BA History and Politics   **UCAS code: VLD2**
For students entering Part 1 in 2008/9

Awarding Institution: University of Reading
Teaching Institution: University of Reading
Relevant QAA subject Benchmarking group(s):   History and Politics
Faculty: Arts and Humanities Faculty
Programme length: 3 years
Date of specification: 17/Aug/2010
Programme Director: Dr Emily West
Programme Advisor: Dr Jeremy Lester
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.
In Politics, the programme aims to give students an appreciation of the normative, methodological and institutional issues involved in the study of politics in relation to one of the three main subfields of the discipline: political philosophy, comparative government and international relations. Students focus on comparative government and/or political theory compulsory modules, and associated optional modules. Students select modules from across the range available.
The programme provides a supportive learning environment with full access to welfare, pastoral and careers support.

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 and Politics are disciplines that lend themselves to critical judgement and problem-solving, both through personal engagement with issues and through dialogue and group discussion. Students are encouraged to defend and to challenge established positions through the collection, collation and analysis of substantial quantities of material, the rigour of argument, and effective communication and presentation. The disciplines also prompt an awareness of numeracy through chronology, periodisation, and basic quantification. The programme develops students' familiarity with information technology in the production and presentation of their work and develops their skills in using computers for the location and retrieval of bibliographic and source material, accessing sophisticated databases and exploiting the internet.

Programme content

Each Part comprises 120 credits. In Part 1 the remaining credits can be made up from any optional modules and/or from modules elsewhere in the University. In Part 2 students must normally take 60 credits in both subjects, and in Part 3 students take 40 credits in each subject plus a dissertation, in one subject or the other, of 40 credits.
Not all optional modules will necessarily be available in any one year. Admission to optional modules will be at the discretion of the Programme Director.

Part 1 (three terms)
Compulsory modules

HS1APH   Approaches to History   20   C

HS1LMH	Landmarks in History	20	C
PO1IPI	Introduction to Political Ideas	20	C
PO1IRS	Politics: International Relations and Strategic Studies	20	C
PO1MOG	Modern Government	20	C

Optional module which may only be taken if the compulsory modules are also studied
HS1DSH Directed Study in History 20 C

Part 2 (three terms)
Compulsory modules

Mod Code	Module Title	Credits	Level
PO2SOP	The Study of Politics	20	I
HS2CMS	Career Management Skills	5	I

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).

Either
PO2 CGP Comparative Government (Established States) 20 I
PO2 CGC Comparative Government (New States) 10 I
Or
PO2 PHC Political Classics 20 I
PO2 PHI Political Philosophy 10 I
Or
PO2 MIR Modern International Relations 20 I
PO2 NIA New International Agenda 10 I
Options (one of)
PO2 AFG African Govt and Politics 20 I
PO2 AMG American Govt and Politics 20 I
PO2 BGP British Govt and Politics 20 I
PO2 EPI European Political Integration 20 I
PO2 RGP Russian Govt and Politics 20 I

Part 3 (three terms)
Compulsory modules

Students must choose a 40-credit dissertation module.

PO3DIS	Dissertation in Politics	40	6
or			
HS3HLD	Dissertation in History	40	6

In History: Optional modules
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.

In Politics: Students choose two 20 credit modules, one from each of the following lists.

PO3CSS	Introduction to Critical Security Studies	20	6
PO3DDP	Democracy and Democracy Promotion	20	6
PO3EUS	20European Security	20	6

