

# BA in Classical and Medieval Studies

For students entering Part 1 in 2007

UCAS code: QV81

Awarding Institution:  
Teaching Institution:  
Relevant QAA subject benchmarking group(s):  
Faculty of Arts and Humanities  
Date of specification: December 2007  
Programme Director:  
Programme Adviser:  
Board of Studies:  
Accreditation: Not appropriate

The University of Reading  
The University of Reading  
Classics & Ancient History, History  
Programme length: 3 years

Dr Gill Knight  
Dr Helen King  
History and Classics

## Summary of programme aims

The programme aims to provide a through degree level education in Classical and Medieval Studies. It aims to produce graduates who have experience of literary, thematic and genre-based approaches to both the cultures of antiquity and the Medieval period. Students explore issues of critical and historical interpretation and engage with primary sources from both eras.

## 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 develop their skills relating to career management, communication (both written and oral), information handling, numeracy, problem-solving, team working and use of information technology.

Mediaeval and Classical Studies are disciplines which lend themselves to critical judgement and problem-solving, both through personal engagement with issues and through dialogue and group discussion. Also integral is the collection, collation and analysis of substantial quantities of material and its communication and presentation. Both fields of study also prompt an awareness of numeracy through chronology, periodisation, and basic quantification. In addition, the development of powerful tools of research, analysis and presentation associated with information technology is reflected in several ways, such as in the location and retrieval of bibliographic and source material, the production and presentation of student work, and, where appropriate, the use of more sophisticated databases and exploitation of the internet.

## Programme content

Each Part comprises 120 credits. Students must normally take a minimum of 40 credits in each of Classics and History in Part 1. 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 they must normally take a minimum of 60 credits in each subject, and in Part 3, 40 credits in each subject, plus the dissertation of 40 credits in one subject. In consultation with their programme adviser, they may choose to take up to 20 credits each year from modules available elsewhere in the University.

Part 1 introduces students to the disciplines; Part 2 develops skills through the study of broad, contrasting genres and periods, and Part 3 contains the detailed focus and specific research work.

*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 (three terms)

*Credits      Level*

<b>In Classics:</b>		
<i>Compulsory modules (40 credits)</i>		
CL1CA Greek and Roman Civilisations A: Fifth-Century Athens	20	C
CL1CB Greek and Roman Civilisations B: Rome in the Augustan Age	20	C

<i>Optional Module</i>				
CL1GM	Greek Myths		20	C
<b>In History:</b>				
<i>Compulsory modules (40 credits)</i>				
HS1APH	Approaches to History		20	C
HS1LMH	Landmarks in History		20	C
<i>Optional module which may only be taken if the compulsory modules are also studied</i>				
HS1DSH	Directed Study in History		20	C

## Part 2 (three terms)

*Credits Level*

### In Classics [60 credits]:

Students will take at least two core modules (40 credits) and a further 20 credits from among **either** core or optional modules.

*Core modules (minimum 40 credits):*

Mod Code	Module Title		
CL2AE	Ancient Epic	20	I
CL2GD	Greek Drama	20	I
CL2LP	Roman Love Poetry	20	I

*Optional modules: 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. Part 2 modules normally include options in classical Literature, History, Art, Culture and Reception. Students may also take MCIAM, MC20A, MC30A, MC3MT, and PP2PA, which are cross-listed modules.*

Career Management Skills (delivered in module CL2CMS) contributes 5 credits' worth of marks to the average for Part 2.

Students may take IWLP Modern Greek in place of one I level module.

### In History (60 credits)

Students must take two Period modules (20 credits) with the co-requisite skill module (10 credit), totalling 60 credits. At least one of these must be from the Early Period and one from the Modern Period.

A complete list of Period options is available from the BA Programme Coordinator, and a list of current options can be found in the BA Programme Handbook.

## Part 3 (three terms)

*Credits Level*

*Compulsory module*

*Dissertation to be taken either in History or in Classics*

HS3HLD	Dissertation in History	40	H
OR	OR		
CL3DS	Dissertation in Classics	40	H

### In Classics:

*Optional modules: A complete list of optional modules is available from the BA Programme Coordinator, and a list of current options can be found in the BA Programme Handbook. Part 3 modules normally*

include a range of cross-disciplinary options. Students may also take MC20A, MC30A, MC3MT, and PP2PA, which are cross-listed modules.

Students may take IWLP Modern Greek in place of one H level module.

### **History**

Students choose either two optional 20 credit Topic modules or a Special Subject consisting of two corequisite 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.

### **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 obtain marks of at least 40% in the modules HS1APH or HS1LMH or HS1DSH, and obtain a weighted of at least 40% over the modules CL1CA and CL1CB.
- (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.

### **Summary of teaching and assessment**

Teaching is through seminars, lectures and essay tutorials. Over the programme as a whole, assessment will be conducted through a mixture of assessed essays and formal examination. The Dissertation module is supported by workshops and individual supervision. The Part 2 Skills modules are assessed through portfolios of skills and the Dissertation is assessed both as coursework and through oral presentation.

