BA English and Politics
For students entering Part 1 in 2004

UCAS code: LQ23

Awarding Institution:	The University of Reading
Teaching Institution:	The University of Reading
Relevant QAA subject benchmarking group(s):	Politics and English
Faculty of Arts and Humanities	Programme length: 3 years

Date of specification: May 2005
Programme Director: Mrs Carolyn Lyle
Programme Adviser: Professor Peter Woodward
Board of Studies: relevant liaison officers

Summary of programme aims

This is a cross-disciplinary programme that aims to provide students with subject-specific knowledge of both Politics and English. The joint degree seeks to impart knowledge of a variety of different kinds of literary texts together with training in political theories and techniques, thereby providing a perspective on different methods of critical analysis. In Politics, the programme aims to give students an appreciation of the normative, methodological and institutional issues involved in the study of politics in relation to one of the three main subfields of the discipline: Political philosophy, comparative government and international relations. Students focus on comparative government and/or political theory compulsory modules, and associated optional modules, selected from across the available range. The course also aims to foster an independent approach to formulating problems and arguments, using the systematic research, close reading and analytical skills that are fundamental to both disciplines.

Transferable skills

The University's Strategy for Teaching and Learning has identified a number of generic transferable skills which all students are expected to have developed by the end of their degree. In following this programme, students will have had the opportunity to develop their skills relating to career management, communication (both written and oral), information handling, problem-solving, team working and use of information technology.

Politics and English are disciplines that lend themselves to critical judgement and problem-solving, both through personal engagement with issues and through dialogue and groups discussion. Students are encouraged to defend and to challenge established positions through the collection, collation and analysis of substantial quantities of material, the rigour of argument, and effective communication and presentation. The disciplines also prompt an awareness of numeracy through chronology, periodisation, and basic quantification. The programme develops students' familiarity with information technology in the production and presentation of their work and develops their skills in using computers for the location and retrieval of bibliographic and source material, accessing sophisticated databases and exploiting the internet.

In addition, students will develop a range of intellectual skills including the ability to synthesise, analyse and evaluate information and ideas; the ability to formulate independent arguments and to appraise and improve their own performance; and the ability to translate subject-specific knowledge and skills to new environments.

Programme content

Each Part of the degree programme comprises 120 credits. At Part 1 students are required to take 60 credits in the School of English and American Literature, and 40 credits in the Politics and International Relations Department; the remaining 20 credits may be made up from optional Certificate-level modules available elsewhere in the University, as listed in the Faculty Part I Handbook. In Part 2, students must normally take 60 credits in both Politics and English. In Part 3, students take 40 credits in each subject plus a compulsory 40-credit Joint Dissertation in English and Politics. However, in consultation with their programme adviser, Part 2 and Part 3 students may choose to take up to 20 credits each year from modules elsewhere in the University.

Part 1 (three terms) Certificate level   *Credits   Level*

In English (60 Credits)
Compulsory modules
EN1LL	*Languages of Literature*	20	C
EN1RS	*Revisioning Shakespeare*	20	C
EN1WKT	*What Kind of Text is This?*	20	C

In Politics (40 credits)
Compulsory modules
PO1IRS	*Politics I, International Relations and Strategic Studies*	20	C
PO1MOP	*Politics II, Modern Politics*	20	C

Part 2 (three terms)   Intermediate level

In English (60 Credits)
Students choose three modules in Part 2, at least one in the Autumn and one in the Spring terms. At least one of the chosen modules must be an asterisked module. Not more than one module may be chosen from each group.