PO3INT	Intelligence, War and International Relations	20	6
PO3ITE	International Terrorism	20	6
PO3MEA	Politics and International Relations of the Middle East	20	6
PO3PIE	Politics of the International Economy	20	6
PO3STH	Strategic Theory	20	6
PO3SWW	Strategy in the Two World Wars	20	6
PO3UNI	UN and International World Order	20	6
PO3WPE	War, Peace and International Relations	20	6
PO3BFD	British and Foreign Defence Policy since 1945	20	6
PO3FPT	Feminism and Political Theory	20	6
PO3MID	Modern Ideologies	20	6
PO3PES	(The) Politics of Electoral Systems	20	6
PO3UKP	United Kingdom Politics since 1960	20	6
PO3SF	US Foreign and Defence Policy since 1950	20	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 two to part three, students must:
1. achieve an overall average of 40% over 100 credits taken in Part 2 (except PO2SOP) AND achieve a Pass in PO2SOP;
2. achieve at least 40% in each compulsory module (except PO2SOP) AND achieve a Pass in PO2SOP;
3. achieve a mark of at least 30% in individual modules representing a total of at least 80 credits (except PO2SOP);
4. obtain a mark of at least 40% in 40 credits from PO optional modules AND obtain a Pass in PO2SOP.

Summary of teaching and assessment

In History, at Part 1, teaching is by lectures and seminars. At Parts 2 and 3, it is principally by seminars. The Part 3 Dissertation is supervised in a series of tutorials with an individual supervisor. Part 1 modules are assessed by examinations while modules in Parts 2 and 3 are assessed by a mixture of coursework and timed examination. The Part 2 Skills modules are assessed through portfolios of skills while the Dissertation is assessed both as coursework and through oral presentation.
In Politics, Part 1 modules and the compulsory Part 2 modules involve both lectures and seminars. Part 2 and asc(160) Three optional modules typically place greater emphasis on seminars. All modules other than the Study of Politics and Dissertation are assessed by a mixture of coursework (25%) and examination (75%).
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

Entrants to this programme are normally required to have achieved
UCAS Tariff: 300 points from three subjects at A2. History at Grade B.
International Baccalaureat: 32
Irish Leaving Certificate: BBBBB in 5 Higher Level subjects
All applicants are considered on their individual merits and the School/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 is Mrs Elizabeth Berry who can be contacted by:

Telephone - 0118 378 8148
Email - e.l.berry@reading.ac.uk
Fax - 0118 378 6440
As well as by post.

Admissions Tutor:

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).

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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: http://www.reading.ac.uk:80/AcaDepts/lh/History/history.htm.

Additional support is given through orientation sessions on module choices and the Dissertation. Advice is also given by the BA Programme Director. There is full written feedback on essay work. Each module teacher gives personal guidance and feedback and sends termly reports on progress to students and personal tutors. There is also a School Resource Room which provides quiet study space, a photocopier and networked computers.

In Politics, students are provided with Departmental Handbooks which outline the programme, provide guidance on study skills, and contain information on staff, facilities and specialised sources of help within the University. Additional support is given in the Study of Politics module in Part 2. There is also written feedback on essay work. There is also a departmental Library, and a photocopier.

Liaison officers for both History and Politics coordinate the programme.

Career prospects
Over the years students who have followed programmes involving History and Politics have gone into jobs in both the public and private sectors. In the public sector, jobs include academic and academic related jobs (e.g. lectureships, administrative posts on research boards), the civil service, local government, public corporations, hospital management, and in the social services, such as, child care, youth employment, probation, and so on. In

the private sector, recent jobs include working for advertising, journalism, radio and television, computer firms and large finance and insurance companies.

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

Programme Outcomes
The broad sweep of post-classical history and its principal divisions;
A range of cultures, within a degree structure flexible enough to allow breadth or specialisation;
The contextualisation of forces, events, and individual experiences in the historical process;
The nature and variety of historical sources as defined by period and culture;
The nature of debate and dispute in historical writing;
The fundamental concepts of Political
Theory and major texts from the
Greeks to the present time;
7. The comparative analysis of govern-
ment institutions, political movement
and the social bases of politics;
8. The various approaches and the study
of Modern International Relations;
9. A range of selected specialised subjects
within the fields of Political Theory,
Comparative Government and Inter-
national Relations.
Teaching/learning methods and strategies
Knowledge and understanding are gained through formal teaching (lectures, seminar discussions, and individual essay feedback), prescribed and recommended reading, and the writing of essays and a dissertation. In Part 1 and Part 2 students attend both lectures and seminars, and in Part 3 most teaching is through seminars. Part 1 modules introduce 1, 2,3, 6, 7 and 8 which Part 2 modules deepen and develop students understanding. The optional modules in Part 3 both build upon and sharpen the focus of study.

