

**BA English Literature with Classical Studies  
For students entering Part 1 in 2009/0**

**UCAS code:**

Awarding Institution:	University of Reading
Teaching Institution:	University of Reading
Relevant QAA subject Benchmarking group(s):	English; Classics & Ancient History
Faculty:	Arts and Humanities Faculty
Programme length:	3 years
Date of specification:	11/Apr/2011
Programme Director:	Dr Andy Nash
Programme Advisor:	Dr Emma Aston
Board of Studies:	English
Accreditation:	

**Summary of programme aims**

This is a multi-disciplinary programme which aims to provide students with subject specific knowledge and more general skills, including knowledge of a variety of different kinds of English Literature texts and Classical literature, art, philosophy, and their reception in modern culture, as well as perspectives on different methods of critical analysis. The programme also aims to foster an independent approach to formulating problems and arguments, using the close reading and analytical skills that are fundamental to both disciplines. There is provision for the development of students' specific interests through independent study for the dissertation.

**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.

On completion of this programme, students are expected to have developed a range of transferable skills including: fluency in writing and oral communication, the ability to formulate and evaluate their own arguments and those of others, to translate subject-specific knowledge and skills to new environments, the ability to find and use relevant information resources, to manage their time effectively, to use basic word-processing and IT skills, and to work co-operatively with others.

**Programme content**

Each Part of the degree programme comprises 120 credits. In Part 1, students must take 60 credits in English Literature, and a minimum of 40 credits in Classical Studies. In Parts 2 and 3 students must normally take 80 credits in English Literature and 40 credits in Classics each year. In consultation with the Programme Director, however, they may choose to take up to 20 credits each year from modules available elsewhere in the University.

Not all optional modules will be available in any one year. Admission to optional modules is at the discretion of the Programme Director.

**Part 1 (three terms)**

*Compulsory modules*

EN1LL	Languages of Literature	20	4
EN1WKT	What Kind of Text is This?	20	4
CL1CA	The Civilization of Fifth-Century Athens	20	4
CL1CB	Rome in the Augustan Age	20	4
EN1REE	Researching the English Essay	20	4

The remaining 20 credits can be made up by the optional module in Classics or from modules available elsewhere in the University.

Classics optional module

CL1TO	Text and Object: the History of Greek and Roman Writing	20	4
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## Part 2 (three terms)

### Compulsory modules

<i>Mod Code</i>	<i>Module Title</i>	<i>Credits</i>	<i>Level</i>
EN2CMS	Career Management Skills	5	5

### In English Literature

Students normally take 80 credits consisting of optional modules of 20 credits each. At least one of these modules must be drawn from a list of pre-1800 options. A complete list of options is available from the Programme Director and in the Part 3 Module Supplement.

Students may, with the permission of the Programme Director, replace one English Literature module with a module or modules totalling 20 credits drawn from elsewhere in the university.

### In Classics:

Students will take at least one core module (20 credits) and a further 20 credits from among either core or option modules.

CL2AE	Ancient Epic	20	5
CL2GD	Greek Drama	20	5
CL2LP	Roman Love Poetry	20	5

Optional modules: A complete list of options is available from the Department of Classics, and a list of current options can be found in the Classics 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.

Of the 120 credits in Part 2, 5 are taken up by Careers Management Skills.

Students may choose to replace one 20 credit intermediate module from English or Classics with a module or modules totalling 20 credits from outside the programme, e.g. IWLP.

## Part 3 (three terms)

### Compulsory modules

EN3DIS	Dissertation	40	6
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### Optional Modules in English Literature

In addition, students choose optional modules totalling 40 credits. A complete list of options is available from the Programme Advisor and in the English Literature Part 3 Module Supplement. Admission to optional modules will be at the discretion of the Programme Advisor.

Students have the opportunity to pursue a placement option in any Part 3 module.

### In Classical Studies (40 credits)

A complete list of optional modules is available from the Department of Classics, and a list of current options can be found in the Classics 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 level 6 module.

### Progression requirements

To proceed from Part 1 to Part 2, a Joint Honours student must obtain: 1. an overall average of 40% over 120 credits taken in Part 1, where all the credits are at C level or above; 2. a mark of at least 40% in each English Literature module; 3. a mark of at least 40% in CL1CA and at least 40% in CL1CB at Part 1; 4. a mark of at least 30% in individual modules amounting to not less than 100 credits taken in Part 1.

To proceed from Part 2 to Part 3, students must obtain: 1. an overall average of 40% over 120 credits taken in Part 2; 2. an average of 40% across English Literature Part 2 modules; 3. a mark of at least 30% in individual modules amounting to not less than 100 credits taken in Part 2.

### **Summary of Teaching and Assessment**

Teaching is through a combination of seminars and lectures. Over the programme as a whole, assessment will be conducted through a mixture of assessed essays and formal examination. The Dissertation module is supported by workshops and individual supervision.

Conventions for degree 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 Classical Studies is required for admission. Entrants to the joint degree programme are normally required to have obtained:

UCAS Tariff: either 300 points from three A2s, including 100 points (grade B) in English Literature or English Language and Literature; or 320 points from 3 A2s + up to two AS, including 100 points (grade B) in English Literature or English Language and Literature

GNVQ (Adv): B in A level plus distinction in GNVQ (Adv) - 12 modules of GNVQ (Adv) + pass 4 additional modules

Scottish Highers: BBBB

Irish Leaving Certificate: BBBBC

International Baccalaureat: 30 points with at least 6 for Higher level English Literature

GCSE/O: English Language preferred, grade C or above

Mature candidates will be usually be expected to have a B (100 points) at A level English, or equivalent qualifications, but consideration is also given to applicants with other qualifications and experience.

