

**BA Film & Theatre**  
**For students entering Part 1 in 2008/9**

**UCAS code: W480**

Awarding Institution:	University of Reading
Teaching Institution:	University of Reading
Relevant QAA subject Benchmarking group(s):	Dance, Drama and Performance Studies; Communications, Media, Film and Cultural Studies
Faculty:	Arts and Humanities Faculty
Programme length:	3 years
Date of specification:	10/Aug/2010
Programme Director:	Dr John Gibbs
Programme Advisor:	Ms Lib Taylor
Board of Studies:	Film, Theatre and Television
Accreditation:	

**Summary of programme aims**

The central aim of the programme is to develop students' critical understanding of film and modern theatre as cultural forms in their own right and in terms of their historical relationships. Students will become familiar with the varied achievements of film and theatre practitioners, developing critical skills through close study of films, plays and theatre performances, underpinned by debates and theories which have influenced analysis of theatre and cinema. Students also undertake practical work, closely informed by critical issues ('critical practice'), which is designed both to extend understanding of how film and theatre create meaning, and to develop appropriate practical expertise.

**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, 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.

**Programme content**

Each Part of the degree comprises 120 credits. At Part 1 students will normally take Course A and Course B. Students taking Course B only may be admitted to the degree but will be ineligible for the critical practice modules. Course B may be taken either as 40 credits (in which case students will take FT1CHA only) or as 60 credits. For students taking Course B as 40 credits, the remaining credits can be made up from modules available elsewhere in the University. In Parts 2 and 3, up to 20 credits can be taken from modules available elsewhere in the University.

**Part 1 (three terms)**

*Compulsory modules*

FT1CHA	Introduction to Film and Theatre	40	C
FT1PFT	Critical Practice in Film & Theatre	60	C

Part One (three terms) Certificate Level Credits Level

Course A

Compulsory module:

FT1PFT	Critical Practice in Film & Theatre	60	C
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Course B

Compulsory module:

FT1CHA	Introduction to Film and Theatre	40	C
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Optional module:

FT1TFC	Introduction to Television Studies	20	C
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## Part 2 (three terms)

### Compulsory modules

<i>Mod Code</i>	<i>Module Title</i>	<i>Credits</i>	<i>Level</i>
FT2US1A	US Cinema 1	20	I
FT2US1B	US Cinema 1	10	I
FT2BTA	British Theatre	20	I
FT2BTB	British Theatre	10	I
FT2AFA	Alternative Forms in Film & Theatre	20	I
FT2AFB	Alternative Forms in Film & Theatre	10	I
FT2PO	Practical Option	30	I
FT2CMS	Career Management Skills	5	I

Part 2 (three terms) Intermediate level Credits Level

### Compulsory modules

FT2USIA +B	Studies in US Cinema I	20 + 10	I
FT2BTA + B	Studies in British Theatre	20 + 10	I
FT2AFA+B	Alternative Forms in Film and Theatre	20 + 10	I

Students taking the programme with critical practice will normally take:

FT2PO	Practical Option	30	I
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Students taking the programme without critical practice will normally take:

FT2IP	Second Year Independent Project	20 + 10	I
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### Optional Module

FT2BP	Bulmershe Production	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.

10 credit modules MUST be taken together with a relevant 20 credit module.

Students wishing to take a 20 credit Faculty module will take two of the Film & Theatre critical modules as 20 credits each.

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 will normally take either:

FT3PO	Independent Project	40	H
[various]	Critical Option	20 + 20	H
[various]	Critical Option	20 + 20	H
Or			

Or

FT3DISS	Dissertation	40	H
[various]	Critical Option	20 + 20	H

[various]      Critical Option      20 + 20      H

Each Critical Option comprises 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      Bulmershe Production      10      H

Notes

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

Students taking a 20 credit module from outside the programme will substitute this for one 20 credit critical option module with the suffix 'B'.

### **Progression requirements**

In order to progress from Part 1 to Part 2, a student shall normally be required to:

1. Obtain an overall average of 40% in 120 credits taken in Part 1, where all the credits are at C level or above; and
2. Obtain a mark of at least 30% in individual modules amounting to not less than 100 credits taken in Part 1; and
3. Obtain marks of at least 40% in all compulsory modules.

In order to progress from Part 2 to Part 3, a student shall normally be required to:

1. Obtain an overall average of 40% in 120 credits taken in Part 2; and
2. Obtain a mark of at least 30% in individual modules amounting to not less than 100 credits taken in Part 2;
3. Students intending to take the Practical Option in Part 3 must obtain a mark of at least 40% in the related Practical Option, including a grade of 40% in the practical component of the module.

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

Teaching styles are varied to encourage active engagement by students, to encourage independence and foster initiative and effective time management. Interaction in seminars is central to the programme and weekly seminars are common to all critical modules, with lectures designed to provide informing perspectives for the module and for individual seminars. Theatre visits are integral to the programme. Practical modules are taught through group and individual projects, based on workshops, group work and tutorials. The Dissertation and Independent Project modules in Part 3 are supported by individual supervision. Assessment of critical modules is by coursework, which includes formal essays as well as other written assignments such as take-away exam questions. In practical modules assessment is by a combination of practical work and critical documentation. 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

University-wide classification criteria are explained in the *Framework for the Classification and Progression of First Degrees (Post-2002 Structure)*.

### **Admission requirements**

A minimum of 300 points from 3 full A Levels. These must include a Grade B (or better) in at least one of the following subjects: English Literature, Drama, Theatre Studies, Film Studies.