Knowledge and Understanding

A. Knowledge and understanding of:

1. The broad sweep of post-classical history and its principal divisions;
2. A range of 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 of Political Theory and major texts from the Greeks to the present time;
7. The comparative analysis of government institutions, political movement and the social bases of politics;
8. The various approaches and the study of Modern International Relations;
9. A range of selected specialised subjects within the fields of Political Theory, Comparative Government and International Relations.

Teaching/learning methods and strategies

Knowledge and understanding are gained through formal teaching (lectures, seminar discussions, and individual essay feedback), prescribed and recommended reading, and the writing of essays and a dissertation. In Part 1 and Part 2 students attend both lectures and seminars, and in Part 3 most teaching is through seminars. Part 1 modules introduce 1, 2,3, 6, 7 and 8 which Part 2 modules deepen and develop students understanding. The optional modules in Part 3 both build upon and sharpen the focus of study.

Assessment
Most knowledge is tested through a combination of coursework and formal examination. Dissertations and oral contributions also contribute.

Skills and other attributes

B. Intellectual skills - *able to:*

1. Critically read, comprehend and evaluate a large range of historical and political texts;
2. Negotiate both primary and second sources and be able to demonstrate how they inter-relate;
3. Synthesise information from a range of sources, providing a coherent overview of positions in logical space;
4. Analyse the logical construction of arguments;
5. Produce and defend positions in response to critical pressure;
6. Develop creative intelligence in independent research and interpretation;
7. Think logically on Political matters;
8. Analyse issues in Political life;
9. Understand the evolving state of knowledge in the rapidly developing discipline of Politics;
10. Transfer appropriate knowledge from an area within the disciplines to another;

Teaching/learning methods and strategies

As above, plus: self-directed learning facilitated through the use of research-based teaching materials and methods, and logical exercises. Through essay, portfolio, and dissertation preparation, the research and analytical skills are reinforced which are necessary to form and to validate arguments and judgements.

The ability to think logically is essential to the understanding and analysis of the discipline. Analysis requires an appreciation of the issues and results in organisation of written work and oral presentations. Students are encouraged to link core and optional modules and also to use experience from modules in the dissertation

Assessment
Coursework; written unseen exams; seminar presentations. Plus discussion in supervisor-led small groups and seminars.

C. Practical skills - *able to:*

1. Develop and carry out individual research programmes and strategies;
2. Gather, organise, and deploy evidence, data and information from a variety of primary and secondary sources;
3. Locate and synthesise large quantities of material;
4. Present a coherent talk delivered from notes;
5. Produce concise and accurate written reports;
6. Critically discuss particular issues and arguments, and to engage in discussion of each other's responses as well as articulate their own;
7. Utilise problem-solving skills;
8. Manage their own learning self-critically, reflect upon it, and seek and make use of feedback.

Teaching/learning methods and strategies

These are developed through lectures, supervised small group discussions, seminar groups with a facilitator, oral presentations and, especially in Part 3, independent learning. 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
Coursework; written unseen exams; seminar presentations.

D. Transferable skills - *able to:*

1. Manage time effectively and prioritise workloads;
2. Communicate effectively with a wide range of individuals using a wide range of means;
3. Evaluate his/her own performance, and recognise the steps required for improvement;
4. Utilise problem-solving skills in a variety of theoretical and more practical situations;
5. IT skills, e.g. word processing, e-mail and the internet for the retrieval and presentation of information, including statistical or numerical data;
6. Work independently, demonstrating initiative, self-organisation and time management;
7. Develop a vocational awareness with a view to planning their career.

Teaching/learning methods and strategies

Most of these skills are embedded in all modules. The development of IT skills occurs throughout the programme and is especially apparent in modules where there is a research component. Independent learning is also developed throughout but becomes particularly important in Part 3 of the programme. Vocational awareness is promoted especially by the CMS module.

Assessment
Coursework; written unseen exams; seminar presentations, portfolios of work, a 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.