Autumn Term
Group A
EN2RTC	**Renaissance Texts & Cultures*	20	I
EN2MC1	*Modernism and Modern Poetry*	20	I
EN2RR	*The Eighteenth-Century: Restoration to Romantics*	20	I

Group B
EN2CMN	**Chaucer and Medieval Narrative*	20	I
EN2NCN	*Nineteenth-Century Novel*	20	I
EN2WA1	*Writing America 1*	20	I

Group C
EN2RDR	**Renaissance Drama*	20	I
EN2LCT	*Literary Criticism & Theory*	20	I
EN2WW1	*Women's Writing and Feminist Theory 1*	20	I
EN2OEL	**Introduction to Old English*	20	I

Spring Term
Group A
EN2ERE	**English Renaissance Epic*	20	I

EN2MC2	*Modernity, Crisis and Narrative Fiction*	20	I
EN2RD	*Romantics to Decadents*	20	I

Group B

EN2LV	**Lyric Voices 1340 – 1650*	20	I
EN2MD	*Modern Drama*	20	I
EN2WA2	*Writing America 2*	20	I
EN2CAW	*Communications at Work*	20	I

Group C

EN2SH	**Shakespeare*	20	I
EN2WW2	*Women's Writing and Feminist Theory 2*	20	I
EN2FN	*Film Narrative*	20	I

In Politics (60 Credits)

Compulsory modules

PO2SOP	*Study of Politics*	20	I

Either:

PO2CGP	*Comparative Government and Politics*	20	I

Or:

PO2PHC	*Political Classics*	20	I

Optional modules (one of):

Government

PO2AMG	*American Government and Politics*	20	I
PO2BGP	*British Government and Politics*	20	I
PO2EPI	*European Political Integration*	20	I
PO2RGP	*Russian Government and Politics*	20	I

Theory

PO2THI	*Political Thinking*	20	I

International Relations

PO2COS	*Contemporary Strategy*	20	I
PO2SNA	*Strategy in the Nuclear Age*	20	I

The following module is compulsory. Its credits are distributed throughout the 120 credits of Part 2

	Career Management Skills	5	I

Students may choose to replace one 20-credit English module from Groups B or C, or the 20-credit Politics optional module with a module or modules totalling 20 credits from outside the programme.

Part 3 (three terms) Honours level		*Credits*	*Level*

Compulsory

EN3DIS	*Joint Dissertation*	40	H

In English (40 Credits)

Students choose two modules, one in each term to make a total of 40 credits, from an approved list. (NB. Not all these options will necessarily be available every year. Admission to these modules will be at the discretion of the Programme Director.)

Optional modules

EN3AF	*American Fiction: Chopin to Carver*	20	H
EN3AL	*Arthurian Literature: Malory to T.H. White*	20	H
EN3AP	*American Poetry: Bishop to Dove*	20	H
EN3BH	*Book History: Clay Tablets to Computers*	20	H
EN3BIP	*Contemporary British and Irish Poetry*	20	H
EN3BY	*Byron and Byromania*	20	H
EN3BPD	*Post-War British Political Drama*	20	H
EN3CAM	*Classic American Writers*	20	H
EN3CC	*The Craft of Courtship in Tudor and Early-Stuart England*	20	H
EN3CD	*Contemporary Drama*	20	H
EN3CE	*Colonial Explorations*	20	H
EN3CF	*Contemporary Fiction*	20	H
EN3CL	*Children's Literature*	20	H
EN3CWF	*Canadian Women's Fiction*	20	H
EN3DL	*Darwin's Legacies*	20	H
EN3DD	*Decadence and Degeneration: Literature of the 1890s*	20	H
EN3DF	*Detective Fiction*	20	H
EN3DIC	*Dickens*	20	H
EN3ETW	*Elizabethan Travel Writing*	20	H
EN3FI	*Fictions of India*	20	H
EN3GDN	*Gothic Dreams and Nightmares*	20	H
EN3GP	*Gender and Power in Restoration Literature*	20	H
EN3HF	*Holocaust Fiction*	20	H
EN3HJ	*Henry James*	20	H
EN3HP	*Harold Pinter*	20	H
EN3HS	*Horrid (S)laughter on the Seventeenth-Century Stage*	20	H
EN3JA	*Jane Austen and The Courtship Novel*	20	H
EN3JAF	*Jewish American Fiction*	20	H
EN3LA	*Literature of Adultery*	20	H
EN3LEC	*The Roots of Romanticism: Later Eighteenth-Century Poetry*	20	H
EN3MAT	*Margaret Atwood*	20	H
EN3MDN	*Medieval Dream Narratives*	20	H
EN3MSF	*Modern Scottish Fiction: from Jean Brodie to Trainspotting*	20	H
EN3MPP	*Marvell, Poetry and Politics in the Mid-17th Century*	20	H
EN3NAF	*Nineteenth-Century American Fiction: Realism to Naturalism*	20	H
EN3NAW	*Writing the North American Wilderness*	20	H
EN3NIM	*Novels of Immigration and Black British Fiction*	20	H
EN3NMW	*The Novel in the Material World*	20	H
EN3OE2	*Old English 2*	20	H
EN3PBS	*Revolutionary Romantics: Shelley and his Successors*	20	H
EN3PL	*Packaging Literature*	20	H
EN3POL	*Nineteenth- and Twentieth-Century Political Fiction*	20	H
EN3PR	*The Pre-Raphaelites*	20	H
EN3PSY	*Psychoanalysis and Text*	20	H

