UNIVERSITY OF WOLVERHAMPTON

Course Specification

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Core Information

Awarding Body / Institution:	University of Wolverhampton		
School / Institute:	School of Social Science, Humanities and Creative Industries		
Course Code(s):	WR007H01UM WR007H31UM	Full-time Part-time	3 Years 6 Years
UCAS Code:			
Course Title:	BA (Hons) War Studies		
Hierarchy of Awards:	Bachelor of Arts with Honours War Studies Bachelor of Arts War Studies Diploma of Higher Education War Studies Certificate of Higher Education War Studies		
Language of Study:	English		
Date of DAG approval:	14/Sep/2026		
Last Review:			
Course Specification valid from:	2025/6		
Course Specification valid to:			

Academic Staff

Course Leader:	Dr Eamonn O'Kane
Head of Department:	Dr David Hussey

Course Information

Location of Delivery:	University of Wolverhampton
Category of Partnership:	Standard Provision (Not delivered in partnership)
Teaching Institution:	University of Wolverhampton
Open / Closed Course:	This course is open to all suitably qualified candidates.

Entry Requirements:

Entry requirements are subject to regular review. The entry requirements applicable to a particular academic year will be published on the University website (and externally as appropriate e.g. UCAS

Distinctive Features of the Course:

The War Studies degree at Wolverhampton offers a comprehensive analysis of the impact of war and conflict. The degree's focus and content are notably wider than that found at most other institutions. We consider in-depth both military history and contemporary conflicts, as well as examining other, often neglected issues, such as the cultural and social impact of war. This wide focus allows students to exercise choice within the curriculum and construct a pathway through the degree that is both academically robust and focused on the areas of War Studies that excite them most. There are also opportunities for students to pursue their own interests and focus on areas of War Studies that fascinate them, both within modules and in their independent study project in the final year of the degree. The programme is research-led and underpinned by internationally recognised scholarship. All the teaching staff are active researchers and bring their expertise into the classroom. This means that the degree is kept up to date and relevant to modern debates about War and the impact that it has in shaping and interpreting the world around us. By examining a wide range of historically and geographically diverse case studies, and the key theoretical debates in the subject, the course is one of the most comprehensive and varied War Studies degrees in the United Kingdom

Beyond the focus on war and its impact, the course is also structured in such a way as to develop students' wider skillsets. The approach in terms of teaching, learning and assessment is designed to encourage students to become independent critical thinkers and equip them with key skills that will be transferable to the wider working environment.

Educational Aims of the Course:

Intakes:

September

Major Source of Funding:

Office for Students (OFS)

Tuition Fees:

Tuition fees are reviewed on an annual basis. The fees applicable to a particular academic year will be published on the University website.

Year	Status	Mode	Amount
2020/1	H	Full Time / Sandwich	£9250.00
2020/1	Overseas	Full Time / Sandwich	£12250.00
2020/1	H	Part Time	£3050.00
2020/1	Overseas	Part Time	£6125.00
2021/2	H	Full Time / Sandwich	£9250.00
2021/2	Overseas	Full Time / Sandwich	£12950.00
2021/2	H	Part Time	£3100.00
2022/3	H	Full Time / Sandwich	£9250.00
2022/3	Overseas	Full Time / Sandwich	£13450.00
2022/3	H	Part Time	£3120.00
2023/4	H	Full Time / Sandwich	£9250.00
2023/4	Overseas	Full Time / Sandwich	£14450.00
2023/4	H	Part Time	£4625
2024/5	H	Full Time / Sandwich	£9250.00
2024/5	Overseas	Full Time / Sandwich	£14950.00
2024/5	H	Part Time	£4625.00
2025/6	H	Full Time / Sandwich	£9535.00
2025/6	Overseas	Full Time / Sandwich	£15995.00
2025/6	H	Part Time	£4768.00
2026/7	H	Full Time / Sandwich	£9790.00
2026/7	Overseas	Full Time / Sandwich	£17600.00
2026/7	H	Part Time	£4895.00

PSRB:

None

Course Structure:

September (Full-time)

Part time students study alongside full time students. However, they do not study more than 80 credits in each academic calendar year.