As an alternative 340 points from A Levels and no more than two AS Levels. The full A Levels must include a Grade B (or better) in at least one of the following subjects: English Literature, Drama, Theatre Studies, Film Studies.

**Admissions Tutor:** Dr Ashley Thorpe and 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, School Senior Tutors, the Students' Union, the Medical Practice and the Student Services Directorate. The Student Services Directorate 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 ([www.risisweb.reading.ac.uk](http://www.risisweb.reading.ac.uk)), 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 website ([www.reading.ac.uk/student](http://www.reading.ac.uk/student)).

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, in addition to various forms of verbal feedback in the context of the seminars, tutorials and workshops. Academic and personal support for students in their studies is also provided through the University's personal tutor system, in which students meet their personal tutors regularly to review their progress. This is supported by the University's Personal Development Planning (PDP) scheme. From a highly structured introduction in Part 1, in Parts 2 and 3 students take increasing responsibility for their learning and module choice. In practical work the move to individual projects is supported by detailed supervision and advice. The Department has a range of film/video viewing rooms and specialist studio and theatre spaces for practical drama, together with 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 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 Film & Theatre degree provides graduates with a range of communication, analytical, practical and social skills esteemed by many employers. A number of graduates each year go on to further professional training, academic study and research.

### **Opportunities for study abroad or for placements**

#### **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. Film and theatre texts from a range of national and cultural contexts, mainly produced between the late nineteenth century and the present day.
2. A variety of genres and approaches to filmmaking and theatre.
3. Methods of critical analysis appropriate to film and theatre
4. Ways in which theatre and film have informed each other historically
5. Ways in which social, cultural and historical contexts inform theatre and film/television texts
6. A range of critical and theoretical approaches in Film and Theatre studies.
7. Selected special fields of film, television and theatre
8. Methods and skills of small scale film/video and theatre production
9. How critical and theoretical perspectives can inform practical work.

Knowledge and understanding of 1-7 are gained through formal teaching (lectures, seminars), feedback on coursework, required and recommended reading and viewing, and the writing of essays and other assignments. 8 and 9 are based on group and individual practical work with accompanying documentation, under staff supervision, Part 1 offers an introduction to critical and historical study of film and theatre, and to 'critical practice'. Part 2 extends understanding and skills acquired in Part 1 in more selected areas of study through seminars, lectures, individual feedback and supervised individual and group practical work. Part 3 includes very challenging areas of theory and practice, as well as requiring students to undertake, under individual supervision, an independent practical project or dissertation.

#### *Assessment*

In Part 1, knowledge and understanding are tested through a combination of essays, take-away examinations, and group practical work with accompanying documentation. In Part 2, assessment is through written coursework, including essays and takeaway exams plus individual and group practical work with documentation and may include assessed presentations. Part 3 contains the same range of assessment but is characterised by the large scale challenge of dissertation or independent practical project.

### **Skills and other attributes**

#### **B. Intellectual skills - *able to:***

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 ideas and those of others
5. Apply conceptual frameworks and methods of analysis to new contexts and material
6. Ability to integrate critical thinking with creative work

#### **Teaching/learning methods and strategies**

Intellectual skills are acquired through independent reading and viewing (1), preparation for and discussion in seminars and workshops, essay writing (1, 2, 3, 4, 5), essay feedback (2, 3 and 4, 5), supervised practical work and documentation (5 and 6).

#### *Assessment*

1 - 3 are assessed both formatively and summatively in coursework essays and take-away exams. 1- 4 are assessed formatively through seminar discussion and essay feedback. 5 and 6 are assessed formatively and summatively through practical work supervision and documentation of practical projects. Formative assessments are for the guidance of the students, and do not contribute to the module mark.

#### **C. Practical skills - *able to:***

1. The ability to criticise 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. Research skills

#### **Teaching/learning methods and strategies**

1 - 5 are developed in seminars, workshops, written coursework and feedback on coursework. 6 - 8 are developed through practical work and feedback on practice and associated documentation. 9 is developed through feedback on group and individual presentations.

4. A knowledge of appropriate conventions in the presentation of written work
5. An ability to relate the study of Film and Theatre to cultural and social issues
6. Basic skills of video and theatre production
7. An ability to express critical understanding through exploratory practice in either film/video or drama/theatre
8. An ability to evaluate practice in the light of critical study
9. Presentation skills

**D. Transferable skills - *able to:***

*Assessment*

1 - 5 are assessed through formative and summative written coursework. 1 - 2 and 4 - 5 are also tested in take-away exams. 6 - 7 are assessed both formatively and summatively through practical work , and 8 through documentation accompanying practical work. 9, where appropriate, is assessed formatively and summatively through presentation and summatively through documentation accompanying presentations. Formative assessments are for the guidance of the students, and do not contribute to the module mark.

**Teaching/learning methods and strategies**

Transferable skills are developed through seminar discussions , seminar presentations, preparation and writing of written assignments, feedback on written work, and take-away exams (1 - 5, 9, 10). 5 - 8 are developed particularly through group and individual practical assignments, which also demand the skills listed as 9 and 10. We require that all essays and documentation after Term 1 are word-processed (10).

*Assessment*

1 - 5 and 10 are formatively assessed through written coursework and seminar presentations, and summatively assessed through coursework and take-away exams. 5 - 9 are expressed in and affect the formative and summative assessment of practical projects. Formative assessments are for the guidance of the students, and do not contribute to the module mark.

**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.**