

BA Television and Film & Theatre UCAS code: WW64
For students entering Part 1 in 2007

Awarding Institution: The University of Reading
Teaching Institution: The University of Reading
Relevant QAA subject benchmarking group(s): Dance, Drama and Performance Studies;
Communications, Media, Film and Cultural Studies
Faculty of Arts and Humanities
Programme length: 3 years
Date of specification: April 2009
Programme Director: Dr Simone Knox
Programme Adviser: Dr John Gibbs
Board of Studies: Film, Theatre & Television
Accreditation: not applicable

Summary of programme aims and learning outcomes

The central aim of this multi-disciplinary programme is to enable students to gain an understanding of major areas of cinema, of theatre since the late nineteenth century and of British and other English language television drama and documentary. Students will experience some of the varied achievements of filmmakers, writers (for both the stage and television), directors, producers and theatre practitioners, and become familiar with a range of perspectives which can inform analysis of film, drama and television texts.

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, problem-solving, team working and use of information technology. On completion of this degree programme, students are expected to have developed a range of transferable skills including: fluency in writing and oral communication, the ability to formulate and evaluate their own arguments and those of others, to translate subject-specific knowledge and skills to new environments, the ability to find and use relevant information resources, to manage their time effectively, and use basic wordprocessing, information retrieval and IT skills; the ability to work co-operatively with others. Along with a practical component in television, students will have ample opportunity to participate in practical work generated by Single Honours students in Film & Theatre in the Department of Film, Theatre & Television.

Programme content

In each Part of the degree programme students must take modules to make up a total of 120 credits. In Part 1 of the Television and Film & Theatre degree, students will take 80 credits worth of modules in the Department of Film, Theatre & Television. They will be free to acquire their remaining 40 credits from modules elsewhere in the University. In Parts 2 and 3 they must normally take 60 credits in Film & Theatre and 60 credits in Television in each Part. However, in consultation with their programme adviser, students may substitute up to 20 credits from modules available elsewhere in the University.

Part 1 (three terms) Certificate level

Compulsory modules	<i>Credits</i>	<i>Level</i>
FT1CHA <i>Introduction to Film and Theatre</i>	40	C
FT1TFC <i>Introduction to Television Studies</i>	20	C

Part 2 (three terms) Intermediate level

Compulsory modules	<i>Credits</i>	<i>Level</i>
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Designated Film & Theatre Modules

Students will normally take the following modules:

FT2USIA+B <i>Studies in US Cinema I</i>	20 + 10	I
FT2BTA+B <i>Studies in British Theatre</i>	20 + 10	I
Optional Module		
FT2BP <i>Bulmershe Production</i>	10	I

Note

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

Designated Television modules

Students will normally take the following modules:

FT2BDA+B <i>British Television Drama</i>	20+10	I
FT2DA+B <i>Documentary Film and Television</i>	20+10	I

Students may choose to replace one 20-credit Intermediate module in Film & Theatre or in Television either with a module or modules totalling 20 credits from outside the programme.

Notes

10 credit modules MUST be taken together with the relevant 20 credit module, making the module worth 30 credits.

The following component is compulsory. Its credits are distributed through Part 2 of the degree:
Careers Management Skills

5 I

Part 3 (three terms) Honours Level

Students choose one of the three dissertation modules, depending on their choice of topic, which may be combined Television with Film and/or Theatre, or Television only, or Film and/or Theatre only.

Mod Code	Module Title	Credits	Level
FT3TVD	Dissertation: Television and Film and Theatre	40	H
FT3TD	Dissertation: Television	40	H
FT3DISS	Dissertation: Film and Theatre	40	H

Designated Film & Theatre modules

Students take one Critical Option, comprising two linked 20 credit 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. 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 of assessment in any Part 3 module.

Designated Television Modules

Students will normally take one Critical Option, comprising two linked modules with the suffixes A and B, which must be taken together, selected from:

FT3CTA+B <i>Contemporary Television Drama</i>	20+20	H
FT3CDA+B <i>Contemporary Documentary</i>	20+20	H

Progression requirements

In order to progress from Part 1 to Part 2, a student shall normally be required to: - achieve an overall average of 40% in 120 credits taken in Part 1; and - achieve not less than 30% in any module taken in Part 1, except that marks of less than 30% in a total of 20 credits will be condoned provided that the candidate has pursued the course for the module with reasonable diligence and has not been absent from the examination without reasonable cause. In order to progress from Part 2 to Part 3, a student shall

normally be required to: - achieve an overall average of 40% in 120 credits taken in Part 2; and - achieve not less than 30% in any module taken in Part 2, except that marks of less than 30% in a total of 20 credits will be condoned provided that the candidate has pursued the course for the module with reasonable diligence and has not been absent from the examination without reasonable cause.

