

Programme specification

BA (Hons) History

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1841

YORK
ST JOHN
UNIVERSITY

<i>School:</i>	Humanities, Religion and Philosophy
<i>Entry in:</i>	September 2019
<i>Awarding Institution:</i>	York St John University
<i>Teaching Institution:</i>	York St John University
<i>Delivery Location:</i>	York St John University
<i>Programme/s Accredited by:</i>	Not applicable
<i>Exit Awards:</i>	BA (Ord) History Certificate of Higher Education History Diploma of Higher Education History
<i>UCAS Code / GTTR / Other:</i>	V100 VT17 (American Studies) QV31 (English Literature)
<i>Joint Honours Combinations:</i>	Not applicable, this is the single honours programme English Literature
<i>QAA Benchmark Group(s):</i>	History
<i>Mode/s of Study:</i>	Full-time for 3 years Part-time for 6 years
<i>Language of Study:</i>	English

Introduction and Special Features

Introduction

The History programme is structured to enable you to study different types and periods of history while providing opportunities for more specialist independent study and research as you move from Levels 1 to 3.

- It begins in the first year with a range of modules which explore the skills and techniques necessary for the study of history at degree level as well as familiarising you with different approaches to the study of the past and providing an introduction to the main historical periods and approaches which will feature in later stages of the degree programme.
- In the second year, modules concentrate on key periods or themes in British, European, American and world history, allowing you to develop your own interests and specialise if you wish in the history of particular periods or geographical regions. You can, however, choose freely from the module diet available. You will be given thorough guidance throughout your time here by your Academic Tutors in making your module choices.
- In the final year all students research a dissertation on a topic of your choice alongside a chosen selection of modules which offer in-depth study of particular period or historical debate.

The modularised structure of the programme means that at all stages students have a genuine choice of topics and periods of study, with real freedom to construct a programme which reflects your interests and preferences.

Special features

- We offer a wide range of modules which allows you to focus on the kinds of history which appeals to you.
- The History degree programme also incorporates a distinctive strand of 'Applied History' which introduces students to the practical application of historical skills, to the uses of history in non-historical contexts such as journalism, politics and the media, and to the relevance of historical study to future careers.
- In the second year of the programme you will have the opportunity to undertake a project or placement which will give you practical experience of working in the wider community and exploring the relevance of your studies in a variety of personal, cultural and career contexts, as well as the opportunity to engage in exciting projects.
- We have a team of dedicated staff, who have an exceptional record of providing support to students (reflected in consecutive high scores in the support categories of the NSS).
- Internationalisation: there is an optional exchange, which involves students studying for one semester (usually in the first half of the second year) at a university elsewhere in Europe or North America.
- At all levels of the programme key skills are fully integrated into academic study and students are encouraged to reflect self-critically on their performance and to prepare themselves for their future careers or postgraduate study.
- Students will be taught by academic staff who are active researchers.
- Field trips are an enhanced feature of the programme with students invited to attend trips to museums, monasteries and castles as well as explore the history on their doorstep in York through the ages.
- The School benefits from a regular programme of visiting speakers.

Admissions Criteria

The programme adheres to the University's general entry criteria for [undergraduate](#) study. Requirements for admission comply with University admissions criteria with tariff points set for each given year.

<http://www.yorksj.ac.uk/study/admissions/admissions-policy.aspx>

For the full entry criteria, please refer to the programme's prospectus page.

<http://www.yorksj.ac.uk/undergraduate/undergraduate-study.aspx>

The University makes provision for entry to its programmes of study with advanced standing on the basis of Accredited Prior Certificated Learning (APCL) or Accredited Prior Experiential Learning (APEL) – please refer to *APL (APCL and APEL) Policy (SRA07)* which can be found at:

<http://www.yorksj.ac.uk/documents/directory/university-policies/idoc.ashx?docid=8cbb383a-7c0c-439a->

The English language entry requirement for Bachelors programmes for students whose first language is not English is IELTS 6.0 overall, with a minimum 5.5 in all areas. Other excepted qualifications can be found at: <https://www.yorksj.ac.uk/international/how-to-apply/english-language-requirements/>.