Module	Title	Credits	Period	Type
4WR008	Introduction to Military History: The Changing Character of War	30	SEM1	Core
4GK014	Succeeding at University for the Social Sciences and Humanities	30	SEM1	Core
4WR009	Just debates in War and Peace	30	SEM2	Core
4WR007	Battlefield Command: Historical Debates and Military Leadership	30	SEM2	Core

September (Full-time)

Part time students study alongside full time students. However, they do not study more than 80 credits in each academic calendar year.

Module	Title	Credits	Period	Type
5GK019	Professional Development for the Social Sciences and Humanities	30	SEM2	Core
5WR014	War and Peace in the Long Nineteenth Century	30	SEM1	Core
5WR012	Examining Contemporary War and Conflict: changes and continuities.	30	SEM1	Core

Option Group 03 | Min Value: 30 | Max Value: 30

The option modules below are suggestions based on your pathway of choice;
Please select 5WR013 if you wish to focus your programme on the Military History content of the degree and feeds directly into MA degrees offered by the Department.
Please select 5PL021 if you wish to focus your programme towards the contemporary conflicts/security studies content of the degree.
Please select 5IR004 or 5WR014 if you wish to focus your programme on the examination of war and conflict in a wider context, which consider its social, cultural and diplomatic impacts.

5WR013	The Second World War: A Social, Cultural and Military History	30	SEM2	Core/Option	Adam Dighton
5PL021	Securing the State: Intelligence, Secrecy, and Law Enforcement	30	SEM2	Core/Option	Jason Dymydiuk
5IR004	Diplomacy and Foreign Policy: Theory, Practice, Professional Skills	30	SEM2	Core/Option	Anna Kuteleva
5WR014	War and Peace in the Long Nineteenth Century	30	SEM2	Core/Option	Howard Fuller

September (Full-time)

Part time students study alongside full time students. However, they do not study more than 80 credits in each academic calendar year.

Module	Title	Credits	Period	Type
6WR017	Victory to Enterprise: Maritime Power in the 19th and 20th centuries	30	SEM1	Core
6WR018	War Studies Independent Study	30	SEM2	Core

Option Group 01 | Min Value: 30 | Max Value: 30

The option modules below are suggestions based on your pathway of choice;
Please select 6WR015, 6WR014 or 6HS021 if you wish to focus your programme on the Military History content of the degree and feeds directly into MA degrees offered by the Department.
Please select 6WR014 if you wish to focus your programme towards the contemporary conflicts/security studies content of the degree.
Please select 6WR015 or 6HS021 if you wish to focus your programme on the examination of war and conflict in a wider context, which consider its social, cultural and diplomatic impacts.

6WR015	Popular Culture and War: The Press, Films, Literature and Games	30	SEM1	Core/Option	Adam Dighton
6WR014	How Conflicts End? Comparative Peace Processes	30	SEM1	Core/Option	Eamonn O'Kane
6HS021	The Holocaust	30	SEM1	Core/Option	Simon Constantine

Option Group 01 | Min Value: 30 | Max Value: 30

The option modules below are suggestions based on your pathway of choice;
Please select 6WR016 if you wish to focus your programme on the Military History content of the degree and feeds directly into MA degrees offered by the Department.
Please select 6WR013 if you wish to focus your programme towards the contemporary conflicts/security studies content of the degree.
Please select 6WR013 if you wish to focus your programme on the examination of war and conflict in a wider context, which consider its social, cultural and diplomatic impacts.

6WR016	The First World War and the Birth of Modern Warfare	30	SEM2	Core/Option	Spencer Jones
6WR013	Cyber Statecraft: Competition and Conflict in Cyberspace.	30	SEM2	Core/Option	Jason Dymydiuk

Please note: Optional modules might not run every year, the course team will decide on an annual basis which options will be running, based on student demand and academic factors, to create the best learning experience.

Learning, Teaching and Assessment

Regulations Exemption:

None

Reference Points:

UK Quality Code for Higher Education

Qualifications and Credit Frameworks

Subject Benchmark Statements

University Policies and Regulations

Equality Act 2010: guidance - GOV.UK

Apprenticeship Standard

Overview of Assessment:

As part of the course approval process, the course learning outcomes were mapped to each of the modules forming the diet of the programme of study. This process confirmed that all course learning outcomes can be met through successful completion of the modules. This mapping applies to the final award as well as to all of the intermediate awards.