EN3QU	*Queer Theory*	20	H
EN3RG	*The Roots of Gothic: 1580-1765*	20	H
EN3RWW	*Renaissance Women Writing*	20	H
EN3SB	*Samuel Beckett*	20	H
EN3SCI	*The Literature of Science*	20	H
EN3SF	*British Science Fiction*	20	H
EN3SG	*Shakespeare and Gender*	20	H
EN3SH	*Shakespeare and History*	20	H
EN3SLA	*Perspectives on Slavery*	20	H
EN3SP	*Shakespeare and his Contemporaries in Performance*	20	H
EN3SR	*Shakespeare and Romance*	20	H
EN3ST	*Shakespeare and Theory*	20	H
EN3SV	*Spectacle and Violence on the Elizabethan Stage*	20	H
EN3TH	*Thomas Hardy*	20	H
EN3TTC	*From Troy to Camelot: Medieval Romance*	20	H
EN3VEC	*Victorian and Edwardian Children's Fantasy*	20	H
EN3VSN	*Victorian Sensation Novels*	20	H
EN3VW	*Virginia Woolf*	20	H
EN3WL	*Writing Lives*	20	H
EN3WP	*War Poetry: from the Crimean to World War 2*	20	H
EN3WWR	*Women's Writing of the Romantic Age*	20	H
EN3YJ	*Yeats and Joyce*	20	H

In Politics (40 Credits)
Students choose two 20 credit modules from the following lists.
If PO2PHC is taken in Part Two at least one must be from List A unless a government option has been taken in Part 2.
If PO2CGP is taken in Part Two at least one must be from List B unless a theory option has been taken in Part 2.

List A

PO3AFG	*African Government and Politics*	20	H
PO3POC	*Policing Citizens*	20	H
PO3MEA	*Politics and International Relations of the Middle East*	20	H
PO3POP	*Politics of Protest*	20	H
PO3UKP	*United Kingdom Politics since 1960*	20	H
PO3WEG	*West European Government and Politics*	20	H
PO3USF	*US Foreign Policy since 1950*	20	H

List B

PO3FEM	*Feminism and Political Theory*	20	H
PO3MID	*Modern Ideologies*	20	H
PO3WPE	*War, Peace and International Ethics*	20	H

Progression requirements
  (a) To proceed from Part 1 to Part 2, a Joint Honours student must (i) obtain an average of 40% across all Part 1 modules; (ii) achieve a minimum of 40% in each English

module, and an average of 40% over the compulsory modules in Politics; and (iii) have no mark less than 30% in any module.

(b) To proceed from Part 2 to Part 3, students must obtain an overall average of at least 40% across all Part 2 modules and across English Part 2 modules, and must have no mark below 35% in any English Part 2 module, and no mark below 30% in any module.

(c) In each case, marks of less than 30% in a total of 20 credits may be condoned, provided the candidate has pursued the course for the module(s) with reasonable diligence and has not been absent from the examination without reasonable cause.