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**

No previous experience of Classical Studies is required for admission. Entrants should have achieved:

UCAS Tariff : 280 points from 3 A levels or 300 points from 3 A levels plus  
1 AS level

International Baccalaureate: Successfully complete the IB Diploma with scores of 6,5,5 in 3  
Higher Level subjects

Scottish Highers - 280 points from 4 subjects including at least 1 Advanced Higher

Irish Leaving Certificate - BBBB

All applicants are considered on their individual merits and the 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 inquiries should contact the Admissions Secretary who will pass your query to an appropriate Admissions Tutor. The current Admissions Secretary can be contacted by:

Telephone: ext 6999

Email – [admissions-classics@reading.ac.uk](mailto:admissions-classics@reading.ac.uk)

Admissions Tutor: Professor Helen King

### **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 modern-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 progress.

Departmental Handbooks are provided to students in the first year. They are also available on the internet at <http://www.reading.ac.uk:80/AcaDepts/lh/History/history.htm>, and at <http://www.rdg.ac.uk/internal/classics/%28Class%29Internal.asp>. The Departmental Libraries contain a range of reference works which can be used by students and offer congenial study spaces. The Department of Classics is the Curator of the Ure Museum of Greek Archaeology. In the History Department, students are supported and advised by the Degree Course Tutor. There is also 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.

### **Career prospects**

In recent years students who have gained degrees in Classical and Medieval Studies have gone into a wide variety of jobs, including teaching, publishing, journalism, the media, management, administration, and public relations. A number of graduates each year go on to further academic study and research.

### **Opportunities for study abroad**

Students may spend a period of study abroad, normally during Part 2, either in the Fall Semester at the University of Calgary's Department of Greek and Latin (applications need to be made in the Spring term of Year 1) or through the various links of History under the Socrates scheme. A study period abroad is also possible in conjunction with the American Studies programme's exchange. Students are encouraged to apply to the British School at Athens, where they can take a module for credit, or the British School at Rome.

### **Educational aims of the programme**

This is a multi-disciplinary programme which aims to provide students with subject-specific knowledge and more general skills, including knowledge of a variety of Medieval and Classical literature, art, philosophy, and their reception in modern culture, as well as perspectives on different methods of critical analysis. The course aims to foster an independent approach to formulating problems and arguments, using the close reading and analytical skills that are fundamental to both disciplines. The programme also provides for the development of the specific interests of students through independent study for the dissertation, in which a topic is approached from the perspectives of both disciplines.

## 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*

<p><b>A. Knowledge and understanding of:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>➤ the literature, thought, art and religion of antiquity and the Medieval period</li><li>➤ a diverse range of primary materials</li><li>➤ a range of problems of interpretation and evaluation of primary materials</li><li>➤ a range of techniques and methodologies</li><li>➤ the reception of Graeco-Roman culture in the West</li></ul>	<p><b>Teaching/learning methods and strategies</b></p> <p>Knowledge and understanding are gained through formal teaching (lectures, seminars, and individual essay feedback), recommended reading, and the writing of essays and a dissertation.</p> <p><i>Assessment</i></p> <p>Most knowledge is tested through a combination of coursework and formal examination. The Dissertation and an oral presentation also contribute.</p>
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### *Skills and other attributes*

<p><b>B. Intellectual skills – able to:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>➤ engage in analytical and evaluative thinking about texts, sources, arguments and interpretations, independently estimating their relevance to the issue in question, discriminating between opposing theories, and forming judgements on the basis of evidence and argument</li><li>➤ identify and appreciate the forces which generate historical and cultural change</li><li>➤ negotiate both primary and secondary sources in classical and medieval studies, and demonstrate how they inter-relate</li><li>➤ develop creative intelligence in independent research and interpretation.</li></ul>	<p><b>Teaching/learning methods and strategies</b></p> <p>Skills will be introduced in lectures, developed through reading, writing of essays, dissertation and examination. Through specific focus on topics, issues and texts in seminars, workshops and personal study, students are enabled to develop critical modes of enquiry about the selection and treatment of material. Through essay, project, and dissertation preparation, the research and analytical skills are reinforced which are necessary to form and to validate arguments and judgements. The Dissertation requires students to engage creatively and critically with primary sources and/or historical interpretative works.</p> <p><i>Assessment</i></p> <p>Essay and project work tests all aspects of intellectual skills, while examinations assess the ability to marshal information and arguments under given time constraints, and according to a variety of conventions, involving open book, seen and unseen papers. Independent study and the Dissertation represent the evaluation of personal research and creative interpretation.</p>
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**C. Practical skills – able to:**

- gather, organise and deploy evidence and information, and to show awareness of the consequences of the unavailability of evidence
- develop the capacity for critical judgement in the light of evidence and argument
- select and apply appropriate methodologies in assessing the meaning and significance of evidence or data
- use bibliographical and library research tools effectively

**Teaching/learning methods and strategies**

These are developed through the deployment of seminar classes and essay assignments. Oral presentation also constitutes a percentage of the assessment of the dissertation

*Assessment*

These skills are assessed through coursework and examinations, as well as in the dissertation

**D. Transferable skills – able to:**

- deploy a range of IT resources effectively
- present material orally in a clear and effective manner
- present material in a written form, with discrimination and lucidity in the use of language, professional referencing, and clear layout
- work creatively, flexibly and adaptably with others
- to write and think under pressure and to meet deadlines

**Teaching/learning methods and strategies**

These are developed in lectures and seminars and applied in self-study and writing of assignments

*Assessment*

These skills are assessed through coursework and examinations, as well as in the 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.**