Learning Outcomes	Modules
CERTHE01 Demonstrate knowledge of the underlying concepts, theories and principles associated with your area(s) of study (Knowing).	
CERTHE02 Evaluate, interpret and apply data, to develop ideas and discussion in your subject(s) of study (Knowing).	
CERTHE03 Use different approaches to solving problems related to your area(s) of study (Doing).	
CERTHE04 Communicate the results of your study/work accurately and reliably, and with structured and coherent arguments (Doing).	
CERTHE05 Identify and undertake further training and develop new skills to support your learning (Being).	
CERTHE06 Identify personal qualities and transferable skills necessary for further study and/or employment (Being).	
DIPHE01 Demonstrate knowledge and application of the concepts and principles of your area(s) of study (Knowing).	
DIPHE02 Demonstrate the application of those principles in an employability and/or professional practice context (Knowing).	
DIPHE03 Identify and use methods of enquiry in the subject(s) and evaluate the appropriateness of different approaches to solving problems in study (Doing).	
DIPHE04 Use a range of new and established techniques to explore and critique data and sources of information, to solve problems within your subject (Doing).	
DIPHE05 Effectively communicate information, arguments and analysis in a variety of forms to specialist and non-specialist audiences (Being).	
DIPHE06 Show personal responsibility and decision-making to developing existing skills and acquire new competences that will enable you to reach your employability goals (Being).	

Learning Outcomes	Modules
BHONSN01 Demonstrate knowledge of a range of key concepts, theories and methods for analysing war and wars' impacts. [knowing]	
BHONSN02 Be cognisant of approaches to collecting, analysing and presenting diverse historical and contemporary conflict-related data, in both analogue and digital form [knowing]	
BHONSN03 Review and critically apply information on historical and contemporary issues in depth using primary and secondary sources [doing]	
BHONSN04 Sustain a reasoned line of argument in the face of others, to listen, to engage in sustained, inclusive debate, to amend views as necessary in the light of evidence and argument [doing]	
BHONSN05 Effectively communicate who can use a variety of formats, to engage different audiences [being]	
BHONSN06 Identify, investigate and solve problems by thinking creatively in both practical and theoretical contexts. [being]	
BHONS01 Demonstrate knowledge of a range of key concepts, theories and methods for analysing war and wars' impacts. [knowing]	
BHONS02 Be cognisant of approaches to collecting, analysing and presenting diverse historical and contemporary conflict-related data, in both analogue and digital form [knowing]	
BHONS03 Review and critically apply information on historical and contemporary issues in depth using primary and secondary sources [doing]	
BHONS04 Sustain a reasoned line of argument in the face of others, to listen, to engage in sustained, inclusive debate, to amend views as necessary in the light of evidence and argument [doing]	
BHONS05 Effectively communicate who can use a variety of formats, to engage different audiences [being]	
BHONS06 Identify, investigate and solve problems by thinking creatively in both practical and theoretical contexts. [being]	

Teaching, Learning & Assessment Strategy/(Learning and Teaching):

The degree has been designed to enable you to develop your academic skills, confidence and knowledge. We use the first year to introduce you to the building blocks of the discipline, the theory and key debates which underpin War Studies. As you progress through your studies you will use this knowledge to interrogate contemporary and historical events and their impact on individuals, communities, societies and international relations. We use a variety of learning activities to help you develop both your academic knowledge and what are sometimes called 'key transferable skills'. You will experience a blend of face-to-face, online and directed independent study activities. This includes traditional lectures where academics will explain topics and existing scholarship on pertinent topics. A key part of the programme is the use of seminars and class-based activities. In these you will have the opportunity to explore debates with fellow students, based upon directed source work. These sessions will use both groupwork and individual tutorials and enable you to engage with primary and secondary

sources and interrogate the main academic and wider societal debates related to war and conflict. Such activities will help you to become aware of, and critically engage with, the underpinning theories of War Studies and introduce the relevant case studies. In addition to the wide use of face-to-face teaching sessions, the course also increases your digital literacy by supplementing face-to-face learning with online resources and extensive use of the University's virtual learning environment. You will have further opportunity to complement in-class discussions with online deliberations and debates via discussion boards. You will also be given the opportunity to present and interrogate your arguments through a variety of fora including group and individual presentations to peers and staff and new 'media' formats such as draft blog posts and videos. As sources of information and written material change, we will also examine how generative AI can be used responsibly and effectively. In the final year of the degree students undertake an extended piece of research via the level 6 project. This helps develop students' capacity for independent study and self-motivation and offers you the opportunity to nurture your intellectual curiosity in an enterprising way. This independent study exercise (with accompanying support) encourages student agency and proactive engagement in your studies, in-line with the University's inclusive framework.

