

BA Ancient History and History
For students entering Part 1 in 2008/9

UCAS code: V117

Awarding Institution:	University of Reading
Teaching Institution:	University of Reading
Relevant QAA subject Benchmarking group(s):	Classics & Ancient History; History
Faculty:	Faculty of Arts and Humanities
Programme length:	3 years
Date of specification:	12/Aug/2009
Programme Director:	Dr David Carter
Programme Advisor:	Dr David Stack
Board of Studies:	Classics
Accreditation:	

Summary of programme aims

This joint degree aims to provide a thorough degree level education in History and Ancient History. The syllabus aims to familiarise students with the core chronological and geographical range of Greek and Roman cultures, and to explore the broad sweep of post-classical history through study of Britain, Europe and the United States. Students are also able to study thematic topics in depth and develop special interests through independent study and the dissertation. Students will expand the range, depth and sophistication of their knowledge of History and Ancient History through the structured progression of Parts 1, 2, and 3 of the programme.

Transferable skills

During the course of their studies at Reading, all students will be expected to enhance their academic and personal transferable skills in line with the University's Strategy for Learning and Teaching. In following this programme, students will have had the opportunity to develop such skills, in particular relating to communication, interpersonal skills, learning skills, numeracy, self-management, use of IT and problem-solving, and will have been encouraged to further develop and enhance the full set of skills through a variety of opportunities available outside their curriculum.

History is a discipline that lends itself 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. History also prompts an awareness of numeracy through chronology, periodisation, and basic quantification. In addition, students utilise the powerful tools of research, analysis, and presentation associated with information technology 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. In Part 1 students normally take 40 credits in Classics and 40 credits in History. The remaining credits can be made up from any optional modules and/or from modules elsewhere in the University. In Parts 2 and 3 students normally take a minimum of 60 credits in both subjects in each Part.

Part 1 introduces students to the study of both Greek and Roman Civilisations and post-classical history, with a particular emphasis upon the development of the study of primary sources and source criticism, alongside the development of historical writing skills to explore specific historical topics. Part 2 develops the student's knowledge of chronological ranges within both Ancient and Modern History and in Part 3 there is an increasing specialisation and progression to approach topics in greater depth through the provision of optional modules and the opportunity to research a dissertation topic in depth. Students take 120 credits per year. In consultation with their programme adviser, they may choose to take up to 20 credits each year from modules available elsewhere in the University.

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)

Compulsory modules

CL1CA	The Civilization of Fifth-Century Athens	20	C
CL1CB	Rome in the Augustan Age	20	C
HS1APH	Approaches to History	20	C
HS1LMH	Landmarks in History	20	C

Optional module

CL1GM Greek Myths 20 C

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

HS1DSH Directed Study in History } corequisites 20 C

Part 2 (three terms)

Compulsory modules

<i>Mod Code</i>	<i>Module Title</i>	<i>Credits</i>	<i>Level</i>
CL2CMS	Career Management Skills	5	I

In Part 2, students will normally take a minimum of 60 credits in each subject

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)

CL2GH Greek History 20 I

CL2RR Roman Republic 20 I

CL2RE Roman Empire 20 I

Optional modules: A complete list of optional modules is available from the Programme Director, 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 MC1AM, MC20A, MC3OA, MC3MT, and PP2PA, which are cross-listed modules.

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

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

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.

Compulsory dissertation

Either

CL3DS Dissertation 40 H
in Classics

Or

HS3HLD Dissertation 40 H
in History

In Classics (40 credits)

A complete list of optional modules is available from the Programme Director, 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, MC3OA, MC3MT, and PP2PA, which are cross-listed modules.

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

In History (40 credits)

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

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 the module CL1CA and at least 40% in the module CL1CB, and obtain marks of at least 40% in the modules HS1APH or HS1LMH or HS1DSH. 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.

To proceed from Part 2 to Part 3 students should achieve an overall average of 40% in 120 credits taken in the examination. 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 delivered by a mixture of lectures and seminars in Parts 1 and 2 and with a greater emphasis on seminars in Part 3. The dissertation in Part 3 comprises a piece of work based on supervised independent study. Modules are assessed by a mixture of coursework and examination. 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 Ancient History is required for admission.

