BA Psychology and Sociology   UCAS code: CL83
For students entering Part 1 in 2004

Awarding Institution:	The University of Reading
Teaching Institution:	The University of Reading
Relevant QAA subject benchmarking group(s):	Psychology; Sociology
Faculty of Life Sciences	Programme length: 3 years

Date of specification: Mar 2006
Programme Director: Dr A. Buck (Sociology)
Programme Adviser: Dr M.J. Williams (Psychology)
Board of Studies: BA Joint degrees with Psychology
Accreditation: British Psychological Society Graduate Basis of Registration

Summary of programme aims

The programme aims to give a thorough and broadly based training in modern psychology and sociology. It aims to introduce students to the wide range of approaches that constitute modern Psychology, and to concepts and evidence within the domains of the subject required for British Psychological Society accreditation. Students have the opportunity to apply their knowledge to chosen areas of interest. They are made aware of current research - its methods, applications and unresolved issues - and learn how to evaluate research and carry it out themselves. The modules provided in Sociology cover the fundamental concepts, methods, and theories involved in sociological research, as well as more in-depth modules to introduce students to empirical data about social phenomena as well as different 'middle-range' theories of more specific sociological topics. (For a full statement of the programme aims and learning outcomes see below.)

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 programme. In following this programme, students will have had the opportunity to enhance their skills relating to career management, communication (both written and oral), information handling, numeracy, problem-solving, team working and use of information technology.

As part of this programme students are expected to have gained experience in, and show competence in, the following: uses of IT including information search, spreadsheet, database and statistical software; presentation and analysis of quantitative data; written reports on projects; oral presentation and written summary of research and other material; teamwork; time management; project management; career planning.

Programme content

The profile which follows states which modules must be taken (the compulsory part), together with one or more lists of modules from which the student must make a selection (the "selected" modules). Students must choose such additional modules as they wish, in consultation with their programme adviser, to make 120 credits in each Part. The number of modules credit for and the level of each module is shown in brackets after its title.

Part 1 (three terms)   *Credits*   *Level*
Compulsory modules

PY11A	*Psychological Research 1*	10	C
PY11B	*Perception & Learning*	10	C
PY11C	*Introduction to Neuroscience*	10	C
PY12D	*Psychological Research 2*	10	C
PY12E	*Cognition & Applied Psychology*	10	C
PY12F	*Developmental & Social Psychology*	10	C
SO1INT	*Introduction to Sociology*	20	C
SO1MET	*Methods 1: Main Methodological Approaches in Sociology*	20	C

Optional modules: modules to the value of 20 credits chosen from:

SO1CES	Contemporary European Society	10	C
SO1CSI	Contemporary Social Issues	10	C

Or modules in other subjects chosen in consultation with the Programme Adviser

Part 2 (three terms)   *Credits*   *Level*
Compulsory modules

PY24A	*Research Methods & Data Analysis 1*	10	I
PY24B	*Developmental & Social Psychology 1*	10	I
PY25K	*Project and Careers Skills*	10	I
SO2THE	*Theory 1: The Classical Tradition*	20	I
SO2STS	*The Study of Sociology*	10	I

At least one of:

PY24C	*Neuroscience 1*	10	I
PY25I	*Neuroscience 2*	10	I

At least one of:

PY24D	*Cognition 1*	10	I
PY25J	*Cognition 3*	10	I

At least 3 of

SO2CUL	*Sociology of Culture*	10	I
SO2POL	*Political Sociology*	10	I
SO2ECO	*Economic Sociology*	10	I
SO2STR	*Social Stratification*	10	I

Optional modules

Modules chosen from the following, if necessary, to make an overall total of 60 credits in Psychology:

PY24E	*Cognition 2*	10	I
PY24F	*Applied Psychology*	10	I
PY25G	*Research Methods & Data Analysis 2*	10	I
PY25H	*Developmental & Social Psychology 2*	10	I
PY25L	*Clinical Psychology*	10	I

British Psychological Society Graduate Basis of Registration. Psychology Part 2 modules PY24A + PY24B + *either* PY24C *or* PY2I + *either* PY24D *or* PY25J are the minimum required for BPS accreditation. *See also Part 3 Project.*

Part 3 (three terms)   *Credits*   *Level*
Compulsory modules
    PY3PSO*   Project for Psychology & Sociology   40   H
    PY3C   Contemporary Issues   10   H

***British Psychological Society Graduate Basis of Registration.** To qualify for BPS accreditation, the Project must be passed with at least 40%, and the topic chosen must be suitable to be examined by a Psychology Examiner.

