MA (Res)/Postgraduate Diploma/Postgraduate Certificate in Modern Italian History
For students entering in 2008

Awarding Institution:	The University of Reading
Teaching Institution:	The University of Reading
	Faculty of Arts and Humanities
Programme length:	12 months
Date of specification:	Jan 2008
Programme Director:	Professor Duggan
Board of Studies:	Postgraduate Studies in Italian Studies
Accreditation:	N/A

Summary of programme aims

Students will acquire a critical awareness and understanding of the main themes and historiographical debates in 19th and 20th century Italian history. They will learn some of the principal methodological and conceptual tools appropriate to postgraduate historical studies, and will be taught to apply these to a significant body of knowledge in the fields of 19th and 20th century Italian political, economic, social and cultural history. They will have an opportunity to develop advanced reading skills in Italian. The MA is intended as preparation for those intending to proceed to research at a doctoral level.

Transferable skills

- The ability to analyse data, and understand causal agents.
- The ability to summarise arguments and process new material.
- The ability to express ideas in a clear and cogent form.
- The ability to think critically and independently.

Programme content

Compulsory Modules:

Mod Code		Credits	Level
ITMH1	R*eform, resistance and revolution: key themes and debates in modern Italian history*	30	M
ITMH6	*Dissertation*	90	M
HSMSR1	*Historical skills and resources*	30	M

(20 credits of this module may be replaced with an Italian language module offered through the IWLP (see below). In which case the remaining 10 credits will be supplied by:

HSMSR2	*Historical skills and resources*	10	M

Language Modules (one 20-credit module to be chosen):

LA1PI1	Italian Level 1	20	C
LA1PI2	Italian Level 2	20	C

Optional Modules (students are required to choose one Optional Module):

HSMIH1	*Napoleonic Italy and its legacies*	30	M
HSMIH2	*The Risorgimento: the view from outside*	30	M
ITMH2	*'Making Italians': the problems of nation building, 1860-1922*	30	M
ITMH3	*Conflict and control: the South, 1860-1945*	30	M
ITMH4	*A 'national revolution'?: Italy 1922-45*	30	M
ITMH5	*Social transformation and political immobility: Italy 1945-92*	30	M

Part-time/Modular arrangements

The programme is 12 months full-time. It can also be taken over two years: in the first year students will do HSMSR1, ITMH1, and one optional module; in the second year, the dissertation.

Progression requirements
N/A

Summary of teaching and assessment

Teaching will be by seminar. Students will be required to make individual presentations on pre-agreed topics as the basis for group discussions. Assessment will be by an assessed essay for each module (approx 5,000 each) and a dissertation of 10,000-15,000 words. HSMSR1 will be assessed by an essay (4,000 words). If 20 credits are taken in IWLP assessment will be by coursework and examination.

The University's taught postgraduate marks classification is as follows:

Mark	Interpretation
70 – 100%	Distinction
60 – 69%	Merit
50 – 59%	Good standard (Pass)
Failing categories	
40 – 49%	Work below threshold standard
0 – 39%	Unsatisfactory Work

For Masters Degrees (180 credits)
To pass the degree of Master students must gain an average mark of 50 or more overall including a mark of 50 or more for the dissertation and have no mark below 40 in the module on *Historical Skills and Resources*. In addition the total credit value of all modules marked below 40 must not exceed 30 credits and for all modules marked below 50 must be less than 60 credits.*

Students who gain an average mark of 70 or more overall including a mark of 60 or more for the dissertation and have no mark below 40 will be eligible for a Distinction. Those gaining an average mark of 60 or more overall including a mark of 50 or more for the dissertation and have no mark below 40 will be awarded eligible for a Merit.

For Postgraduate Diplomas (120 credits)

Students take the following Modules:

Mod Code	Module Title	Credits	Level
HSMSR1	*Historical Skills and Resources (or* HSMSR2 *and language)*	30	M
ITMH1	R*eform, resistance and revolution: key themes and debates in modern Italian history*	30	M
	Two additional options chosen from HSMIH1, HSMIH2, and ITMH2-5	60	M

To pass the Postgraduate Diploma students must gain an average mark of 50 or more and have no mark below 40 in the module on *Historical Skills and Resources*. In addition the total credit value of all modules marked below 40 must not exceed 30 credits and for all modules marked below 50 must be less than 60 credits.*

Students who gain an average mark of 70 or more and have no mark below 40 will be eligible for the award of a Distinction. Those gaining an average mark of 60 or more and have no mark below 40 will be awarded eligible for a Merit.

For Postgraduate Certificates (60 credits)

Mod Code	Module Title	Credits	Level
HSMSR1	*Historical Skills and Resources (or* HSMSR2 *and language)*	30	M
ITMH1	R*eform, resistance and revolution: key themes and debates in modern Italian history*	30	M

To pass the Postgraduate Certificate students must gain an average mark of 50 or more and have no mark below 40 in the module on *Historical Skills and Resources*. In addition the total credit value of all modules marked below 40 must not exceed 10 credits.*

*The provision to permit a candidate to be passed overall with a profile containing marks below 40 is made subject to the condition that there is evidence that the candidate applied himself or herself to the work of those modules with reasonable diligence and has not been absent from the examination without reasonable cause.

