

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

UCAS code: LV11

| | |
|---|-----------------------------|
| Awarding Institution: | University of Reading |
| Teaching Institution: | University of Reading |
| Relevant QAA subject Benchmarking group(s): | History; Economics |
| Faculty: | Arts and Humanities Faculty |
| Programme length: | 3 years |
| Date of specification: | 19/Aug/2010 |
| Programme Director: | Dr Emily West |
| Programme Advisor: | Dr Simon Burke |
| Board of Studies: | History |
| Accreditation: | |

Summary of programme aims

The History element of the syllabus aims to familiarise students with an extremely broad chronological range, whilst providing them with the opportunity of specialisation in particular periods and topics of British, European and American history. It also enables students to pursue their own interests through independent study and a substantial dissertation. Using a variety of approaches to the study of history, students will develop the ability to analyse change over time, to understand the nature of causal relationships, and to handle comparative, cross-cultural and abstract concepts. Additionally, students will refine the following subject-based skills: the collection and synthesis of large quantities of information; the critical evaluation of primary and secondary sources; the making of well-crafted and substantial judgements, and engagement in debate on historical issues. The Economics element of the programme aims to provide a thorough degree level education in the subject. It focuses on coverage of economic principles and their relevant application: the areas of economic principles are compulsory in the second part of the degree, and relevant applications are compulsory in the third part. Students taking the degree will thus acquire a good knowledge and appreciation of the basic elements of economic theory and of relevant uses and applications.

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 which 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, the development of powerful tools of research, analysis, and presentation associated with information technology is reflected 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. Economics reinforces many of these skills, particularly numeracy and the use of IT. In addition, it induces business awareness, and an understanding of important features of decision making, such as uncertainty, constraints and opportunity cost.

Programme content

Each Part comprises 120 credits. In Part I, 40 credits must normally be taken in History and 40 in Economics. The remaining credits can be made up from any optional modules and/or from modules 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 establishes the foundations for study in both disciplines. Part 2 contains a broad focus as students study broad periods of History and also modules on microeconomics and macroeconomics. In Part 3 the programme focuses upon the study of specific topics in depth through the History Options and Special Subject and the Economics Options. The Dissertation requires independent research.

Economics Part 1 deals with the microeconomic and macroeconomic foundations of the subject. These are developed in more depth in Part 2. In Part 3, choice over a range of options is available to explore specific sub-disciplines and/or applications.

Part 2

(three terms)

Compulsory modules (60 credits)

Students must take two Period group modules (one Early and one Modern) (20 credits each) with their co-requisite skills modules (10 credits each), totalling 60 credits in all. A complete list of options is available from the BA Programme Coordinator, and a list of current options can be found in the BA Programme Handbook. Of the 120 credits in Part 2, 5 are taken up by Career Management Skills (HS2CMS).

Part 1 (three terms)

Compulsory modules

| | | | |
|--------|-----------------------------|----|---|
| EC1F1A | Introductory Microeconomics | 20 | C |
| EC1F1B | Introductory Macroeconomics | 20 | C |
| HS1APH | Approaches to History | 20 | C |
| HS1LMH | Landmarks in History | 20 | C |

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

| | | | |
|--------|---------------------------|----|---|
| HS1DSH | Directed Study in History | 20 | 4 |
|--------|---------------------------|----|---|

Part 2 (three terms)

Compulsory modules

| | | | |
|--------|--------------------------|----|---|
| EC201A | Microeconomics I.1 | 20 | 5 |
| EC201B | Microeconomics I.2 | 10 | 5 |
| EC202A | Macroeconomics I.1 | 20 | 5 |
| EC202B | Macroeconomics I.2 | 10 | 5 |
| HS2CMS | Career Management Skills | 5 | 5 |

In History

Students must take two Period group modules (one Early and one Modern) (20 credits each) with their co-requisite skills modules (10 credits each), totalling 60 credits in all. A complete list of options is available from the BA Programme Coordinator, and a list of current options can be found in the BA Programme Handbook. Of the 120 credits in Part 2, 5 are taken up by Career Management Skills (HS2CMS).

Part 3 (three terms)

Compulsory modules

| <i>Mod Code</i> | <i>Module Title</i> | <i>Credits</i> | <i>Level</i> |
|-----------------|-------------------------------|----------------|--------------|
| HS3HSD | Short Dissertation in History | 20 | H |

Optional modules

Students choose either two optional 20- credit Topic modules or a Special Subject consisting of two co-requisite 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.

