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## Title of Programme: BA SOCIAL STUDIES

This specification provides a concise summary of the main features of the programme and the learning outcomes that a typical student might reasonably be expected to achieve and demonstrate if s/he takes full advantage of the learning opportunities that are provided.

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|---|----------------------------|
| <b>1. Awarding Body</b>                                     | University of Warwick      |
| <b>2. Teaching location</b>                                 | Blossomfield               |
| <b>3. Accreditation details</b>                             | University of Warwick      |
| <b>4. Final award</b>                                       | Bachelor of Arts (Honours) |
| <b>5. Name of award</b>                                     | BA Social Studies          |
| <b>6. Codes</b>   |                            |
| <b>a. UCAS code</b>   | <i>N/A</i>                 |
| <b>b. Solihull Qualification Code</b>                       | <i>SSAAA112BCFO</i>        |
| <b>c. Edexcel Programme Code (&amp; approval dates)</b>     | <i>NA</i>                  |
| <b>7. QAA Subject Benchmark or other external reference</b> | <i>NA</i>                  |
| <b>8. Date this specification applies from</b>              | <i>21/03/2017</i>          |

**Approved**

Keith Rathbone

## **9. Educational Aims of the Programme**

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This programme aims to:

- Provide the students with a broad knowledge of key aspects within social studies
- Develop students' ability to engage critically with key debates within the area of Social Studies
- Develop transferable skills in preparation to the students' future employment
- Develop a range of communication skills (written, spoken, interpersonal)
- Develop academic writing and referencing skills
- Provide opportunities of students to develop collaborative skills

## 10. Intended Learning Outcomes

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The programme provides opportunities for students to develop and demonstrate knowledge and understanding, skills, qualities and other attributes in the following areas:

### **Subject knowledge and critical understanding including:**

1.
  - Have the knowledge foundation for more detailed and in-depth study of political theory, political processes, political institutions and political change in further year modules
  - Be able to identify and discuss critically several of the main theoretical perspectives and debates in political science, sociology and health and social policy
  - Be able to write appropriately constructed essays in a critical and analytical fashion
  - Have enhanced study and communication skills for interacting in small group seminars and making oral presentations
  - To gain knowledge about a variety of different research methods, and to confidently discuss the strengths and weaknesses of these.
  - To explore different sociological perspectives, and to use this theory to underpin the arguments students make within assessed work.
  - To develop an understanding about sociological research as a reflexive activity.
  - To understand the history and development of welfare provision in Britain from the 19th century to the present day.
  - To identify the main ideological perspectives which have influenced contemporary social contexts and institutions
  - To develop further transferable skills such as analytical thinking, self-management, study skills, interpersonal skills and written and oral communication skills.

### **Higher level academic/ intellectual skills including**

- The ability to engage critically with a range of literature within sociology, politics and health and social policy
- The ability to evaluate the benefits and limitations of a range of research methods and research techniques
- The ability to recognise the nuances of debates within the field of social studies, and demonstrate this recognition within written assignments and examinations
- The ability to apply problem solving skills to a variety of case study examples within the field of Social Studies
- The ability to select appropriate reading material, and to maintain an engagement with new developments in sociology, politics and health and social policy
- The ability to assess research design, and to use this knowledge to design research studies
- The ability to situate contemporary social phenomena within broader sociohistorical context

### **Higher practical and professional skills including:**

- The ability to identify current political and sociological debates and to use theory to explain such social phenomena.
- The ability to explore health and social policy from a historical and contemporary perspective.
- The ability to devise a research project that answers an appropriate research question or hypothesis.
- The ability to select appropriate source material and to synthesise this material effectively.

- The development of academic writing skills, and written fluency.