Summary of teaching and assessment

In English, teaching is through seminars, lectures and essay tutorials. In Politics, Part One modules and the compulsory Part Two modules involve both lectures and seminars. Part Two and Three optional modules typically place greater emphasis on seminars. In addition, the Joint Dissertation module is supported by workshops and individual supervisions in both departments.

In Politics, all modules other than the Study of Politics and Joint Dissertation are assessed by a mixture of coursework (25%) and examination (75%). Over the programme as a whole, assessment will be conducted through a mixture of assessed essays and formal examination. Conventions for degree classification are included in the Programme Handbook, but you should note that weighting between Part 2 and Part 3 for classification purposes is 33% and 67%.

The University's honours classification is as follows:

Mark	Interpretation
70% - 100%	First class
60% - 69%	Upper Second class
50% - 59%	Lower Second class
40% - 49%	Third class
35% - 39%	Below Honours Standard
0% - 34%	Fail

Admission requirements

A previous qualification in Politics is not required. Entrants to the Joint Degree programme are normally required to have obtained:

UCAS Tariff: *either* 300 points from three A2s, including 100 points (grade B) in English Literature or English Language and Literature; *or* 320 points from 3 A2s + up to two AS, including 100 points (grade B) in English Literature or English Language and Literature

Scottish Highers ABBBB or above (A in English Literature)

Irish Highers at least ABBBB (A in English Literature)

International Baccalaureate 31 points with 6 or 7 for Higher level English Literature

GCSE/O: English Language preferred, grade C or above.

All applications are considered on their individual merits. Mature candidates will be usually be expected to have a B (100 points) at A level English, or equivalent qualification, but consideration is also given to applicants with other qualifications and experience.

Admissions tutor: Mrs C Lyle

Support for students and their learning

University support for students and their learning falls into two categories. Learning support includes IT Services, which has several hundred computers, and the University Library, which across its three sites holds over a million volumes, subscribes to around 4,000 current periodicals, has a range of electronic sources of information and houses the Learning Resource Centre with some 200 workstations. There are language laboratory facilities both for those students studying on a language degree and for those taking modules offered by the Institution-wide Language Programme. Student guidance and welfare support is provided by Personal Tutors, the Careers Advisory Service, the University's Special Needs Advisor, Study Advisors, Hall Wardens and the Students' Union. Support for students in their studies is provided through the University's Personal Academic Record (PAR) Scheme, in which students meet their personal tutors regularly to review their progress.

Students of both English and Politics receive Handbooks which give details of the Programme, guidance on study skills such as note-taking and essay writing, and information about staff, facilities, and sources of specialised help within the University, such as the Study Skills Advisor and the Counselling Service. The English programme is designed to give students extensive teaching support in Part 1 leading to more independent work in Part 3. The Politics programme lays increasing emphasis on options and course work over the three years. Academic feedback and guidance is given through one-to-one essay tutorials, and academic and personal support is provided through the tutor system and the University's Personal and Academic Record (PAR) Scheme. Dissertation workshops prepare students for the Part 3 dissertation which is individually supervised. The Geoffrey Matthews Collection, housed in the School of English, provides books, xeroxed materials, cassettes and an extensive collection of videos for loan to students. A video-viewing suite is available within the Faculty. The Library is well stocked with printed materials as well as electronic databases, such as the OED, the MLA Bibliography, and JSTOR. Specialist subject librarians are available to give students advice and guidance to library resources. The Department of Politics provides additional support in the Study of Politics module in Part Two. There is also written feedback on essay work. In addition, Politics students have access to a departmental Library, and a photocopier.

Career prospects

A Reading degree in English and Politics provides graduates with a range of communication and analytical skills that stand them in good stead in the market place. In recent years graduates with qualifications in these subjects have gone into a wide variety of jobs, including teaching, publishing, journalism, the media, management, administration, and public relations. A sizeable minority follow careers in accountancy, banking or commerce, and the civil service; others have pursued interests in law. A number of graduates each year go on to further academic study and research.