In the Department of Economics (60 credits):

Students choose optional modules in Economics to total 60 credits.

| | | | |
|--------|----------------------|----|---|
| EC308A | Business Economics 1 | 20 | 6 |
| EC308B | Business Economics 2 | 10 | 6 |

| | | | |
|--------|--|----|---|
| EC311A | International Economics 1 | 20 | 6 |
| EC311B | International Economics 2 | 10 | 6 |
| EC312A | Economics of Development 1 | 20 | 6 |
| EC312B | Economics of Development 2 | 10 | 6 |
| EC314A | Public Economics 1 | 20 | 6 |
| EC314B | Public Economics 2 | 10 | 6 |
| EC316A | European Economic Integration 1 | 20 | 6 |
| EC316B | European Economic Integration 2 | 10 | 6 |
| EC320A | Money & Banking 1 | 20 | 6 |
| EC320B | Money & Banking 2 | 10 | 6 |
| EC324A | European Urban & Regional Economics 1 | 20 | 6 |
| EC324B | European Urban & Regional Economics | 10 | 6 |
| EC328A | Economics of Land, Development & Planning 1 | 20 | 6 |
| EC337A | Processes of Long Term Political and Economic Change 1 | 20 | 6 |
| EC337B | Processes of Long Term Political and Economic Change 2 | 10 | 6 |

Progression requirements

To progress from part one to part two, students must:

1. achieve an overall average of 40% over the 120 credits taken in Part 1, and
2. obtain at least 40% in each compulsory module, and
3. achieve a mark of at least 30% in modules representing a total of at least 100 credits.

Candidates who take only 20 credits in History may progress to a joint History degree so long as they achieve 40% in their history module.

To progress from Part 2 to Part 3 a student must:

achieve an overall weighted average of at least 40% across all Part 2 modules totalling 120 credits; achieve not less than 30% in any History module except that marks of less than 30% in a total of 20 credits may 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.

achieve an overall weighted average of at least 40% in Economics modules totalling 60 credits; achieve not less than 35% in any Economics module at Part 2 (i.e. no marks of less than 35% will be condoned). A mark (or marks) of 35 – 39% will be permitted in Economics modules totalling a maximum of 20 credits.

Summary of teaching and assessment

In History at Part 1, teaching is by large group lectures reinforced by seminars of c. 15 students, and for those taking the Directed Study, individual supervision is provided. At Parts 2 and 3, it is principally by seminars, of around 25 students in Periods, 15 in Topics, and 10 in Special Subjects. At all levels, independent research is expected and encouraged. It is most apparent and significant in the Dissertation, although individual supervisory support is also provided. All Parts are assessed by a mixture of coursework and timed examination. The Part 2 Skills in Periods modules are based solely on coursework, while the Dissertation includes a substantial element of oral presentation.

In Economics, teaching is organised in modules. The delivery of material varies across modules, especially in the proportions of time allocated to lectures, and to classes and seminars. All modules involve coursework, which takes a variety of forms. Final assessment normally involves a written examination, and may also incorporate coursework marks; the maximum proportion of a final module mark allocated to coursework is 20%, other than in special cases.

The conventions for classification are included in the Handbook but you should note that weighting between Part 2 and Part 3 for classification purposes is 33% and 67%.

Admission requirements

UCAS Tariff: 300 points from three A levels only. History at Grade B. Total points exclude Key Skills and General Studies.

International Baccalaureate: 32 points, with History at grade 6 or Advanced GNVQ: 18 units at Distinction overall; or Scottish and Irish Highers: 5 Bs or equivalent thereof.

Those with non-standard qualifications will be considered on an individual basis.

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.

Admissions Tutor: Dr Anne Lawrence-Mathers

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), 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).

In the School of History, students are provided with handbooks which outline the programme, provide guidance on study skills, and contain information on staff, facilities and sources of specialised help within the University. They are also available on the internet at, <http://www.reading.ac.uk:80/AcaDepts/lh/History/history.htm>. Additional support is given through orientation sessions on module choices and on the Dissertation. Advice is also given by the BA Programme Coordinator. There is 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. There is also a School Resource Room which provides quiet study space, a photocopier and networked computers.

The Department of Economics provides handbooks that outline programme and module content. Guidance on personal and academic matters is provided by the personal tutor. In addition to lecture and class time, each module lecturer has appointed office hours during which they may be consulted without prior appointment. Liaison Officers for both History and Economics coordinate the programme.