Summary of teaching and assessment

Teaching is through seminars, lectures and essay tutorials. Selected modules, including all Television modules, involve practical production exercises designed to test critical ideas. In addition the Dissertation module is supported by workshops and individual supervisions. Teaching styles are varied to encourage active engagement by students. Film and television viewing and theatre visits are central to the teaching of the degree. Over the programme as a whole, assessment will be conducted through a mixture of assessed essays and other assessed assignments plus informal and formal examination. The weighting between Part 2 and Part 3 for classification purposes is 33% and 67%. Assessment criteria for each of the Levels are given in the appropriate Departmental Handbook.

The University's honours classification scheme 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

Entrants to the Joint Degree programme are normally required to have obtained:

UCAS Tariff:

Either 280 points from 3 A2s, to include 100 pts [grade B] in at least one of the following: English Literature, English Literature and Language, Theatre Studies, Dance, Film Studies, Media Studies, History, Philosophy, Sociology, Classics or Psychology;

or 320 points from 3 A2s + up to 2 AS, to include 100 pts [Grade B] in at least one of the following: English Literature, English Literature and Language, Theatre Studies, Dance, Film Studies, Media Studies, History, Philosophy, Sociology, Classics or Psychology.

AS: 2 good AS grades are accepted as one supporting A level

Scottish Highers ABBBBB or above (A in English Literature)

Irish Leaving Certificate at least ABBBBB (A in English Literature)

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

GCSE/O Language preferred: grade C or above.

All applications are considered on their individual merits. Mature candidates will usually be expected to have a B (100 points) at A level in at least one of the following: English Literature, English Literature and Language, Theatre Studies, Dance, Film Studies, Media Studies, History, Philosophy, Sociology, Classics or Psychology or equivalent qualification. In other respects, concessions may be made to reflect the value of other qualifications and experience.

Admissions Tutors: Dr Ashley Thorpe, Dr Tom Brown;

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 Special Needs Advisor, Study Advisors, Hall Wardens and the Students' Union. Students in the Department of Film, Theatre & Television receive a Handbook, which gives 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. Academic feedback and guidance is given through detailed written comments. Academic and personal support for students in their studies is also provided through the University's Personal Academic Record (PAR) scheme, in which students meet their personal tutors regularly to review their progress. From a highly structured introduction in Part 1, in Parts 2 and 3 students take increasing responsibility for their learning and module choice. The Department has a range of film/video viewing rooms and extensive technical facilities for small scale production in theatre and digital video. It also houses an extensive collection of films and television programmes. The Library, which has buildings on both the Whiteknights and Bulmershe campuses, has an extensive collection of printed materials as well as electronic databases. The Bulmershe Library holds one of the country's leading academic collections of film and modern theatre material. Specialist subject librarians are available to give students advice and guidance to library resources.

Career prospects

Career possibilities for Reading graduates in Television and Film & Theatre 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, management, administration, public relations, advertising and the media and performance industries. A Reading Television and Film & Theatre degree provides graduates with a range of communication, analytical, practical and social skills that will serve them in good stead in the world of work. A number of graduates each year go on to further professional training, academic study and research.

Educational aims of the programme

The programme in Television and Film & Theatre aims to develop students' intellectual potential, enabling them to progress to a wide range of careers or to postgraduate study, while also promoting a lifelong love of learning. The central aim of the Film & Theatre combined subject programme is to enable students to gain a confident grasp of critical methods appropriate to the study of Film and theatre and an understanding of major areas of cinema and of theatre since the late nineteenth century. Students will experience some of the varied achievements of film-makers, writers and theatre practitioners and become familiar with a range of perspectives which can inform analysis of film and drama texts. The emphasis is on the close study of plays and films and on critical debates and competing theories that have influenced discussion of theatre and cinema. Drawing on the critical methodologies developed in film and theatre studies, the Television combined subject programme aims to provide a solid framework for exploring the changing nature of British and other English language television, especially (though not exclusively) television drama and documentary. The programme aims to develop critical understanding partly by means of group practical exercises in television production. It aims to promote a critical understanding of television in its historical and contemporary forms, and to enable students to relate individual texts to relevant television genres, formats and programme categories, to developing historical, cultural and institutional contexts and to parallel experiences in other (non-UK) national cultures.

