BA War Peace and International Relations   **UCAS code: L252**
For students entering Part 1 in 2008/9

Awarding Institution: University of Reading
Teaching Institution: University of Reading
Relevant QAA subject Benchmarking group(s):   Politics and International Relations
Faculty: Social Sciences Faculty
Programme length: 3 years
Date of specification: 10/Aug/2010
Programme Director: Dr Jeremy Lester
Programme Advisor:
Board of Studies: Politics
Accreditation:

Summary of programme aims
The programme aims to give students an appreciation of the normative, methodological and institutional issues involved in the study of international relations and strategic and conflict studies. Students encounter a variety of concepts, approaches and methods as they progress from introductory and survey modules to more specialist options involving greater independent study. They also acquire a number of generic intellectual and transferable skills that prepare them for the world of work.

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.

Programme content
Each part comprises 120 credits. In Part 1 all three compulsory modules must be chosen (60 credits). The remaining 60 credits must be taken from elsewhere in the University. In either Part 2 or Part 3, 20 credits may be taken from elsewhere in the University.

Part 1 (three terms)
Compulsory modules

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

Optional module:

PO1BRI	British Society	20	C

Part 2 (three terms)
Compulsory modules

Mod Code	Module Title	Credits	Level
PO2MIR	Modern International Relations	20	I
PO2SOP	The Study of Politics	20	I
PO2WAP	War and Peace Since 1800	20	I
PO2COS	Contemporary Strategy	20	I
PO2CMS	Career Management Skill (distributed component)	5	I

Either

PO2 CGP	Comparative Government		20	I
or				
PO2 PHC	Comparative Government		20	I

Optional modules (one from):

PO2AMG	American Government and Politics	20	I
PO2BGP	British Government and Politics	20	I
PO2 EPI	European Political Integration	20	I
PO2 THI	Political Thinking	20	I
PO2 RGP	Russian Government and Politics	20	I

Students may replace one of the above modules with a 20 credit module in another department.

Part 3 (three terms)
Compulsory modules

Mod Code	Module Title	Credits	Level
PO3DIS	Dissertation	40	H

Optional modules:4 of the following, at least two must be from list A and one must be from list B.
List A

PO3CSS	Introduction to Critical Security Studies	20	H
PO3DDP	Democracy and Democracy Production	20	H
PO3EUS	European Security	20	H
PO3ITE	International Terrorism	20	H
PO3INT	Intelligence, War and International Relations	20	H
PO3MEA	Politics an International Relations of the Middle East	20	H
PO3PIE	Politics of the International Economy	20	H
PO3STH	Strategic Theory	20	H
PO3SWW	Strategy in the Two World Wars	20	H
PO3UNI	UN and International Order	20	H
PO3WPE	War, Peace and International Ethics	20	H

List B

PO3BFD	British Foreign and Defence Policy since 1945	20	H
PO3FPT	Feminism and Political Theory	20	H
PO3MID	Modern Ideologies	20	H
PO3PES	(The) Politics of Electoral Systems	20	H
PO3UKP	UK Politics since 1960	20	H
PO3USF	United States Foreign Policy since 1950	20	H

Students who have not taken a module outside the Department in Part 2 may replace one of the above modules with a 20 credit module in another department

Progression requirements
To proceed to Part 2 students must
 a) obtain at least 40% in each of the Politics modules taken;
 b) achieve an overall average of 40% in 120 credits taken in the examination;
 c) achieve not less than 30% in any non-Politics module except that a mark of less than 30% in a total of 20 credits may be condoned, provided that the candidate has pursued the course for the module(s) with reasonable diligence and has not been absent from the examination without reasonable cause.

To proceed to Part 3 students must
 a) obtain at least 40% in each of the Politics modules taken;
 achieve an overall average of 40% in 120 credits taken in the examination;
 achieve not less than 30% in any non-Politics module except that a mark of less than 30% in a total of 20 credits may be condoned, provided that the candidate has pursued the course for the module(s) with reasonable diligence and has not been absent from the examination without reasonable cause.