Career prospects

Graduates with a degree in History and Economics are trained in clear thinking, research skills, diligence, independence, adaptability and the ability to understand people and situations in the world at large. Past graduates have used their degree as a springboard for various areas of employment such as law, publishing, librarianship, museum work, teaching, social work, retailing, marketing, sales, and computing, while others go into the civil service and local government. Many pursue jobs in the business world, entering banking, finance, accountancy, retailing, marketing and sales. Several graduates also go on to postgraduate study in either History or Economics, both at MA and PhD level at Reading and elsewhere.

Opportunities for study abroad or for placements

Students have the opportunity to spend a period of study abroad (normally in Part 2) as part of the Socrates scheme.

Programme Outcomes

The programme provides opportunities for students to develop and demonstrate knowledge and understanding, skills, qualities and abilities in the following areas:

Knowledge and Understanding

A. Knowledge and understanding of:

1. The broad sweep of post-classical history and its principal divisions;
2. A range of eras and cultures, within a degree structure flexible enough to allow breadth or specialisation;
3. The contextualisation of forces, events, and individual experiences in the historical process;
4. The nature and variety of historical sources as defined by period and culture;
5. The nature of debate and dispute in historical writing;
6. The fundamental concepts at the core of economic knowledge comprising microeconomics and macroeconomics;
7. Empirical studies in economics, using statistical and other methods;
8. How to integrate and apply economic concepts to real world problems and issues.

Teaching/learning methods and strategies

Formal lectures, classes and practical sessions, supported by directed and assessed self-study. Feedback and guidance are an important part of the process for all three years of study. Students undertake project work and write essays, in which they learn to apply economic concepts to relevant real world issues. In the History component, the importance of both primary and secondary texts is registered throughout the degree, beginning with the Approaches module and culminating in the Dissertation.

Assessment

Courses are assessed through a combination of coursework and both seen and unseen examinations. Feedback is provided on assessed work. The Dissertation is supervised and is also assessed in a viva voce examination.

Skills and other attributes

B. Intellectual skills - *able to:*

1. Structure, analyse and solve problems;
2. Think laterally and explore alternative solutions;
3. Comprehend the evolving state of knowledge in the degree subject areas.
4. Suggest, organise, collect relevant data and compile a report or an analysis on an economic or a historical issue.
5. Negotiate both primary and second sources and be able to demonstrate how they inter-relate;
6. Develop creative intelligence in independent research and interpretation.

Teaching/learning methods and strategies

Substantive problems are illustrated in lectures and smaller groups. Essays, project work and problem sets provide related opportunities for problem solving. Lectures supported by essays and discussions provide the basis of ensuring the accumulating knowledge base becomes comprehensible. Through essay, project, and dissertation preparation, the research and analytical skills are reinforced which are necessary to form and to validate arguments and judgements.

Assessment

Skills are assessed through examination questions, essays, project work and problem sets. The Dissertation represents both the evaluation of personal research and creative interpretation.

C. Practical skills - *able to:*

1. Develop and carry out individual research programmes and strategies;
2. Locate and synthesise large quantities of material;
3. Collect and critically evaluate the major literature on a topic;
4. Obtain data, to use them, and to assess the empirical work of others that use economic data;
5. Use computerised tools for the purposes of research and learning;
6. Draw on the knowledge base in economics and economic research methods to suggest ways to solve problems;
7. Engage in group discussion and debate.

Teaching/learning methods and strategies

Practical issues are illustrated in lectures and classes, reinforced by, essays and project work, and by problem sets in Economics. The tasks required of students involve library and computerised searches to collect references and data, and to use them to complete practical tasks within set deadlines. The Skills in Periods modules consist of various appropriate exercises aimed to promote, amongst other things, research, IT and referencing skills. Seminars encourage group work and discussion. Feedback on an individual basis combined with the University's personal tutor system encourages constructive self-criticism.

Assessment

Assessment is through essays and project work and a Dissertation that contains an element of oral assessment.

D. Transferable skills - able to:

1. Use IT, including word processing, data exchange, graphics, spreadsheets and other such software, and the conduct of web site searches;
2. Communicate orally and in writing;
3. Work as part of a team;
4. Use library and web-based resources effectively;
5. Organise project work from beginning to completion;
6. Manage time to achieve goals.

Teaching/learning methods and strategies

The learning of IT is encouraged through web site searches, use of library resources, and the presentation of word processed documents including graphics displays in Economics. Oral presentations are required at several points in the programme. Preparation for these presentations require working as part of a team at several points in the second and third years. Good time management is essential to organising a timetable to complete essays and project work.

Assessment

Assessment is through the production of essays and project work, and through the critical evaluation of presentation performances.

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.