

This is both a fascinating and urgent time to be studying history. Debates around decolonizing the curriculum, Black Lives Matter, the response to the global pandemic and Brexit (remember that...?) inform our everyday lives and are informed by history. We are very excited to welcome you to York and for you to engage with staff, use the wealth of resources in the Library, develop existing interests and find brand new ones. You will make new friends and experience the diversity of life in York, from student journalism to sports and the wonderful city itself. The History department is an inclusive, supportive and highly-skilled community and we are working hard to ensure that you have an intellectually challenging and inspiring experience. We have had to adapt *how* but not *what* we teach - and be assured our globally-recognised expertise remains at the heart of our teaching. The skills you will learn on the degree will serve you well at York and beyond. The University is fully committed to student and staff safety and is planning carefully to ensure this through social distancing, track-and-trace, sanitizer, deep cleans, one-way systems and more. We explain below what you can expect in your first term of studying at York.

Autumn 2020: What can I expect?

The Department of History will be unveiling a new set of courses for Stage One students in Autumn 2020. We're looking forward to welcoming you as our first cohort!

Autumn Term comprises 3 courses that are intended to introduce you to themes in World History from the medieval period up to the present day. You can view the course content [here](#).

We have developed an **integrated** programme of teaching and learning activities, in which classroom elements are supported and enhanced by engaging online activities.

For each course, you will receive 2 lectures per week. These lectures will be pre-recorded and made available online for you to view at your own pace and at your convenience. Each week, you will also attend 1 seminar for each course, where you will be able to discuss the lectures, key readings, and your own ideas with fellow classmates and your seminar leader.

Our plan at present is to **alternate** weekly between an online seminar and an on-campus seminar. Some students may need to join an online-only seminar group if they have a reason why they cannot attend on-campus activities.

And we have some additional elements to help you **transition** from school to university-level work and consolidate your learning. Each course includes 1 fortnightly skills session, where you will work with other students on developing the specific skills you need to write good essays. You will also be able to join live chat sessions with your lecturers, so you can ask them questions and meet students from outside your own seminar group.

If you are a single-degree History student, you can ordinarily expect to be taking part in no less than 9 and up to 11 events every week. (A joint degree student will take 1 of our lecture courses alongside another subject with its own independent learning outcomes.) But you also need time to read and prepare for classes - your tutors will give you guidance on this - and you will receive regular feedback on your work.

Classroom teaching is where our students make bonds with one another and grow the **confidence** to engage in informed but respectful debate with one another. Some of the people with whom you will be in the classroom this Autumn may become friends for very many years to come. Online teaching supports and enhances what we do in the classroom. We have expertise in delivering online teaching, where we use a range of elements to ensure that **all** students can **get involved** in the discussion and **engage** with one other.

As a new student, you can be assured that the Autumn Term courses will be taught by lecturers and seminar leaders who remain just as enthusiastic as ever about delivering an inspiring, intellectually stimulating, and enjoyable learning experience.