

BA English and Film & Theatre
For students entering Part 1 in 2007

UCAS code: QW34

Awarding Institution:
Teaching Institution:
Relevant QAA subject benchmarking group(s):

The University of Reading
The University of Reading
English; Dance, Drama, Performing
Arts; Media, Film and Cultural Studies
Programme length: 3 years

Faculty of Arts and Humanities
Date of specification: August 2007
Programme Director: Dr Ronan McDonald
Programme Adviser: Dr John Gibbs
Board of Studies: English and Film, Theatre & Television
Accreditation: not applicable

Summary of programme aims

This is a multi-disciplinary programme that aims to provide students with subject specific knowledge and more general skills, including knowledge of a variety of different kinds of literary, dramatic and film texts, from a range of different periods. Students will become familiar with the variety of critical perspectives and analytical methods within and between the disciplines. The course aims to foster an independent approach to formulating problems and arguments, using the close reading and analytical skills that are fundamental to the disciplines of English and of Film and Theatre.

Transferable skills

The University's Strategy for Teaching and Learning has identified a number of generic 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.

From their studies in English and Film & Theatre, students are expected to gain a range of transferable intellectual and personal skills including: the ability to communicate fluently and effectively; the ability to formulate and evaluate their own arguments and those of others, and to translate subject-specific knowledge and skills to new environments; the ability to work both independently and co-operatively with others; effective time-management; the ability to access and deploy relevant information resources, and to develop word-processing and IT skills.

Programme content

Part 1 of the joint degree programme introduces students to debates about approaches to the study of literature, film and theatre, and to methodologies of critical analysis, through close study of selected texts. Parts 2 and 3 offer a greater element of choice, a more concentrated focus on individual historical periods, topics, and/or generic traditions, and an increasing opportunity for specialization and independent study.

Each Part of the degree programme comprises 120 credits. In Part 1, students take 60 credits in the School of English and 60 credits in Film and Theatre. In Parts 2 and 3 they must also normally take 60 credits each year in both English and Film & Theatre, but, in consultation with their programme adviser, they may choose to take up to 20 Intermediate (Part 2) credits from modules available elsewhere in the University.

Part 1 (three terms) Certificate Level Credits Level

In English (60 Credits)

Compulsory modules

EN1LL	<i>Languages of Literature</i>	20	C
EN1RS	<i>Revisioning Shakespeare</i>	20	C
EN1WKT	<i>What Kind of Text is This?</i>	20	C

In Film and Theatre (60/40 credits)

Compulsory module

FT1CHA	<i>Introduction to Film and Theatre</i>	40	C
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Optional module

FT1TFC	<i>Introduction to Television Studies</i>	20	C
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Part 2 (three terms) Intermediate Level Credits 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	<i>*Renaissance Texts & Cultures</i>	20	I
EN2MC1	<i>Modernism and Modern Poetry</i>	20	I
EN2RR	<i>The Eighteenth-Century: Restoration to Romantics</i>	20	I

Group B

EN2CMN	<i>*Chaucer and Medieval Narrative</i>	20	I
EN2NCN	<i>Nineteenth-Century Novel</i>	20	I
EN2WAR	<i>Writing America: Romances of Nationhood</i>	20	I

Group C

EN2RDR	<i>*Renaissance Drama</i>	20	I
EN2LCT	<i>Literary Criticism & Theory</i>	20	I
EN2WF1	<i>Women's Writing and Feminist Theory 1</i>	20	I
EN2OEL	<i>*Introduction to Old English</i>	20	I

Spring Term

Group A

EN2ERE	<i>*English Renaissance Epic</i>	20	I
EN2MC2	<i>Modernity, Crisis and Narrative Fiction</i>	20	I
EN2RD	<i>Romantics to Decadents</i>	20	I

Group B

EN2LV	<i>*Lyric Voices 1340 – 1650</i>	20	I
EN2MDR	<i>Modern Drama</i>	20	I
EN2WAS	<i>Writing America: Self, Race, Region</i>	20	I
EN2CAW	<i>Communications at Work</i>	20	I

Group C

EN2SH	<i>*Shakespeare</i>	20	I
EN2WF2	<i>Women's Writing and Feminist Theory 2</i>	20	I

EN2FN	<i>Film Narrative</i>	20	I
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Special Module:

Students may, with the permission of the Programme Director, replace one of their English modules with the following special module:

EN2CW	<i>Creative Writing and Critical Practice</i>	20	I
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In Film & Theatre, students will normally take the following modules:

FT2US1A+B	<i>Studies in US Cinema 1</i>	20 + 10	I
FT2BTA+B	<i>Studies in British Theatre</i>	20 + 10	I

Optional Module

FT2BP	<i>Bulmershe Production</i>	10	I
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Notes

Students taking the Bulmershe Production optional module will substitute this for 10 credits in any Part 2 module.