Summary of teaching and assessment
Part 1 modules and the compulsory Part 2 modules involve both lectures and seminars. Part 2 and 3 optional modules typically place greater emphasis on seminars. Part 1 modules are assessed by a mixture of coursework (40%) and examination (60%). All other modules except the Study of Politics, Career Management Skills and Dissertation are assessed by a mixture of coursework (25%) and examination (75%). The conventions for classification are included in the Department 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 obtained:
 Grade C or better in English in GCSE; and achieved
 UCAS Tariff: 280 points from three subjects, or 300 points from 3 A levels and 1 AS level.
 International Baccalaureat: 33 points
 Irish Leaving Certificate: Equivalent

Admissions Tutor: Dr O Tansey

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).

Students are provided with 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. The School has a photocopier. for student use. In Part 1, support for students in their studies is provided by personal tutors and through ilearn on Blackboard. In Parts 2 and 3 support is provided through the University's Personal Academic Record (PAR) scheme, in which students meet their personal tutors regularly to review their progress.

Career prospects
A degree in War, Peace and International Relations may be advantageous for students intending a career in the armed forces or the foreign services. It can lead to a wide range of jobs, such as the public services (civil service, local government, public corporations, hospital management, etc), the social services (child care, youth employment, probation, etc), advertising, journalism, radio and television, management traineeships in industry, professions such as accountancy and law (barristers and solicitors alike), banking and insurance, and various research agencies. Students are given specific vocational training and orientation through a second year Career Management Skills module run in conjunction with the Careers Advisory Service.

Opportunities for study abroad or for placements
Students may choose to spend part of their second year studying at a University in another European country, via the Socrates programme, or in the United States, via the American Studies exchange programme. While such exchanges may involve some additional financial expenditures and some adjustments to coursework at Reading, the Department believes these exchanges offer an excellent opportunity to broaden educational and life experience. In the first instance interested students see their personal tutor.

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:

The various approaches to the study
 of Modern International Relations.
 2. Approaches to strategic and conflict
 studies.
 3. Approaches to issues of conflict,
 prevention and resolution.
 A range of selected specialised subjects within the fields of International Relations, Strategic and Conflict Studies.

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 lecturers and seminars, which in Part 3 most teaching is through seminars. Part 1 modules introduce 1, 2 and 3 while Part 2 modules (deepen) and (develop) students understanding. The optional modules in 4 build on the agree modules in 1,2 and 3.

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:*

think logically on International and Strategic matters
 analyse issues in International and Strategic Affairsorganise tasks into a structured form
 understand the evolving state of knowledge in the rapidly developing discipline of International and Strategic Studies
 transfer appropriate knowledge from an area within the discipline to another
 plan, conduct and write an independent study on an aspect of the discipline

Teaching/learning methods and strategies

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
1-3 are assessed throughout the programme, while 5

contributes to the more successful work, 6 is assessed in the dissertation.

C. Practical skills - *able to:*

gather, organise and deploy evidence, data and information from a variety of primary and secondary sources.
 identify, investigate, analyses, formulate and advocate solutions and problems
 construct reasonable argument and exercise critical judgement
 reflect on their own learning and seek and make use of feedback
 manage their own learning self-critically.

Teaching/learning methods and strategies

1 is taught through lectures and seminars;
 2 and 3 are acquired through written work and oral presentations;
 3 and 4 are developed through more independent learning, especially the dissertation.

Assessment
1,2 and 3 are tested formatively and summatively in examinations. 4 is assessed through examination of student progress. 5 is assessed particularly through the dissertation.

D. Transferable skills - *able to:*

communicate effectively in speech and writing
 use communication and I.T. for the retrieval and presentation of information, including statistical or numerical information
 work independently, demonstrating initiative, self-organisation and time management
 collaborate with others to achieve common goals
 plan their career.

Teaching/learning methods and strategies

1 is embedded in all modules;
 2 is demonstrated by the use of I.T. based exercises;
 3 is an essential requirement for the timely and effective completion of the programme;
 4 is developed through active participation in seminars;
 5 is delivered through the Career Management Skills module.

Assessment
 1,2,3 and 5 are assessed through coursework and examinations.
 4 is assessed through seminar participation.

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.