

## Programme change proposals

At York each degree programme has its own, tailored set of distinctive learning outcomes. These won't change, no matter what your location or mode of delivery, and our academics are working hard to ensure your programmes and modules next year continue to inspire and motivate you.

Your health and safety is our number one priority and in light of the Covid-19 pandemic we have needed to make changes to some of your programmes of study for the coming academic year. This document summarises the changes that are proposed.

Programme(s)	<a href="#">BA Social &amp; Political Sciences</a> <a href="#">BA Social &amp; Political Sciences with Philosophy</a>
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### Summary of Overall Plans

There is no better time to study Social and Political Sciences in York. Complex issues, from Brexit, poverty, growing inequality and racism require us to understand, challenge and look for answers. We cannot do this if we restrict our focus to one discipline or another. Now, more than ever, we have to bring together different academic disciplines to provide solutions. This is what the SPS degree is about. Next year you will begin the process of building knowledge and understanding of key theories in politics, social policy and sociology. Given the specific challenges posed by Covid-19, we will do so differently than in previously years.

In 2020-21, teaching across our feeder departments (Politics, Social Policy, Sociology and Philosophy for those taking this option) will be a mixture of face-to-face teaching and online teaching. Whilst the exact details will vary by module, our plan is for you to participate in face-to-face teaching for at least two hours per week. For some modules the face-to-face contact will be higher. Most of the face-to-face teaching will be in small seminar groups which will respond to your particular learning needs and help to develop your understanding of key theories, concepts and issues that are important at Level 1 of the degree. Lecturers are currently working to create these new resources, which will cover the required material in an effective and accessible format.

In addition to this, all students (including those who aren't able to attend campus as well as those who might be self-isolating) will have access to a full programme of structured learning materials to accompany the lecture material for every module as well as online discussion groups led by teaching staff, that will facilitate further group interactions and meet the same learning outcomes.

Assessment of level 1 modules will vary across modules, but will include of combination of coursework (essays and critical summaries) and time-constrained open-book exams (where an exam paper is released to students electronically and students write their papers at home with access to notes, books and electronic resources etc) submitted through our online system.

#### Programme Structures

We are delighted to announce that, from the 2020-21 academic year, we have a new module for first year SPS students entitled 'Contemporary Issues in Social and Political Science'. This core module will be delivered in addition to our existing core modules, providing you with a fourth year-long module. The aim of this module is to bring together different perspectives from politics, social policy and sociology to enable us to understand more fully contemporary issues. Potential case studies might include Brexit, the social and political effects of Covid-19, or the connections between statues of slave owners and contemporary racism.

The addition of this new module means that students on SPS will not have any optional modules at Level 1. Students will, however, retain the full set of options at Levels 2 and 3 of the degree. We also plan to allow students to take language modules as free electives.

#### Further changes or information of note

We will provide online supervision meetings for all first year students, with the option to meet academic supervisors face-to-face where needed. All students will be given access to our online Study Skills materials.