Programme Aims

Programme Aims

The subject specific programme aims are:

- to introduce students to a range of approaches to the study of the past, offering opportunities to explore different periods and types of history as well as for specialisation and independent study and research
- to encourage students to explore the implications and applications of their academic study in the

wider society to which they belong

- to enable students to develop a range of generic conceptual skills including information gathering, understanding, analysis, application of theory and principle, synthesis and evaluation
- to enable students to develop skills of communication, teamwork, self-management and organisation and problem solving in order to enhance opportunities for personal and social fulfilment both within and beyond the University community
- to provide progressive opportunities for students to develop as co-operative and independent learners
- to provide students with recognised qualifications to undertake further academic study and to compete successfully in a diverse employment market
- to offer an optional period of study abroad
- to foster a lasting interest in, and enjoyment of, their chosen area of study

Programme Learning Outcomes

Level 4 1 / FHEQ L4

Students who gain the award specified will have demonstrated the following learning outcomes:

1. An understanding of a range of historical and interdisciplinary approaches to the past
2. The ability to use a range of sources, secondary and primary, with tutor guidance
3. An understanding of the value and limitations of sources of information, in a variety of media
4. A basic proficiency in a range of study skills, appropriate for the subject area(s) studied
5. The ability to communicate a body of information and ideas and to construct an historical argument
6. Understanding of the skills necessary for independent learning and successful academic study

Level 5 / FHEQ L5

Students who gain the award specified will have demonstrated the following learning outcomes:

1. Knowledge and critical understanding of the history of particular themes, regions and periods, in a global context
2. The application of a greater variety of disciplinary and interdisciplinary approaches to a range of concepts, themes and topics, and distinguish between them
3. The ability to construct a coherent, structured argument drawing upon an expanded range of primary and secondary material, and to analyse and interpret evidence in a critical way
4. A developing understanding of historiography and its application to historical debate
5. Communication, presentation and research skills, with growing capacity for independent study
6. The ability to apply subject expertise in a practical context related to the community and the world of work

Level 6 / FHEQ L6

Students who gain the award specified will have demonstrated the following learning outcomes:

1. A systematic understanding of specific historical issues, theories and contexts through the study of a range of special topics
2. A critical understanding of the development of history as a discipline and the relevance of historiographical debate in a specialised context
3. Confidence and sophistication in the handling of specialist secondary sources and a range of primary source material
4. The ability to construct and analyse complex arguments appropriate to degree level historical study
5. The necessary independence required to manage their own learning and research
6. Academic and personal skills appropriate to graduate level and future employment

And for Honours Degree

7. Synthesise and apply complex theoretical perspectives and concepts to an extended piece of written work

Programme Structure

LEVEL 4 (Single Honours)

Modules at level 4 explore different approaches to the past, and introduce students to a range of methodologies and historical skills. Most modules at this level include a combination of medieval/early modern and modern history, so that students are also introduced to different historical periods and enabled to make cross-chronological comparisons (this will inform their choices at other levels). All modules at this level incorporate key subject skills, as well as establishing foundations for optional paths which students can follow or construct at subsequent levels. The compulsory module *Researching and Presenting the Past* ensures that all Single Honours students on the Programme are provided with a common practical grounding in subject skills and introduced to different varieties of history and the ways in which academic history interacts with the wider social and cultural community. In semester 1 of level 4 for Single Honours students there is a compulsory diet; in semester 2 they choose three options from a choice of five modules.

LEVEL 5 (Single Honours)

Modules at Level 5 incorporate and develop conceptual approaches and methodologies introduced at level 4 with a variety of period settings and the study of themes dealing with the history of different countries and regions. The choice of options enables students to concentrate if they wish on medieval/early modern or modern/contemporary history, to give their programmes a particular geographical/period focus by selecting modules in British, European or American history (although students can pick freely from the modules on offer). For example, students interested in themes of national identity introduced at level 4 in *The Making of Britain* might follow this at level 5 with *Europe in the Age of Nationalism*. As well as allowing these connections to be made between levels 1 and 2, the optional modules at level 5 are also designed to provide a basis for more specialised study of themes and periods at level 6, so that for instance the module *The Power of the Past in Early modern Britain* offers an appropriate preparation for the level 6 module *Knowledge and Power in Early Modern England*.