Assessment Methods/Assessments:

We use a wide variety of assessment tasks to help you develop key skills. The course is designed to allow you to consider debates and their implications in an imaginative and engaging manner. To this end we employ a mix of 'traditional' and 'new' assessment tasks. These approaches are used to support and test your learning and progress, and to help you develop capabilities that are valued beyond your studies into your working life. The assessment tasks are 'stepped' and the expectations and challenges of the tasks increase as you progress through your degree. However, these demands are 'scaffolded' with support at each level of study to help you to develop the necessary skills and receive regular guidance and feedback throughout your studies. The teaching content is closely aligned with the assessment tasks of each module. Each week's content will be linked to some aspect of the module's overall assessment tasks and the link between content and assessment is kept at the forefront of the discussion.

As you might expect, a key aspect of the assessment will be writing researched essays, which are an important aspect of the discipline. Essays enable you to develop and display your ability to engage with, and critically analyse, existing scholarship, evaluate primary and secondary sources, construct arguments and illustrate your ability to write in a clear, concise and academically appropriate style. In addition to essays, certain modules will employ other written assignments such as policy papers (how a case may be presented to policymakers), reports, reflective logs, source analysis and literature reviews. In addition, some assessments may take the form of presentations, both individual and group-based, which may be in-person or via video submission. Other modules may ask you to produce tasks such as strategy simulation or media-focused exercises such as blog or vlog posts and online video content creation related assignments (this is an indicative list of assignments you may experience). Where appropriate, students may be given a choice between assessment tasks or select the topics that their work will focus upon. More formatively, modules may also use shorter assessment tasks such as quizzes, assessment plans, draft introduction and conclusion writing or referencing practice exercises.

Overall, the diet of assessment is designed to help you develop your critical thinking skills, ability to examine evidence, and to construct and present arguments that are essential to university study but also key transferable skills for the work environment.

Further Information for Student:

The transition to university can be both exciting and daunting. We have designed the programme to support students making this transition and to equip you to fulfil your potential. This support takes several forms and all modules have embedded support structures. The module leader will explain and 'unpack' the focus and tasks of the module on a weekly basis. There will be opportunities to undertake formative assessment tasks (which will not count towards the module's result) during the early weeks of each module. This will help you both understand the summative assessment task(s) you will do on the module (the ones that do count towards the results) and develop the necessary skills for that assessment. We appreciate that some of the necessary conventions of university assessments, such as referencing and analytical engagement with sources, are tasks that you may not have previously undertaken. By offering opportunities to develop these skills from the outset of the course, and to receive feedback at an early stage, you will be able to build up your confidence and develop skills that

will serve you well throughout your studies. Similarly, we are aware of the importance of developing good relations with your peers; studying for a degree is both an individual and collaborative undertaking. To help you to get to know your fellow students and to support each other, a variety of teaching and learning methods are embedded into modules. There will be frequent use of groupwork tasks, where students can share ideas, engage in debate and explore the persuasiveness and applicability of the scholarship that underpins the modules.

We see undergraduate study as a reciprocal undertaking, and we are keen to work in collaboration with you to improve both the course and your experience. We regularly seek your feedback on the course's content and delivery and use it to inform changes to our provision. As a result of these processes, we believe your transition onto the course, and progression through it, will be enjoyable and intellectually rewarding.

The University provides a wide range of academic and pastoral support to help students succeed in their studies and personal development. This includes access to the Library and Skills for Learning service, student success coaching for students in their early stages, and tailored advice from the Careers and Enterprise teams. Students also benefit from 24/7 wellbeing support through WLV Student Life Connect, pastoral care via the Multi-faith Chaplaincy, and assistance from the Mental Health and Wellbeing team. Those living in university accommodation have additional access to Residential Life support, and all students can engage with the Students' Union for advocacy, societies, and further peer-led services.