### **Higher Level transferable skills development including:**

- The ability to select and operate a variety of ICT within the classroom, and during independent study.
- The ability to analyse statistical data when presented in research studies, in the media, by governments, etc.
- To develop academic referencing skills, and gain an understanding of the importance of enacting correct referencing throughout all academic work.
- The ability to be a valued team member, via the development of collaborative competency and organisational skills.
- Develop effective time-management strategies in order to maximise personal and collaborative success.
- To monitor and reflect upon their own punctuality, attendance, and assignment submission in order to account for their own success.

### ***Teaching and Learning Methods***

- The BA Social Studies degree is delivered via lectures, seminars, small group work, tutorials and independent study.
- Students are required to develop consistent reading habits that enable them to maintain a good understanding of class content, and the wider debates within the field of Social Studies.
- Students are required to develop and demonstrate critical engagement skills within all teaching, learning and assessment methods.
- Presentations and debates allow students to develop and demonstrate verbal communication skills focused on the ability to critically evaluate their chosen topic.
- One-to-one tutorials allow students and personal tutors to monitor attendance and attainment, and to explore any actions needed in order to enhance the students' performance.

### ***Assessment methods***

- Summative assessment methods include one summative assignment and one examination per module
- Three of the summative assignments take the form of an essay (2,000 words) and one takes the form of an individual presentation.
- Formative assessment takes the form of one essay per module per term. The results of these are documented by the tutors and used by the personal tutors to monitor student progress
- The written formative tasks address the learning outcomes because they assess the students' ability to read widely and to apply current academic referencing to their work, their ability to engage critically with key debates, their ability to develop an informed argument, their competency in structuring an essay, and their written and grammatical competency.
- Formative presentations reflect several learning outcomes because they enable the students to develop and demonstrate verbal communication skills, and interpersonal skills. These assignments require students to use ICT and English skills
- English and Maths are embedded consistently within all modules in order to assess the students' core skills.

## 11. Programme Structure

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The Social Studies course is an undergraduate BA (Hons) course consisting of 360 credits (or CATS) in total – 120 credits each at levels 4, 5 and 6. Level 4 is often referred to as Level One and levels 5 and 6 as Honours Level. The course is a University of Warwick course delivered in partnership with Solihull College and the degree that students will receive upon successfully completing the course is a University of Warwick BA (Hons) in Social Studies. Each module in Year One of the 2+2 Degree is weighted at 10 credits and each module in Year Two of the 2+2 Degree is weighted at 20 credits. Thus, when students progress from Solihull College to the University they will have accumulated 120 credit points in total.

The first 2 years of the course will be taught at Solihull College and the final 2 at the University of Warwick. The first 2 years will focus on developing students' subject knowledge and academic skills and students receive lots of support with this from the teaching team, as well as Warwick staff. When students transfer to Warwick in Year 3 of the course they will study modules alongside other full-and part-time students, some of whom may also be from the Centre for Lifelong Learning.

### Year 1 and 2

All students will study a core set of modules in years 1 and 2 at their college:

Sociological Perspectives  
Researching Society and Culture  
Health and Social Policy  
Politics

### Years 3 and 4

Students pick 1 main academic subject (the 'major' subject) and must complete at least 120 credits in years 3 and 4 in that subject. Majors are available in:

- Politics
- Sociology
- Health and Social Policy
- Business Studies
- Lifelong Learning
- Gender Studies

In addition, students take 2 core modules:

- Research Methods (Year 3) – students choose either SO238 Social Research Methods (Sociology module) or CE204 Research Methods in the Social Sciences (Centre for Lifelong Learning) module.
- Dissertation (Year 4) – in most cases students will complete a dissertation or in Lifelong Learning.

The following subjects are available as options only (i.e. no more than 60 credits at Honours Level):

- History
- Law
- Languages

In order to progress to each level of the course, students are required to obtain a pass (40% or over) to each summative assignment and examination. If students fail any of these assessments they will be required to re-sit and obtain a pass in order to progress to the next level of study.

