BA MODERN HISTORY and POLITICS   **UCAS code: LV21**
For students entering Part 1 in 2006

Awarding Institution: The University of Reading
Teaching Institution: The University of Reading
Relevant QAA subject benchmarking group(s):   History and Politics
Faculty of Arts and Humanities   Programme length: 3 years
Date of specification: May 2007
Programme Director: Dr David Stack
Programme Adviser: Prof. Nick Atkin, Prof Richard Bellamy
Board of Studies: History and Politics
Accreditation: Not Applicable

Summary of programme aims
The History element of the syllabus aims to familiarise students with a broad chronological and regional range in the history of the modern period, whilst providing them with the opportunity of specialisation in particular periods and topics of British, European and American history. It also enables students to pursue their own interests through independent study and a substantial dissertation. Using a variety of approaches to the study of history, students will develop the ability to analyse change over time, to understand the nature of causal relationships, and to handle comparative, cross-cultural and abstract concepts. Additionally, students will refine the following subject-based skills: the collection and synthesis of large quantities of information; the critical evaluation of primary and secondary sources; the making of well-crafted and substantial judgements, and engagement in debate on historical issues.

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 sub-fields 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

The programme provides a supportive learning environment with full access to welfare, pastoral and careers support.

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.

History and Politics are disciplines that lend themselves to critical judgement and problem-solving, both through personal engagement with issues and through dialogue and group 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.

Programme content

Each Part comprises 120 credits. In Part 1 the remaining credits can be made up from any optional modules and/or from modules elsewhere in the University. In Part 2 students must normally take 60 credits in both subjects, and in Part 3 students take 40 credits in each subject plus a dissertation, in one subject or the other, of 40 credits.

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

Part 1 (two terms)		*Credits*	*Level*

Joint honours Modern History and Politics students must acquire a minimum of 40 credits in History and 40 credits in Politics. Other credits to be acquired from modules listed in the Faculty Part 1 Handbook.

Compulsory modules in History

HS1APH	Approaches to History	20	C
HS1LMH	Landmarks in History	20	C

Optional module in History which may only be taken if the compulsory modules are also studied

HS1DSH	Directed Study in History	20	C

Compulsory modules in Politics

PO1 IRS	International Relations and Strategic Studies	20	C
PO1 MOP	Modern Politics	20	C

Part 2 (two terms)		*Credits*	*Level*

In History (60 credits)

Compulsory modules (60 credits)
Students must take two Modern Period modules (20 credits each) with their co-requisite skills modules (10 credits each), totalling 60 credits in all. A complete list of options is available from the BA Programme Coordinator, and a list of current options can be found in the BA Programme Handbook.

Of the 120 credits in Part 2, 5 are taken up by Career Management Skills (HS2CMS).

In Politics (60 credits)

Compulsory

PO2 SOP	Study of Politics	10	I

Either

PO2 CGP	Comparative Government and Politics	20	I

Or

PO2 PHC	Political Classics	20	I

Optional Modules (one)

PO2 AMG	American Govt and Politics	20	I
PO2 BGP	British Govt and Politics	20	I
PO2 EPI	European Political Integration	20	I
PO2 RGP	Russian Govt and Politics	20	I

Theory

PO2 THI	Political Thinking	20	I

International Relations

PO2 COS	Contemporary Strategy	20	I
PO2 SNA	Strategy in the Nuclear Age	20	I

Of the 120 credits in Part 2, 5 are taken up by Career Management Skills (HS2CMS).

Part 3   Honours (H) level (two terms)   *Credits   Level*

A dissertation of 40 credits is compulsory and may be taken in either History or Politics. In addition students must choose modules totalling 40 credits in both History and Politics.

Compulsory
Either

HS3HLD	Dissertation in History	40	H

Or

PO3 DIS	Dissertation in Politics	40	H

In History*:*
Students choose either two optional 20- credit Topic modules or a Special Subject consisting of two co-requisite modules of 20 credits each, totalling 40 credits in all.
A complete list of Topic and Special Subject options is available from the BA Programme Coordinator, and a list of current options can be found in the BA Programme Handbook.

In Politics: S*tudents 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 Two. If PO2CGP is taken in Part Two at least one must be from List B, unless a theory option has been taken in Part Two.