Optional modules:
Not all optional modules will necessarily be available in any year. Admission to optional modules will be at the discretion of the Programme Director.

(i)   *Modules to the value of 30 credits chosen from a list of Psychology options such as the following:*

		Credits	Level
PY3LD	*Language Development*	10	H
PY3DN	*Developmental Neuroscience*	10	H
PY3FP2	Fo*rensic Psychology 2: Clinical Applications of Forensic Psychology*	10	H
PY3CNV	*Cognitive Neuroscience of Vision*	10	H
PY3OS	*Occupational Stress*	10	H
PY3VSD	*Visual & Spatial Development*	10	H
PY3CPA	*Clinical Psychology of Adulthood*	10	H
PY3LPA	*Language Processing & Aphasia*	10	H
PY3IR	*Issues in Rationality*	10	H
PY3WMC	*Working Memory & Cognition*	10	H
PY3ASD	*Autistic Spectrum Disorders*	10	H
PY3NCP	*Nature & Aetiology of Childhood Psychopathology*	10	H
PY3EDP	*Early Experience & Developmental Psychopathology*	10	H
PY3CDC	*Co-ordination Disorders in Children*	10	H
PY3AP	*Auditory Perception*	10	H
PY3CLM	*Clinical Aspects of Learning and Memory*	10	H
PY3ACP	*Cognitive Perspectives of Adult Clinical Psychology*	10	H
PY3SC	*Social Cognition*	10	H
PY3AV	*Active Vision*	10	H
PY3RA	*Risk & Accidents*	10	H
PY3NFD	*Neuropsychology of Frontostriatal Disorders*	10	H
PY3NP	*Neuropsychiatry*	10	H
PY3HP	*Health Psychology*	10	H
PY3CA	*Cognitive Neuropsychology of Ageing*	10	H
PY3IC	*Implicit Cognition*	10	H
PY3PCD	*Psychopharmacology of Clinical Disorders*	10	H
PY3MSC	*Multiple Social Categorization*	10	H

In the Department of Sociology
Modules summing to a total of 40 credits. Two of these modules will consist of regular 10-credit options from a list to be provided by the department; the third will be a 20 credit advanced seminar. The topic of the advanced seminar will be selected from the list as well; taught as a seminar, it will be worth 20 credits instead of 10.

Progression requirements
Part 1. To gain a threshold performance at Part 1 a student shall normally be required to achieve an overall average of 40% over 120 credits taken in Part 1, and a mark of at least 30% in individual modules amounting to not less than 100 credits**. In order to progress from Part 1 to Part 2 in Psychology and Sociology**, a student shall normally be required to achieve a threshold performance at Part 1 and to have obtained at least 40% in the Psychology modules PY11A, PY11B, PY11C, PY12D, PY12E and PY12F averaged together, with at least 30% in 5 or more of those 6 modules; and to have obtained at least 40% in the Sociology modules averaged together.
Part 2. To gain a threshold performance at Part 2 a student shall normally be required to achieve: an overall average of 40% over 120 credits taken in Part 2, and a mark of at least 30% in individual modules amounting to not less than 100 credits.
In order to progress from Part 2 to Part 3 in Psychology and Sociology, a student should normally be required to achieve a threshold performance at Part 2.
To be eligible for Honours students must pass the Project module.

Summary of teaching and assessment
In both subjects, teaching styles change from large lectures (Part 1) to lectures and/or seminars (Part 2), to predominantly seminars in Part 3. Practical work is carried out either in large or small groups (Parts 1 and 2) or individually (Part 3 project). The assessment is carried out within the University's degree classification scheme, details of which are in the programme handbooks. The pass mark in each module is 40%. Modules are assessed by a mixture of coursework and formal examination. Some modules are assessed wholly by coursework and others wholly by examination; the details are given in the module descriptions.
Part 2 contributes one third of the final assessment and Part 3 the remaining two thirds.