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. A selection of film and theatre texts Knowledge and understanding are gained from a range of national and cultural contexts through formal teaching (lectures, seminar from the late nineteenth century until the discussions, workshops and practical present day; a selection of television texts exercises, and individual essay feedback), (primarily British television drama and prescribed and recommended reading and documentary). viewing, and the writing of essays and a
2. A variety of approaches to filmmaking, dissertation. Part 1 offers a broad and television and theatre production introduction to 1, 2, 3, 4 and 5. In Part 2 the
3. Methods of critical, dramatic, filmic and understanding and skills acquired in Part 1 televisual analysis are developed with particular emphasis on 1,
4. Ways in which theatre, film and 2, 3, 4 and 5 through seminars, lectures, television have informed each other practical exercises and individual feedback. historically Part 3 introduces more specialized study,
5. Ways in which social, cultural and particularly in relation to 3, 5, 6 and 7 historical contexts inform theatre, film through a choice of seminar-based modules and television texts incorporating practical exercises, together
6. A range of approaches in Television, with supervised, independent study leading Film and Theatre studies to a dissertation.
7. Selected special fields of Television, Film and Theatre studies *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.

Skills and other attributes

B. Intellectual skills: *Teaching/learning methods and strategies*

1. Capacity for independent analysis and Intellectual skills are acquired through research independent reading and viewing (1),
2. Identification of problems and issues preparation and discussion in seminars and
3. The ability to read, watch and interpret practical exercises and workshops, essay closely and critically writing (1, 2, 3 and 5) and essay feedback
4. An ability to reflect on one's own through tutorials (2, 3, 4 and 5). opinions and those of others
5. Apply conceptual frameworks and **Assessment** methods of analysis to new contexts and 1 – 5 are assessed both formatively in material coursework essays, and summatively in essays, seen and unseen exams. They are also assessed formatively through seminar discussion, seminar presentations and essay feedback and tutorials.

C. Practical skills: *Teaching/learning methods and strategies*

1. The ability to criticize and formulate 1 – 3 and 6 are developed in seminars, interpretations of television, drama and workshops and practical exercises, seminar film texts (including theatre presentations, essays and essay tutorials. 4 performances) and 5 are developed through essays, essay
2. An ability to engage in critical argument feedback and dissertation guidance and using relevant theoretical approaches and supervision.

by testing ideas in group television production exercises. *Assessment*

3. An awareness of the rhetorical resources of the English language All the subject specific practical skills are
4. Bibliographical and research skills assessed through formative and summative
5. A knowledge of appropriate conventions essays. 1 – 3 and 6 are also tested in seen and in the presentation of written work unseen examinations.
6. An ability to relate the study of Film and Theatre and Television to cultural and social issues

D. Transferable skills: *Teaching/learning methods and strategies*

1. Fluency in written and oral Transferable skills are developed through communication seminar and workshop discussions and
2. The ability to formulate and present practical exercises (1, 2, 3, 4, 7 and 9), arguments through seminar presentations, essay writing,
3. Assessing the merits of competing tutorial feedback, seen and unseen approaches examinations (1 – 9), and through sessions
4. The ability to translate subject-specific and assignments associated with the module knowledge and skills into other on Careers Management Skills (11). 4 and 7 environments particularly are developed through requiring
5. The ability to find and use relevant students to draw on acquired knowledge and information resources skills when analyzing new material in essays,
6. Time–management skills and the ability seen and unseen examinations. 5 and 10 are to manage personal workloads. developed through use of the library and
7. A creative approach to problem-solving other sources of information, for seminar
8. Group and interpersonal skills preparation, essay writing and research for
9. An ability to self-evaluate and self-reflect the dissertation. We require that all
10. Use of information technology, summatively assessed essays are wordespecially word-processing processed (10).
11. Career management skills

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.