List A

PO3 AFG	African Government and Politics	20	H
PO2 MEA	Politics and International Relations of the Middle East	20	H
PO3 UKP	United Kingdom Politics since 1960	20	H
PO3 USF	United States Foreign Policy since 1950	20	H

List B

PO3 FPT	Feminism and Political Theory	20	H
PO3 MID	Modern Ideologies	20	H
PO3 WPE	War, Peace and International Ethics	20	H

Progression requirements
(a) To proceed from Part 1 to Part 2 students should achieve an overall average of 40% in 120 credits taken in the examination, and at least 40% in 20 credits of History and in 40 credits of Politics. *NB. candidates who only take 20 credits in History may progress to a joint History degree so long as they achieve 40% in their History module.*
(b) To proceed from Part 2 to Part 3 students should achieve an overall average of 40% in 120 credits taken in the examination.
(c) In both cases they should achieve not less than 30% in any module except that marks of less than 30% in a total of 20 credits may be condoned, provided that 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 History, at Part 1, teaching is by lectures and seminars. At Parts 2 and 3, it is principally by seminars. The Part 3 Dissertation is supervised in a series of tutorials with an individual supervisor. Part 1 modules are assessed by examinations while modules in Parts 2 and 3 are assessed by a mixture of coursework and timed examination. The Part 2 Skills modules are assessed through portfolios of skills while the Dissertation is assessed both as coursework and through oral presentation.

In Politics, Part 1 modules and the compulsory Part 2 modules involve both lectures and seminars. Part 2 and 3 optional modules typically place greater emphasis on seminars. All modules other than the Study of Politics and Dissertation are assessed by a mixture of coursework (25%) and examination (75%).

The conventions for 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%.

Admission requirements
Entrants to this programme are normally required to have achieved
UCAS Tariff: 300 points from three subjects at A2. History at Grade B.
International Baccalaureat: 32
Irish Leaving Certificate: BBBBB in 5 Higher Level subjects

All applicants are considered on their individual merits and the School/Department may vary these requirements if it sees fit.

Mature applicants. Applications from mature candidates are welcomed. A mature applicant is more likely to receive an offer of a place if he or she has undertaken recent study, for example two or more A levels or an Access course, but each case is assessed on its individual merits. We recommend that you contact an admissions tutor as soon as possible to discuss your individual circumstances.

International applicants. Applications from international candidates are welcomed. If you are not offering A levels we advise you to contact either the EU or the international admissions tutor before applying in order to discuss the acceptability of your qualifications. IELTS Band 7 (or equivalent) will be required for those whose education has not been undertaken in English.

Applicants wishing to make any enquiries should contact the Admissions Secretary who will pass your query to an appropriate Admissions Tutor. The current Admissions Secretary is Mrs Elizabeth Berry who can be contacted by:
Telephone – 0118 378 8148
Email – e.l.berry@reading.ac.uk
Fax – 0118 378 6440
As well as by post.

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 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.

In the School of History, students are provided with handbooks which outline the programme, provide guidance on study skills, and contain information on staff, facilities and sources of specialised help within the University. They are also available on the internet: http://www.reading.ac.uk:80/AcaDepts/lh/History/history.htm. Additional support is given through orientation sessions on module choices, and the Dissertation. Advice is also given the BA Programme Coordinator. There is full written feedback on essay work. Each module teacher gives personal guidance and feedback and sends termly reports on progress to personal Tutors for discussion with students. There is also a School Resource Room which provides quiet study space, a photocopier and networked computers.

In Politics, students are provided with Departmental Handbooks which outline the programme, provide guidance on study skills, and contain information on staff, facilities and specialised sources of help within the University. Additional support is given in the Study of Politics module in Part 2. There is also written feedback on essay work. There is also a departmental Library, and a photocopier.

Liaison officers for both History and Politics coordinate the programme.

Career prospects
Over the years students who have followed this programme have gone into jobs in both the public and private sectors. In the public sector, jobs include academic and academic related jobs (e.g. lectureships, administrative posts on research boards), the civil service, local government, public corporations, hospital management, and in the social services, such as, child care, youth employment, probation, and so on. In the private sector, recent jobs include working for advertising, journalism, radio and television, computer firms and large finance and insurance companies.