Students have the right to one re-sit of any failed element. They may also wish to re-sit a 'failing' element but are not obliged to do so. Taught modules are normally re-examined in September; a failed dissertation is due for re-submission within one year of the original submission date. Candidates presenting themselves for re-examination are not eligible for the award of a Distinction or Merit.

Admission requirements

Entrants to this programme are normally required to have obtained a good first degree. Knowledge of Italian language is not essential, but admission to certain modules may require a good reading knowledge of the language.

Admissions Tutor: Prof Christopher Duggan

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 Programme Directors, the Careers Advisory Service, the University's Special Needs Advisor, Study Advisors, Hall Wardens and the Students' Union. The Library has one of the finest collections in Britain of books and periodicals, in Italian and English, on modern Italian history.

Career prospects

Doctoral research leading to an academic career
Secondary and further education
Librarianship
Archivist
Students who do not wish to pursue a career in which this qualification is a requirement enter many different careers (civil service, commerce, management).

Opportunities for study abroad or for placements

In certain circumstances, and with the agreement of the Programme Director, it may be possible to replace one of the options with an approved module taken at an Italian university.

Educational aims of the programme

- To provide students with a knowledge and understanding of aspects of modern Italian history
- To provide students with the skills and confidence to undertake research in modern Italian history
- To develop the critical and analytical skills of the student
- To develop an understanding of causality and change
- To develop oral and written communicative skills

Programme Outcomes

Knowledge and Understanding

A. Knowledge and understanding of:	**Teaching/learning methods and strategies**
The principal historiographical debates surrounding 19th and 20th century Italian history.	Teaching will be by seminar.
The main political, social, economic and cultural issues relating to selected periods of 19th and 20th century Italian history.	Learning will be through: • the presentation of seminar papers • critical discussion of seminar papers • critical reading of secondary literature • preparation of assessed work
The secondary literature, and where appropriate, the printed primary sources, relating to the chosen period or topic.	The Core HSMSR1 module gives students practical training in the use of archival and other research resources as well as in the skills relevant to historical research and writing.
Practical research methods relating to the chosen areas of study.	The Dissertation will enable students to develop their research skills and their critical understanding of an area relating to their Optional Module.
	Assessment
	HSMSR1 will be assessed by an essay (4,000 words).
	All other modules will be assessed by an essay of approx 5,000 words.
	The Dissertation will be of 10,000-15,000 words and should be submitted by 20 September.

B. Intellectual skills – able to:	**Teaching/learning methods and strategies**
Show a good understanding of the main themes and historiographical debates in 19th and 20th century Italian history. To use secondary literature critically to support their own arguments and views. To develop a reasoned and empirically well founded approach to the subject matter of their chosen module. To present a coherently argued and well structured defence of their views and interpretations.	Teaching will be by seminar. Learning will be through: • the presentation of seminar papers • critical discussion of seminar papers • critical reading of secondary literature • preparation of assessed work The Core HSMSR1 module will give students the skills needs to carry out independent enquiry and research. The Dissertation will enable students to develop their research skills and their critical understanding of an area relating to their Optional Module. *Assessment* HSMSR1 will be assessed by an essay (4,000 words). All other modules will be assessed by an essay of approx 5,000 words. The Dissertation will be of 10,000-15,000 words and should be submitted by 20 September.

Teaching will be by seminar.

Learning will be through:
- the presentation of seminar papers
- critical discussion of seminar papers
- critical reading of secondary literature
- preparation of assessed work

The Core HSMSR1 module will give students the skills needs to carry out independent enquiry and research.

The Dissertation will enable students to develop their research skills and their critical understanding of an area relating to their Optional Module.

Assessment

HSMSR1 will be assessed by an essay (4,000 words).

All other modules will be assessed by an essay of approx 5,000 words.

The Dissertation will be of 10,000-15,000 words and should be submitted by 20 September.

C. Practical skills – able to:

Read and evaluate a variety of secondary sources (and, where required, printed primary sources) in English and Italian.

Use research facilities such as the library, archives and the internet appropriately.

Organise and focus their own learning and intellectual development.

Plan and write a dissertation.

Teaching/learning methods and strategies

The Core HSMSR1 module will enable students to acquire practical skills in empirical research methods and strategies using the library and IT resources.

The other modules will enable students to implement their research skills.

The Dissertation will enable students to prepare, plan and write a sustained piece of original research.

Assessment

HSMSR1 will be assessed by an essay (4,000 words).

All other modules will be assessed by an essay of approx 5,000 words.

The Dissertation will be of 10,000-15,000 words and should be submitted by 20 September.

D. Transferable skills – able to:	**Teaching/learning methods and strategies**
Argue clearly and logically both in writing and in speaking.	Students read, analyse and discuss a wide variety of texts and issues for seminars and essays.
Use empirical evidence effectively to support arguments.	Undertake directed and independent research.
Analyse and evaluate data from a variety of sources.	Seminar presentations and written essays wil develop student abilities to present information and analysis in oral and written form.
Be aware of different possible causes and explanations of change.	Students are introduced to a broad range of research resources.
Develop postgraduate level study, research and writing skills.	Possibilities for further postgraduate study at PhD level are discussed where appropriate.
	Assessment
	HSMSR1 will be assessed by an essay (4,000 words).
	All other modules will be assessed by an essay of approx 5,000 words.
	The Dissertation will be of 10,000-15,000 words and should be submitted by 20 September.

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.