Entrants to this programme are normally required to have obtained:

Grade C or better in English in GCSE; and achieved

UCAS Tariff: 300 points from 3 A2 and 1 A/S level or 280 points from 3 A2 levels.

International Baccalaureate: 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

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 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, School Senior Tutors, the Students' Union, the Medical Practice and the Student Services Centre. The Student Services Centre is housed in the Carrington Building and includes the Careers Advisory Service, the Disability Advisory Service, Accommodation Advisory Team, Student Financial Support, Counselling and Study Advisors. Student Services has a Helpdesk available for enquiries made in person or online, or by calling the central enquiry number on (0118) 378 5555. Students can get key information and guidance from the team of Helpdesk Advisers, or make an appointment with a specialist adviser; Student Services also offer drop-in sessions on everything from accommodation to finance. The Carrington Building is open between 8:30 and 17:30 Monday to Thursday (17:00 Friday and during vacation

periods). Further information can be found in the Student Diary (given to students at enrolment) or on the Student website.

Handbooks are provided to students. They are also available on the internet at <http://www.reading.ac.uk:80/AcaDepts/lh/History/history.htm>. The Departmental Libraries contain a range of reference works which can be used by students and offer congenial study spaces. In History, students are supported and advised by the Director of Teaching and Learning. 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.

The Department of Classics is the Curator of the Ure Museum of Greek Archaeology.

Career prospects

Graduates in Ancient History and History have found that their degree course has been a good basis for careers in management, administration, the civil service, commerce, law, publishing, librarianship and teaching.

Graduates have also gone onto postgraduate courses within the fields of History or the Classics at Reading and elsewhere.

Opportunities for study abroad or for placements

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 also encouraged to apply to the British School at Athens, where they may take a module for credit, or the British School at Rome.

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:

1. The history and political and social organisation of a range of cultures, both classical and modern.
2. a diverse range of primary materials as defined by period and culture.
3. a range of problems of interpretation and evaluation of both primary and secondary materials,
4. a range of techniques and methodologies and the nature of debate and dispute in historical writing.

Teaching/learning methods and strategies

Knowledge and understanding are gained through formal teaching (lectures, seminars, and individual essay feedback), recommended reading, and the writing of essays and a dissertation.

Assessment

Most knowledge is tested through a combination of coursework and formal examination. The Dissertation and oral presentations also contribute.

Skills and other attributes

B. Intellectual skills - able to:

1. 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.
2. Accumulate and apply information and

Teaching/learning methods and strategies

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, portfolio, and dissertation preparation, the research and analytical skills are reinforced which are necessary to form

perspective in a structured manner.

3. Identify and appreciate the forces which generate historical change.
4. Negotiate both primary and secondary sources in history, and demonstrate how they inter-relate.

C. Practical skills - able to:

1. gather, organise and deploy evidence and information, and to show awareness of the consequences of the unavailability of evidence,
2. develop the capacity for critical judgement in the light of evidence and argument,
3. select and apply appropriate methodologies in assessing the meaning and significance of evidence or data,
4. use bibliographical and library research tools effectively.
5. Use IT to access sources and information relating to a subject.
6. Engage in group discussion and debate on historical issues.
7. Develop a critical self-awareness as a working historian.

D. Transferable skills - able to:

1. deploy a range of IT resources effectively,
2. present material orally in a clear and effective manner,
3. present material in a written form, with discrimination and lucidity in the use of language, professional referencing, and clear layout,
4. work creatively, flexibly and adaptably with others,
5. write and think under pressure and to meet deadlines.
6. Show a competence in numeracy within the parameters of the subject.
7. Assess aptitudes in preparation for a career.

and to validate arguments and judgements.

Assessment

Essay and portfolio 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. The Dissertation represents the evaluation of personal research and creative interpretation.

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. 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

These skills are assessed by means of coursework and examinations, as well as in the dissertation

Teaching/learning methods and strategies

In lectures and seminars and applied in self-study and writing of assignments

Assessment

These skills are assessed by means of 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 process or external sources, such as professional bodies, requires a change to be made. In such circumstances, a revised specification will be issued.