Opportunities for study abroad

Students may, with permission, opt to spend the Autumn term during Part 2 abroad at one of the European universities with which Reading has a Socrates exchange agreement. They would actively participate in courses abroad, experience the teaching and learning processes of another institution, learn or improve their knowledge of a European language, and enhance their curriculum vitae. Students opting for the term abroad will take the

equivalent of 60 SEAL credits at Intermediate level while abroad. These will count towards final degree classification.

There may also be opportunities to spend one term in the United States via the American Studies exchange programme.

Educational aims of the programme
The aims of this joint degree programme are both intellectual and practical. In English, the aim is to develop students' knowledge and understanding of a wide variety of literary texts, and to promote an informed and self-reflective awareness of procedures of critical analysis. The Politics component aims to provide a thorough degree level education in Politics. It aims to produce graduates who have experience of the main sub-fields of the discipline and have acquired appropriate study skills.

Programme Outcomes

Knowledge and Understanding

A. Knowledge and understanding of:	Teaching/learning methods and strategies
In English: 1. Literary texts in English from selected periods between the Middle Ages and the present day 2. A range of kinds of texts including fiction, poetry and drama 3. Methods of critical textual analysis 4. Ways in which social, cultural and historical issues relate to texts 5. A range of approaches in English studies 6. Selected special fields of English.	In English, knowledge and understanding are gained through formal teaching (lectures, seminar discussions, and individual essay feedback), prescribed and recommended reading, and the writing of essays and a dissertation. Part 1 modules offer a broad introduction to items 1-5. In Part 2, the understanding and skills acquired at Part 1 are developed with particular emphasis on 1, 2 and 4 through seminars, lectures and individual feedback. Part 3 introduces more specialized study, particularly in relation to 3, 5 and 6, through a choice of seminar-based modules together with supervised, independent study leading to a Joint Dissertation. *Assessment* At Parts 1 and 2, knowledge and understanding of 1 – 5 are tested through a combination of essays and unseen written examinations. At Part 3, assessment is through a mixture of methods, such as extended essays, essays plus unseen exams, and the dissertation.
In Politics: 7. The fundamental concepts of Political Theory and major texts from the Greeks to the present time; 8. The comparative analysis of government institutions, political movement and the social bases of politics; 9. The various approaches to the study of Modern International Relations; 10. A range of selected specialised subjects within the fields of Political Theory, Comparative Government and International Relations.	In. Politics, knowledge and understanding are gained through formal teaching (lectures, seminar discussions, and individual essay feedback), prescribed and recommended reading, and the writing of essays and the Joint Dissertation. In Part 1 and Part 2 students attend both lectures and seminars and in Part 3 most teaching is through seminars. *Assessment* Most knowledge is tested through a combination of coursework and formal examination. Dissertations and oral presentations also contribute.

Skills and other attributes

B. Intellectual skills - able to:

1. Demonstrate the capacity for independent analysis and research
2. Identify problems and issues
3. Read closely and critically
4. Reflect on one's own positions
5. Analyse and critically deconstruct claims and arguments
6. Critically read, comprehend and evaluate a large range of texts
7. Negotiate both primary and secondary sources and be able to demonstrate how they inter-relate
8. Synthesise information from a range of sources, providing a coherent overview of positions in logical space
9. Analyse the logical construction of arguments
10. Produce and defend positions in response to critical pressure
11. Develop creative intelligence in independent research and interpretation
12. Think logically on political matters
13. Analyse issues of political life
14. Understand the evolving state of knowledge in the rapidly developing discipline of Politics
15. Transfer appropriate knowledge from one area within the disciplines to another.

Teaching/learning methods and strategies

Intellectual skills in English are acquired through independent reading (1), seminar preparation and discussion, and essay writing (1, 2, 3) and essay feedback through tutorials (2, 3 and 4).