Admission requirements
Entrants to this programme are normally required to have obtained:
Grade C or better in Mathematics in GCSE; and to have achieved:
A Levels at AAB; or
International Baccalaureat: 34 points including 5 in Ordinary Mathematics; or
Irish Leaving Certificate: AAABB; or
Access Course credits at levels 3 and 2 to be confirmed

Admissions Tutor: Dr Patricia Riddell (Psychology)
Admissions Officer: Mrs Teresa Young (Psychology)

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 Student Access to Independent Learning (S@IL) computer-based teaching and learning facilities. 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 Disability Officer, Study Advisors, Hall Wardens and the Students' Union.

There are Programme Advisers to offer advice on the choice of modules within the programme. In Psychology, each Part of the programme has a Year Tutor, whose role is to provide information to students in that year, monitor their progress (liaising with the Course Administrator) and advise those who fall behind in academic work. Staff with relevant expertise, e.g. in dyslexia, support the School Disability Representative. Staff's specialised laboratories are available for use in student research projects. Additionally, Sociology provides supports within the Department for skills directly related to sociological study and research.

Career prospects
Because the degree is accredited by the British Psychological Society, graduates are qualified to enter training as, for example, clinical or educational psychologists. Psychology graduates move into an extremely wide range of careers with some bias towards health and education, but extending to many other professional roles. Students graduating in sociology have pursued a wide range of career paths. Apart from those undertaking postgraduate study for careers in higher education, many other students undertake further study related to their chosen career. The rigorous nature of the programme, along with its development of transferable skills, makes Reading Sociology graduates highly suitable for careers in private sector management, the civil service, journalism, or local government; a sizeable minority follow careers in accountancy, banking or commerce; others have pursued interests in law. The degree also prepares graduates for work in social science research units such as the Institute for Public-Policy Research, Policy Studies Institute or Chatham House. Joint degree graduates may proceed to careers in either of their subject areas.

Opportunities for study abroad or for placements
Although there are no formal arrangements for the Psychology and Sociology programme, informal arrangements may be possible.

Educational aims of the programme
The programme aims to give a thorough and broadly based training in modern psychology and sociology. It aims to introduce students to the wide range of approaches that constitute modern Psychology, and to concepts and evidence within the domains of the subject required for British Psychological Society accreditation. Students have the opportunity to apply their knowledge to chosen areas of interest, increasing their degree of choice and independence as they move through the programme. They are made aware of current research - its methods, applications and unresolved issues - and learn how to evaluate research and carry it out themselves, with staff research expertise providing stimulation, guidance and high-quality laboratory facilities. The aims of the sociology half of this joint degree programme are intellectual and practical. Intellectually, members of staff aim to widen students' capacities for critical thinking, analysis and problem-solving, asking questions and deconstructing others' arguments. Students also learn a variety of explanatory schemata and their application in understanding them in social life. Practically, the programme imparts technical skills: statistical methods and computer-related analytic skills (e.g. use of SPSS); use of Information Technology; enhanced writing capacity through continuous assessment and the dissertation.

Programme Outcomes

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

Knowledge and Understanding

A. Knowledge and understanding of:	Teaching/learning methods and strategies
1. Concepts, theories and evidence in six core domains: research methods, individual differences, biological, cognitive, developmental and social psychology 2. concepts, theories, and evidence in two of the four core sociological areas: economic, political, stratification, culture. 3. a broad variety of methods and approaches used in psychological and sociological research 4. practical applications of psychological and sociological theory and research 5. ethical issues in research and appropriate conduct by researchers 6. a selection of more specialist optional topics.	The knowledge required for 1 - 5 is delineated in lectures and seminars. 2 is supported by modules, especially 'clusters' in Sociology. 3 is further supported by practical classes and exercises, miniprojects and the Part 3 project or dissertation. Students also learn about 5 from participating in research studies in which the principles are made explicit, and while planning the Part 3 project. Part 3 optional modules, including Options and 'clusters' in Sociology, cover 6 and extend earlier work to a more advanced level. Assessment Most knowledge is assessed by unseen or open-book examinations, coursework essays and other exercises, and reports on empirical work. The Part 3 project or dissertation assesses 3 and 4 in the planning and final report, and through the rationale for the choice of methods.