Students may choose to replace one 20-credit module in either Department with a module or modules totalling 20 credits from outside the programme.

Of the 120 credits in Part 2, 5 are taken up by Careers Management Skills.

Part 3 (three terms) Honours Level	<i>Credits</i>	<i>Level</i>
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Compulsory:

Students take ONE of the following:

EN3JDX	<i>Joint Dissertation</i>	40	H
EN3DIS	<i>Dissertation (English)</i>	40	H
FT3DISS	<i>Dissertation (Film & Theatre)</i>	40	H

In English

Students choose two optional 20-credit modules, one in each term, to make a total of 40 credits.

Optional modules: A complete list of options is available from the Programme Advisor in English and in the English Part 3 Module Supplement. Admission to optional modules will be at the discretion of the Programme Advisor in English.

In Film and Theatre

Students take one Critical Option, comprising two linked modules with the suffixes A and B, which must be taken together. A complete list of Critical Options is available from the Director of Teaching and Learning in Film Theatre & Television and in the FTT Part 3 Module Supplement. Admission to optional modules will be at the discretion of the Director of Teaching and Learning.

Optional Module

FT3BP	<i>Bulmershe Production</i>	10	H
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Note

Students taking the Bulmershe Production optional module will substitute this for 10 credits in any Part 3 module.

Progression requirements

To proceed from Part 1 to Part 2, a Joint Honours student must obtain (i) an overall average of 40% over 120 credits taken in Part 1, where all the credits are at C level or above; (ii) a mark of at least 40% in each English module; a mark of at least 30% in individual modules amounting to not less than 100 credits taken in Part 1.

To proceed from Part 2 to Part 3, students must obtain (i) an overall average of 40% over 120 credits taken in Part 2; (ii) an overall average of 40% across all English modules; (iii) a mark of at least 30% in individual modules amounting to not less than 100 credits taken in Part 2.

Summary of teaching and assessment

Teaching is through seminars, lectures and essay tutorials. The Dissertation module is supported by individual supervision in both English and Film & Theatre, and by dissertation workshops in the School of English. Teaching styles are varied to encourage active engagement by students. Film and theatre viewings are a central component in the teaching of Film and Theatre. Over the programme as a whole, assessment will be conducted through a mixture of assessed essays plus informal 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:

<u>Mark</u>	<u>Interpretation</u>
70% - 100%	First class
60% - 69%	Upper Second class
50% - 59%	Lower Second class
40% - 49%	Third class
35% - 39%	Fail: not of Honours standard
0% - 34%	Fail

Admission requirements

Entrants to the English Literature/Film and Theatre 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 (A in English Literature)

Irish Leaving Certificate: ABBBB (A in English Literature)

International Baccalaureat: 31 points with at least 6 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 qualifications, but consideration is also given to applicants with other qualifications and experience.

Admissions tutor: Mrs Carolyn Lyle (English), Dr Teresa Murjas, Dr John Gibbs and Dr John Bull (Film, Theatre and Television)

Support for students and their learning

University support for students and their learning falls into two categories. Student guidance and welfare support is provided by Personal Tutors, the Study Advice Team, the University's Special Needs Adviser, Hall Wardens, the Students' Union and the Careers Advisory Service. 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 4000 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 wishing to take modules offered by the Institution-wide Language Programme. Transferable skills are supported by the Skills Opportunities At Reading (SOAR) website with links to information about resources and events offered by the Library, IT Services, Study Advisers, RUSU, Mathematics Support Centre and the University Language Centre.

The School of English and American Literature also offers students specific help to improve and develop their essay writing skills through the Royal Literary Fund Fellowship scheme, which provides a resident professional writer whose role is to advise students individually, from first-year to postgraduate level, on raising the level of their academic writing.

Students 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 specialized help within the University, such as the Study Skills Advisor and the Counselling Service. The programme is designed to give students extensive teaching support in Part 1 leading to more independent work in Part 3. 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 a growing library of videos for loan to students. A video-viewing suite is available on the Whiteknights campus. Film and Theatre (on the Bulmershe campus) has an extensive collection of film and television programmes, to which students may have access, and a wide range of viewing facilities. The Library, which has buildings on both the Whiteknights and Bulmershe campuses, is well-stocked with printed materials as well as essential electronic databases on-line and on CD ROM, such as the OED, the MLA Bibliography, and JSTOR. Specialist subject librarians are available to give students advice and guidance to library resources.