Opportunities for study abroad or for placements
Students have the opportunity to spend a period of study abroad (normally in Part 2) as part of the Socrates scheme, or in conjunction with the American Studies programme's exchange.

Educational aims of the programme

The programme aims to provide a solid framework for exploring the broad sweep of modern history and the complex interplay between cause and effect in the historical process. The History component develops the student's knowledge of events, structures, and historical agents or actors and a critical awareness of the variety of ways in which the past has been interpreted in historical writing. The Politics component aims to provide a thorough degree level education in Politics and International Relations. 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
1. The broad sweep of post-classical history and its principal divisions; 2. A range of cultures, within a degree structure flexible enough to allow breadth or specialisation; 3. The contextualisation of forces, events, and individual experiences in the historical process; 4. The nature and variety of historical sources as defined by period and culture; 5. The nature of debate and dispute in historical writing; 6. The fundamental concepts of Political Theory and major texts from the Greeks to the present time. 7. The comparative analysis of government institutions, political movement and the social bases of politics. 8. The various approaches and the study of Modern International Relations. 9. A range of selected specialised subjects within the fields of Political Theory, Comparative Government and International Relations.	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. In Part 1 and Part 2 students attend both lectures and seminars, and in Part 3 most teaching is through seminars. Part 1 modules introduce 1, 2,3, 6, 7 and 8 which Part 2 modules deepen and develop students understanding. The optional modules in Part 3 both build upon and sharpen the focus of study. *Assessment* Most knowledge is tested through a combination of coursework and formal examination. Dissertations and oral contributions also contribute.

Skills and other attributes

B. Intellectual skills – able to:	**Teaching/learning methods and strategies**
1. Critically read, comprehend and evaluate a large range of historical and political texts; 2. Negotiate both primary and second sources and be able to demonstrate how they inter-relate; 3. Synthesise information from a range of sources, providing a coherent overview of positions in logical space; 4. Analyse the logical construction of arguments; 5. Produce and defend positions in response to critical pressure; 6. Develop creative intelligence in independent research and interpretation; 7. Think logically on Political matters; 8. Analyse issues in Political life; 9. Understand the evolving state of knowledge in the rapidly developing discipline of Politics; 10. Transfer appropriate knowledge from an area within the disciplines to another;	As above, plus: self-directed learning facilitated through the use of research-based teaching materials and methods, and logical exercises. Through essay, portfolio, and dissertation preparation, the research and analytical skills are reinforced which are 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 dissertation *Assessment* Coursework; written unseen exams; seminar presentations. Plus discussion in supervisor-led small groups and seminars.

C. Practical skills – able to:	**Teaching/learning methods and strategies**
1. Develop and carry out individual research programmes and strategies; 2. Gather, organise, and deploy evidence, data and information from a variety of primary and secondary sources; 3. Locate and synthesise large quantities of material; 4. Present a coherent talk delivered from notes; 5. Produce concise and accurate written reports; 6. Critically discuss particular issues and arguments, and to engage in discussion of each other's responses as well as articulate their own; 7. Utilise problem-solving skills; 8. Manage their own learning self-critically, reflect upon it, and seek and make use of feedback.	These are developed through lectures, supervised small group discussions, seminar groups with a facilitator, oral presentations and, especially in Part 3, independent learning. In History, the Skills in Periods modules consist of various appropriate exercises aimed to promote, amongst other things, research, IT and referencing skills. Feedback on an individual basis combined with the University's personal tutor system encourages constructive self-criticism. *Assessment* Coursework; written unseen exams; seminar presentations.

D. Transferable skills – able to:
1. Manage time effectively and prioritise workloads;
2. Communicate effectively with a wide range of individuals using a wide range of means;
3. Evaluate his/her own performance, and recognise the steps required for improvement;
4. Utilise problem-solving skills in a variety of theoretical and more practical situations;
5. IT skills, e.g. word processing, e-mail and the internet for the retrieval and presentation of information, including statistical or numerical data;
6. Work independently, demonstrating initiative, self-organisation and time management;
7. Develop a vocational awareness with a view to planning their career.

Teaching/learning methods and strategies
Most of these skills are embedded in all 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 3 of the programme. Vocational awareness is promoted especially by the CMS module.

Assessment
Coursework; written unseen exams; seminar presentations, portfolios of work, a 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 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.