At level 5, aside from modules which focus on major themes or periods in British, European, American and world history, students will look at the applications of History beyond the academic sphere in the media, the community and the world of work. Single Honours students will take *History, Community and Culture*, which includes a project or placement, plus five optional modules. Other modules at level 5, building on the practical skills acquired at level 4, examine, in the module *History, Film and Television* the use of history in non-historical contexts such as film, television and the media. Some students may spend the first semester of level 5 on an international academic exchange (in Europe or the US), for which they will

negotiate their own programme of study abroad with the Head of Programme. Students must complete the level in accordance with University requirements to proceed to level 6.

LEVEL 6 (Single Honours)

Single Honours students must take the 40-credit Special Study, and research and write a dissertation of 10,000 words on a topic of their choice (selected on the basis of tutorial advice). In addition they select four further optional modules.

Each of the level 6 modules on offer provides in-depth study of a particular period or controversy. The level 6 optional modules embody progression from level 5 in a number of respects, involving students in more complex and specialist historical controversies and in particular requiring them to study their periods more fully through primary source material. At this level, too, there is increased emphasis on seminar-based learning and student independence. The format of level 6 once again allows students to give their programme a geographical or period emphasis (it would for example be possible to construct a level 6 programme which was heavily medieval, early modern or contemporary in content) and the level 6 modules are also integrated into thematic areas established at the previous two levels (for example, a student who had studied *War and Society* at level 4 and *Europe in the Age of Nationalism* at level 5 might take *The Origins of the Second World War* at level 6.

Modules for the Programme

Code	Level	Semester	Title	Credits	Status of Module*
1HI503	1	1	Researching and Presenting the Past	20	C
1HI504	1	1	The Making of Britain	20	C
1HI500	1	1	War and Society	20	C
1HI502	1	2	Empires	20	O
1HI506	1	2	Popular Protest	20	O
1AS201	1	2	America's Century	20	O
1HI501	1	2	Contemporary Crisis	20	O
1HI505	1	2	The Visible Past	20	O
2HI501	2	1	Flowering of the Middle Ages	20	O
2HI508	2	1	International Organisations in the Twentieth Century	20	O
2HI507	2	1	History, Film and Television	20	O
2HI509	2	1	Making of Modern America	20	O
2HI503	2	1	Reds	20	O
2HI505	2	1	The Age of Revolution	20	O
2HI512	2	1	The World After Rome	20	O
2CW101	2	1	Writing Reality: Creative Non-Fiction	20	O
2HI502	2	2	History, Community and Culture	20	C
2AS201	2	2	From Slavery to Freedom	20	O
2HI510	2	2	Plague, Piety and Power	20	O
2HI504	2	2	The Age of Anxiety	20	O
2HI500	2	2	Europe in the Age of Nationalism	20	O
2HI511	2	2	The Power of the Past in Early Modern Britain	20	O
2HI506	2	2	The Sleeping Dragon	20	O
3HI508	3	1	Atlantic World in 18 th century	20	O
3HI504	3	1	US Conflict in the East Asian Mainland	20	O
3HI505	3	1	Early Victorian England	20	O
3HI515	3	1	The Wars of the Roses	20	O

3HI516	3	1	The Empire Strikes Back: Mikhail Gorbachev and the Collapse of the Soviet Union	20	O
3HI517	3	1	The English Revolution	20	O
3HI512	3	2	Late Anglo-Saxon England	20	O
3HI501	3	2	Late Victorian and Edwardian Britain	20	O
3HI503	3	2	Origins of the Second World War	20	O
3HI514	3	2	Republic in Danger: France in the World	20	O
3HI509	3	2	From British Empire to Commonwealth of Nations	20	O
3HI500	3	2	Great Society	20	O
3HI502	3	2	The First Crusade	20	O
3HI510	3	2	The Italian Renaissance	20	O
3HI518	3	2	Doomed Youth	20	O
3AS203	3	2	The Nation Divided	20	O
3HI507	3	¹ and ₂	Special Study (40-credit)	40	CA

***C**: Compulsory, **CP**: Compulsory for progression to the next level, **CA**: Compulsory for award, **O**: option or **E**: elective.