In Politics, the methods and strategies in the previous section are used, plus the facilitation of self-directed learning through the use of research-based teaching materials and methods, and logical exercises. Essay, portfolio, and dissertation preparation reinforce the research and analytical skills necessary to form and to validate arguments and judgements. The ability to think logically is essential to the understanding and analysis of the discipline. Analysis requires an appreciation of the issues and results in organisation of written work and oral presentations. Students are encouraged to link core and optional modules and also to use experience from modules in the Joint Dissertation.

Assessment
In English, 1 – 5 are assessed both formatively (in seminar discussion, coursework essays, essay feedback and tutorials) and summatively, in essays, unseen exams and the Joint Dissertation.
In Politics, assessment of 6 – 15 is carried on through coursework, written unseen examinations, seminar presentations, and discussion in supervisor-led small groups and seminars.

C. Practical skills: able to	**Teaching/learning methods and strategies**
1. Criticize and formulate interpretations of texts 2. Engage in critical argument using relevant theoretical approaches 3. Recognise the rhetorical resources of the English language 4. Exercise bibliographical and research skills 5. Deploy appropriate conventions in the presentation of written work 6. Relate the study of English to cultural and social issues 7. Develop and carry out individual research programmes and strategies 8. Gather, organise, and deploy evidence, data and information from a variety of primary and secondary sources 9. Locate and synthesise large quantities of material 10. Present a coherent talk delivered from notes 11. Produce concise and accurate written reports 12. Critically discuss particular issues and arguments, and engage in discussion of each other's responses as well as articulate their own 13. Utilise problem-solving skills 14. Manage their own learning self-critically, reflect upon it, and seek and make use of feedback.	1 – 3 and 6 are developed in English seminars, essays and essay tutorials. 4 and 5 are developed through essays, essay feedback and dissertation guidance and supervision. In Politics, these skills are developed through lectures, supervised small group discussions, seminar groups with a facilitator, oral presentations and, especially in Part Three, independent learning. Feedback on an individual basis combined with the University's personal tutor system encourages constructive self-criticism. *Assessment* In English, all the subject-specific practical skills are assessed through formative and summative essays. 1 – 3 and 6 are also tested in unseen examinations. In Politics, assessment of 7-14 is carried on through coursework, written unseen examinations and seminar presentations.

D. Transferable skills – able to:

1. Communicate fluently and effectively with a wide range of individuals using a wide range of means, including written and oral communication
2. Formulate and present arguments
3. Assess the merits of competing approaches
4. Translate subject-specific knowledge and skills into other environments
5. Find and use relevant information resources
6. Demonstrate time–management skills and prioritise workloads
7. Work independently, demonstrating initiative and self-organisation
8. Develop a creative approach to problem-solving in a variety of theoretical and more practical situations
9. Self-evaluate and self-reflect, with recognition of the steps required for improvement
10. Use information technology, especially word-processing, e-mail and the internet for the retrieval and presentation of information, including statistical or numerical data;
11. Analyse data
12. Exercise group and interpersonal skills
13. Develop vocational awareness with a view to planning a career.

Teaching/learning methods and strategies

The skills are developed through seminar discussions, seminar presentations, essay writing, tutorial feedback and unseen examinations. 4 and 7 particularly are developed through requiring students to draw on acquired knowledge and skills when analysing new material in essays and unseen examinations. 5 and 10 are developed through use of the library and other sources of information for seminar preparation, essay writing, and research for the joint dissertation.

Most of these skills are embedded in all Politics modules. The development of IT skills occurs throughout the programme and is especially apparent in modules where there is a research component. Independent learning is also developed throughout but becomes particularly important in Part Three of the programme. Vocational awareness is promoted especially by the CMS module.

Assessment
All the itemized skills are formatively assessed through coursework essays and seminar presentations, and summatively assessed through essays, unseen examinations, portfolios of work and the Joint Dissertation.

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 expect to achieve and demonstrate if he/she takes full advantage of the learning opportunities that are provided. More detailed information on the learning outcomes, content and teaching, learning and assessment methods of each module can be found in module and programme handbooks.