Skills and other attributes

B. Intellectual skills – able to:	Teaching/learning methods and strategies
1. think logically 2. analyse and solve problems 3. organise tasks into a structured form 4. transfer appropriate knowledge and methods from one area within a subject to another and across disciplines when appropriate 5. use evidence-based reasoning to argue or evaluate a claim 6. apply multiple perspectives and levels of explanation to understand behaviour 7. critically evaluate the design and conduct of psychological or sociological research 8. write well-structured and well-argued essays.	1-3 are explicated in lectures, tutorials or feedback on exercises in both Psychology and Sociology. 5-7 are covered in Psychology lectures and option seminars, and in Options and Advanced Topics in Sociology. 4 is not formally taught but is illustrated and encouraged particularly in Part 3 modules, and is intrinsic to high-level performance in all parts of the programme. Psychology essays at Parts 1 and 2, and Sociology essays in all three parts, provide practice in 8 with formative feedback. *Assessment* 1-8 are assessed directly via lectures and written assignments in Parts 1-3 Sociology, and 5-8 in Psychology examinations and coursework at all levels. 4 is emphasised in formative and summative assessment as an indicator of the most successful work in both subjects.

C. Practical skills – able to:
1. use statistical software in an appropriate manner
2. choose and apply appropriate data-analytic techniques to psychological and sociological data
3. search for information, using suitable sources, about a specific topic
4. plan and carry out empirical studies with guidance or supervision
5. write reports on empirical studies.

Teaching/learning methods and strategies
Practical work and assignments are designed to enhance skill 1, including some practicals on software especially relevant to Psychology and Sociology. Dedicated modules in both departments using lectures, practical classes and exercises cover 2, 3 and the principles underlying 4. Further learning of 2 - 5 takes place through Psychology practical classes, miniprojects and the Part 3 project or dissertation, and Advanced Topics in Sociology.

Assessment
Skill 2 is tested both formatively in coursework and summatively in examinations, and 1 in coursework that involves computer-based analysis. 1, 2, 4 and 5 are assessed in reports on practical classes and miniproject reports; all the skills are assessed to varying degrees in the Part 3 project or dissertation and in Advanced Topics in Sociology.

D. Transferable skills – able to:
1. use IT to write, to present information visually, for statistical analyses and computation, to manage and analyse data, to communicate and to find information (especially via the internet)
2. communicate information concisely or at length in writing
3. give oral presentations
4. work with a group
5. plan and implement a project
6. solve practical problems
7. manage time
8. start planning a career.

Teaching/learning methods and strategies
The use of IT is embedded throughout the programme (e.g. in such packages as Excel, SPSS, NUD*IST, etc.). 2 and 3 are reinforced in several psychology modules, and 4 in miniprojects in Psychology and in Sociology modules. Competence at 5 and 6 are progressively developed through miniprojects and the Part 3 research project or dissertation. 7 is encouraged by staged deadlines and is essential for the timely and effective completion of the programme. Students work on 8 within Personal Development (Psychology), but their planning should reflect both fields.

Assessment
1 is required widely for coursework in both subjects, 2 for most psychology and sociology coursework and examinations. 3 is assessed within Part 3 Psychology and Sociology Options and 4 forms part of miniproject assessment; 3 and 4 are also assessed in some Sociology modules. 5-7 are necessary for successful completion of Psychology miniprojects and project and the Sociology dissertation. 8 is assessed within Personal Development (Psychology) which must be taken.

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 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 the module description and in the programme handbook. The University reserves the right to modify this specification in unforeseen circumstances, or where the process of academic development and feedback from students, quality assurance processes or external sources, such as professional bodies, requires a change to be made. In such circumstances, a revised specification will be issued.