Currency:

A fundamental characteristic of War Studies as a discipline is that it seeks to examine, understand, explain and have proscriptions related to the reasons for, and impact of war and conflict in 'real world' situations. To that end it is essential that the course is underpinned by the latest scholarship and case studies. The degree is taught by research-active academics. We have designed the degree to reflect and build upon this academic expertise. We are also keen that you bring your own knowledge and interests to your studies. Given the importance and breadth of the subject, your interests and research activities can deepen your experience on the degree, widen the parameters of the debate and shape the emerging scholarship on subjects. As noted above, the assessment and teaching strategies are, in-part, designed to enable you to have an input into the content and focus of the degree.

The course aligns well with the University's identified graduate attributes. Given the international focus of many of the modules the course develops students' awareness of global citizenship. By studying historical and contemporary cases and debates about war and its use in contested circumstances, you will be equipped to engage with the issues in a confident, emotionally intelligent and socially aware fashion. The expertise underpinning the programme, and the proactive part that you will play in your own learning, will help you to develop the key attributes of being knowledgeable and professional. As you progress through the degree you will be equipped to become more autonomous, resilient, reflective learners and proactive critical thinkers The supported and focused engagement with online sources, digital collections and assistance in how to use AI tools effectively and ethically, will improve your digital literacy and digital confidence.

Given the interdisciplinary nature of War Studies, drawing as it does from disciplines such as History, Political Science, International Relations, Sociology and Philosophy (among others) the course will prepare you to work across disciplines and face future challenges. The aspiration of the course, and those who teach you on it, is to prepare you to be ready to continue the lifelong learning that is key to the changing economic and social environment of the modern world.

Personalisation Opportunities:

The course is designed to achieve two main outcomes. Firstly, it will introduce you to the main debates and scholarship of the discipline of War Studies. It is a fascinating, diverse and important subject and we will help you to develop as an informed and inquisitive scholar. Given the depth and diversity of the discipline, it would be impossible for any degree programme to cover every aspect of War Studies, so the second objective of the course is to enable students to explore subsets of the discipline. A strength of our degree is that it has a wider focus than many other programmes. We have designed the course in such a way that students can, if they wish, focus on military history, contemporary conflicts and security studies, or the wider cultural, social and diplomatic considerations on war and conflict. To this end, identified 'pathways' have been embedded in the optional modules at levels 5 and 6. (These are though just suggestions, you are free to select modules from across the pathways' options to create your own

‘mixed’ pathway if you wish to). Beyond the pathways, there are further opportunities to personalise your degree. In many modules, there will be the option for students to design their own assignment task (in consultation with the module leader). This will enable you, for example, to apply a module’s content to a case study that you are particularly interested in, but which may not have been previously examined on the course. Similarly, on some modules, you will do presentations, and there is scope for these to be shaped by, and focus upon, areas of War Studies that are of a particular interest to you. In your final year, you will undertake an independent study module. This can be on any aspect of War Studies, and we enable students to focus their projects on their personal interests, with the support of their supervisor. The discipline is a varied and diverse one, and we encourage you to examine this diversity, and your experience of it, through a suitably academic lens.

Employability in the Curriculum/Employability and Professional Development:

Employability considerations are embedded throughout the degree. In addition to constructing the learning and assessment strategies of the course in a way which develops key transferable skills, there are extensive opportunities to increase your employability whilst studying with us. The course colleagues work closely with the University’s career service and students are encouraged to engage with the service from an early stage of their studies. As part of this partnership students have access to support on how to develop their career aspirations and advice on how to improve their chances of successfully pursuing their goads (such as CV writing and interview support). A key aspect of the course is the mandatory ‘Professional Development’ module in the second year, which is designed to increase students’ awareness of, and engagement with, career options. As part of the module students will have experience of workplace environment usually via a work placement. The identified, optional, pathways through the degree can help students focus their programme to reflect their interests and possible career aspirations. The military history route is popular with those seeking to go on to further study and employment in that area. For those who might want to pursue careers where knowledge of contemporary conflict and debates about security considerations are advantageous, the contemporary focused pathway may be advisable. Throughout the course colleagues are available to discuss your career ambitions, offer advice on module choices, provide references and support you in your aspirations.

War Studies is a fascinating subject which equips students with the critical and analytical skills that are key components to the modern workplace. We seek to help you to succeed in the career path you select and to support you in your professional development.