Themes to which individual modules contribute:

Modules	Semester	Applied/Work-Related	Medieval/Early Modern	Modern/Contemporary
Level 4				
1HI503	1	✓		
1HI504	1		✓	✓
1HI500	1		✓	✓
1HI502	2		✓	✓
1HI505	2	✓	✓	✓
1HI506	2		✓	✓
1HI501	2			✓
1AS201	2			✓
Level 5				
2HI512	1		✓	
2HI505	1		✓	✓
2HI501	1		✓	
2HI503	1			✓
2HI507	1			✓
2HI509	1			✓
2HI508	1			✓
2HI502	2	✓		
2HI510	2		✓	
2AS201	2		✓	✓
2HI504	2			✓
2HI506	2			✓
2HI500	2			✓
2HI511	2		✓	
2CW101	2			✓
Level 6				
3HI506/7	1 and 2	✓	✓	✓
3HI513	1	✓	✓	✓

3HI505	1			✓
3HI504	1			✓
3HI516	1			✓
3HI515	1		✓	
3HI517	1		✓	
3HI508	1		✓	
3AS203	2			✓
3HI509	2			✓
3HI503	2			✓
3HI500	2			✓
3HI512	2		✓	
3HI514	2			✓
3HI502	2		✓	
3HI501	2			✓

Teaching, Learning and Assessment

Each module has a programme of structured learning which will include, in various combinations, formal structured class contact (lectures, seminars etc), Supported Open Learning (SOL), independent study (reading, research, preparation of assignments) and, in some modules field trips and work-related activity. Students are encouraged to use the widest possible range of resources for their studies, including books, journals, the internet and visual material, archives and the resources of the local community and region such as museums, galleries and historic buildings. For all modules, individual tutorial contact between tutor and student is an integral part of the timetabled learning experience and is a crucial vehicle for providing formative feedback on student work, addressing individual study needs and fostering students' personal academic development.

The aim of the programme is to develop the progressive skills of students as autonomous independent thinkers and learners, but within a collaborative learning environment. Modules would typically include written coursework (essay, projects, reviews and other forms of written argument) and timed assessments. The assessment for most History modules includes a combination of course work and timed assessment, the latter being a maximum of 40% of the final module grade. The course work in most cases would include an essay component but other types of written assignment are also used (reviews, documentary exercises, site reports, photo-essays, case studies, to test different aspects of students' writing skills in line with the benchmarking recommendations). History, Community and Culture is structured around a work-related or practically based learning experience and is assessed by means of a learning journal and a work-related report. The Special Study at level 6 meets the requirement for an extended piece of written work based on research and primary source material and is assessed on the basis of a dissertation of 10,000 words for the 40 credit and 5,000 words for the 20-credit study.

Level 4 Assessment Strategies

STRATEGY	MODULE
Assignment and research project	1HI501/1HI502/1HI506/1HI504
Essays + timed assessment	1AS201/1HI500
Portfolio	1HI503/1HI505

Level 5 Assessment Strategies

STRATEGY	MODULE
Film Review	2HI507

Research Essay	2HI507
Essay + timed assessment	2HI509/2HI501/2AS201/2HI508/2HI500/2HI510/2HI503/2HI504
Two essays	2HI505/2HI511/2HI506/2HI512/2HI513
Portfolio	2HI502/2CW101

Level 6 Assessment Strategies

STRATEGY	MODULE
Essay and timed assessment	3HI508/3HI504/3HI505/3HI509/3HI500/3HI516/3HI517/3HI512/3HI501/3HI503/3HI514/3HI502/3AS203/3HI515
Documentary exercise	3HI512
Research essay	3HI513
Dissertation	3HI506/3HI507

Progression and Graduation Requirements

The University's [general regulations for undergraduate awards](#) apply to this programme.

Any modules that must be passed for progression or award are indicated in the Programme Structure section.

In addition, the following programme-specific regulations apply in respect of progression and graduation:

At Level 6 the special study module, listed below, will be compulsory for the award of honours.

- 3HI507 *Special Study* (40 credits)

Internal and External Reference Points

This programme specification was formulated with reference to:

- [University Mission Statement](#) [see page two]
- [Strategic Plan 2015-20](#) [see page four]
- [QAA subject benchmark statement](#)
- [Framework for Higher Education Qualifications](#)

Further Information

Further information on the programme of study may be obtained from:

- Admissions entry profile (Admissions)
- Programme validation document (Registry – Academic Quality Support)
- Regulations (Registry – Academic Quality Support)
- Student programme handbook (school)
- Module handbooks (school)