Career prospects

Since the English/Film and Theatre degree is not a directly vocational programme, career possibilities are very wide-ranging. Graduates find that the specific as well as the transferable skills developed by the programme enable them to enter many fields of work including education, publishing, journalism, the media, management, administration, public relations, advertising and the performance industries. A Reading degree in English and Film & Theatre provides graduates with a range of communication and analytical skills that will serve them in good stead in the world of work. A number of graduates each year go on to further academic study and research. In addition to the help provided by the University Careers Advisory Service, SEAL has a Careers Tutor available to advise students in English on researching and planning their career choices.

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 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 programme seeks to develop students' knowledge and understanding of a wide range of literary, drama and film texts, and to promote an informed and self-reflective awareness of procedures of critical and cultural analysis. The overall aims are to enable students to achieve their full intellectual potential, and to equip them with broadly transferable skills of potential value to future employers.

Programme Outcomes

Knowledge and Understanding

<p>A. Knowledge and understanding of:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Literary texts in English from selected periods between the Middle Ages and the present day. A selection of film and theatre texts from a range of national and cultural contexts from the late nineteenth century until the present day.2. A range of kinds of texts including fiction, poetry and drama and a variety of approaches to filmmaking and theatre.3. Methods of critical, dramatic and filmic analysis4. Ways in which social, cultural and historical issues relate to literary, drama and film texts5. A range of approaches in English and Film & Theatre studies6. Selected special fields of English and Film and Theatre	<p>Teaching/learning methods and strategies Knowledge and understanding are gained through formal teaching (lectures, seminar discussions, workshops, and individual essay feedback), prescribed and recommended reading and viewing, and the writing of essays and a dissertation. Part 1 offers a broad introduction to 1, 2, 3, 4 and 5. In Part 2 the understanding and skills acquired in 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 dissertation.</p> <p>Assessment In Parts 1 and 2, knowledge and understanding of 1 – 5 are tested through a combination of essays, seen and unseen written examinations. In Part 3, assessment is through a mixture of methods, such as extended essays, essays plus seen and unseen exams, and the dissertation.</p>
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Skills and other attributes

B. Intellectual skills:

1. Capacity for independent analysis and research
2. Identification of problems and issues
3. The ability to read, watch and interpret closely and critically
4. An ability to reflect on one's own positions

Teaching/learning methods and strategies
Intellectual skills are acquired through independent reading and viewing (1), preparation and discussion in seminars and workshops, essay writing (1, 2, 3) and essay feedback through tutorials (2, 3 and 4).

Assessment

1 – 3 are assessed both formatively (in coursework essays) and summatively (in essays, seen/unseen exams, and the Dissertation). 1- 4 are assessed formatively through seminar discussion and essay feedback and tutorials

C. Practical skills

1. The ability to criticize and formulate interpretations of literary, drama and film texts (including theatre performances)
2. An ability to engage in critical argument using relevant theoretical approaches
3. An awareness of the rhetorical resources of the English language
4. Bibliographical and research skills
5. A knowledge of appropriate conventions in the presentation of written work
6. An ability to relate the study of English and of Film and Theatre to cultural and social issues

Teaching/learning methods and strategies
1 – 3 and 6 are developed in seminars, workshops, essays and essay tutorials. 4 and 5 are developed through essays, essay feedback and dissertation guidance and supervision

Assessment

All the subject specific practical skills are assessed through formative and summative essays. 1 – 3 and 6 are also tested in seen and unseen examinations

D. Transferable skills

1. Fluency in written and oral communication
2. The ability to formulate and present arguments
3. Assessing the merits of competing approaches
4. The ability to translate subject-specific knowledge and skills into other environments
5. The ability to find and use relevant information resources
6. Time-management skills and the ability to manage personal workloads.
7. A creative approach to problem-solving
8. Group and interpersonal skills
9. An ability to self-evaluate and self-reflect
10. Use of information technology, especially word-processing

Teaching/learning methods and strategies
Transferable skills are developed through seminar and workshop discussions (1, 2, 3, 4, 7 and 9), through seminar presentations, essay writing, tutorial feedback, seen and unseen examinations (1 – 9). 4 and 7 particularly through requiring students to draw on acquired knowledge and skills when analyzing new material in essays 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 dissertation. We require that all summatively assessed essays are word-processed (10).

Assessment

1 – 7 and 9 are formatively assessed through coursework essays and seminar presentations, and summatively assessed through essays, seen and unseen examinations, and the dissertation. 9 is encouraged through essay feedback and essay tutorials. 8 is encouraged through seminars and in tutorials

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.