## **12. Support for Students and Their Learning**

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Student progression on course is supported both by subject tutors and central College services and includes:

- An induction programme introducing new students to the subject of study, higher level skills that need to be developed, and the college facilities (including the library, IT facilities, staff and other students).
- College and course handbooks available in print and electronic format on Moodle.
- Personal and academic support is integrated in teaching provided by supportive and accessible tutors and identified 1:1 support sessions are also available.
- A modern well-equipped library and up-to-date ICT equipment.
- Study skills sessions integrated in programme.
- Access to counsellors and support for students with additional needs.
- Written assignment / assessment feedback (normally provided with 3 weeks of assessment submission).
- Termly 1:1 meetings
- Access to regularly updated course section and college wide sections on the college's intranet Moodle
- Dedicated HE area for taught sessions

## 13. Criteria for Admission

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Mature students, over the age of 21, with a suitable background or experience may be accepted without formal qualifications.

All students will be invited to three separate interviews before an offer is made.

All students will complete a written task designed to assess comprehension and analytical skills.

Students are not discriminated against based on gender, ethnicity, sexuality, social class, physical disability or psychological conditions.

*Admissions statement as appears on the University of Warwick, Centre for Lifelong Learning website:*

**“You can study for a Social Studies Part-time degree at Warwick without A-levels or an access qualification, if it's your first degree you are entitled to a tuition fee loan.**

Have you always wanted to study for a degree but haven't had the time, finance or the opportunity. Perhaps you have a interest in studying a range of academic subjects such as Sociology, Health and Social Policy, Business Studies, Economics, Lifelong Learning and Politics? This degree gives you the opportunity to study for a multi-disciplinary degree which allows you to specialise in one academic subject, called a 'major' but also take optional modules from other broad subject areas.

The University of Warwick, a top ten university offers part-time degrees enabling local adults to study flexibly alongside other commitments. You can study at your own pace and fees are significantly lower than studying full-time.”

## **14. Evaluating and Improving the Standards of Teaching and Learning**

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Methods for evaluating and improving the standard of teaching and learning:

- Student feedback questionnaires
- Module review forms
- Student input to the Programme Quality Board held twice a year.
- Student representations made through the HE Student Council.
- Action areas fed by the above to the course based Annual Monitoring report.
- Findings of the teaching observation scheme and recommendations for improvements that are made

## **15. Regulation of Assessment**

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An Annual Monitoring Report (AMR) is completed every year, the last section of which is a Quality Improvement Plan (QIP), written by the course leader with help and input from the teaching and tutoring team. This is passed to the Head of School for audit and from there to the HE Quality and Standards Board.

Tutors within social studies at the University of Warwick moderate summative assignments and examinations.

## **16. Enhancement**

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A Quality Improvement Plan (QIP) is produced which feeds into the Faculty Higher Education (HE) SAR, which is then reported at the HE Quality and Standards Board.

Students are eligible to apply for external opportunities via the University of Warwick website, including research abroad schemes.

Students have access to the University of Warwick library and e-resources, and careers service.

Students are eligible to apply to study for a part time Certificate in a specialised area within the remit of social studies.

Students benefit from occasional trips to Warwick to experience lectures and skills sessions within different social studies departments. Specialists working within academic social studies disciplines are also occasionally invited to deliver specialised sessions.

## **17. Programme Resources**

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- Classrooms that comfortably sit 23 students
- ICT equipment, including interactive white boards
- Solihull College library and the University of Warwick library
- Online interactive and data storage platforms (Moodle)

Please note: This specification provides a concise summary of the main features of the programme and the learning outcomes that a typical student might reasonably be expected to achieve and demonstrate if s/he takes full advantage of the learning opportunities that are provided. More detailed information can be found in the programme handbook.

### **Document History**

1. *July 2013*
- 2.
- 3.

Programme Leader	Keith Rathbone
Web address	<i>WWW.solihullcollege.ac.uk</i>
Date checked against public information	<i>12/3/17</i>
Specification Author	<i>Keith Rathbone</i>