

Women's Studies provides an opportunity to explore gendered relations in society, and to engage in the range of feminist theory and analysis of the diversity of women's experience, achievements, needs and interests. Due to its interdisciplinary nature, it draws on modules from sociology, history, criminology and psychology to support its own specialist modules.

*These sets are hosted by the Department of Politics and International Relations. If you wish to combine two of these please apply to the BA Honours Politics Combined course (see page 192).