**Admissions Tutor:** Mrs Carolyn Lyle

### **Support for students and their learning**

University support for students and their learning falls into two categories. Learning support is provided by a wide array of services across the University, including: the University Library, the Student Employment, Experience and Careers Centre (SEEC), In-sessional English Support Programme, the Study Advice and Mathematics Support Centre teams, IT Services and 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 advisers in the Student Services Centre. The Student Services Centre is housed in the Carrington Building and offers advice on accommodation, careers, disability, finance, and wellbeing. 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 and runs workshops and seminars on a range of topics. For more information see [www.reading.ac.uk/student](http://www.reading.ac.uk/student)

Transferable skills are supported by the Skills Opportunities At Reading (SOAR) website with links to information about resources and events offered by the Library, IT Services, Study Advisers, RUSU, Mathematics Support Centre and the University Language Centre.

The Department of English Language & Literature also offers students specific help to improve and develop their essay writing skills through the Royal Literary Fund Fellowship scheme, which provides a resident professional writer whose role is to advise students individually, from first-year to postgraduate level, on raising the level of their academic writing.

Students receive Handbooks from both English Literature and Classical Studies which give details of the programme, guidance on study skills such as note-taking and essay writing, and information about staff, facilities, and sources of specialized help within the University, such as the Study Skills Advisor and the Counselling Service. Both components of the programme are designed to support students throughout their degree course while encouraging more independent work in Part 3. Academic feedback and guidance is given through one-to-one essay tutorials, and academic and personal support is provided through the tutor system and the University's Personal and Academic Record (PAR) Scheme. Dissertation workshops prepare students for the Part 3 dissertation which is individually supervised. The Geoffrey Matthews Collection, housed in the Department of English and American Literature, contains books, xeroxed materials, cassettes and videos for loan to students, and a video-viewing suite is available within the Faculty. The Library's collection of electronic databases includes the OED, the MLA Bibliography, and the DNB on CD ROM, and such on-line resources as JSTOR and First Search. Specialist subject librarians are available to give students advice and guidance to library resources. The Department of Classics is the Curator of the Ure Museum of Greek Archaeology.

## **Career prospects**

In recent years students who have gained degrees in English Literature with Classical Studies have gone into a wide variety of jobs, including teaching, publishing, journalism, the media, management, administration, and public relations. A number of graduates each year also go on to further academic study and research. More generally, the degree programme provides graduates with a range of communication and analytical skills that will serve them in good stead in the marketplace. In addition to the help provided by the University Careers Advisory Service, the Department of English and American Literature has a Careers Tutor available to advise students in English Literature on researching and planning their career choices. All students have the opportunity to pursue a placement option as part of any Part 3 English Literature module.

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

Students may, with permission, opt to spend the Autumn term during Part 2 abroad at one of the European universities with which Reading has a Socrates exchange agreement. They would actively participate in courses abroad, experience the teaching and learning processes of another institution, learn or improve their knowledge of a European language, and enhance their curriculum vitae. Students opting for the term abroad will take the equivalent of 60 credits at Intermediate level while abroad. These will count towards final degree classification. Students are also encouraged to apply to the British School at Athens, where they may take a module for credit, and the British School at Rome.

There may also be opportunities to spend one term in the United States via the American Studies exchange programme.

## **Programme Outcomes**

### **Knowledge and Understanding**

#### **A. Knowledge and understanding of:**

1. Literary texts in English Literature from selected periods between the Middle Ages and the present day
2. A range of kinds of texts including fiction, poetry and drama
3. Methods of critical textual analysis
4. Ways in which social, cultural and historical issues relate to texts
5. A range of approaches in English studies
6. Selected special fields of English Literature
7. The literature, thought, art and religion of Graeco-Roman culture
8. A diverse range of ancient evidence.
9. A range of problems of interpretation and evaluation of ancient evidence.
10. The reception of Graeco-Roman culture in the West.

#### **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. Part 1 offers a broad introduction to 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 7 and 8. In Part 2 the understanding and skills acquired in Part 1 are developed with particular emphasis on 1, 2, 4, 7, 8, 9, and 10 through seminars, lectures and individual feedback. Part 3 introduces more specialized study, particularly in relation to 3, 5, 6, through a choice of seminar-based modules together with supervised, independent study leading to a dissertation.

#### *Assessment*

In Parts 1 and 2, knowledge and understanding of 1 - 5 and 7-10 are tested through a combination of essays and unseen written examinations. In Part 3, assessment is through a mixture of methods, such as extended essays, essays plus unseen exams, and the dissertation.

### **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 closely and critically
4. An ability to reflect on one's own positions

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

Intellectual skills are acquired through independent reading (1), seminar preparation and discussion, and essay writing (1, 2, 3) and essay feedback through tutorials (2, 3 and 4).

#### *Assessment*

1 - 3 are assessed both formatively in coursework

essays, and summatively in essays, unseen exams and the dissertation.

1- 4 are assessed formatively through seminar discussion and essay feedback and tutorials.

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

In English Literature:

The ability to criticize and formulate interpretations of texts

An ability to engage in critical argument using relevant theoretical approaches

An awareness of the rhetorical resources of the English language

Bibliographical and research skills

A knowledge of appropriate conventions in the presentation of written work

An ability to relate the study of English to cultural and social issues

In Classical Studies - able to

1. Gather, organize 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. Deploy effective bibliographical and library based research skills.

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

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

In English Literature:

1 - 3 and 6 are developed in seminars, essays and essay tutorials. 4 and 5 are developed through essays, essay feedback and dissertation guidance and supervision.

#### *Assessment*

All the subject specific practical skills are assessed through formative and summative essays, and through the Dissertation. 1 - 3 and 6 are also tested in unseen examinations.

In Classical Studies

These are developed through the deployment of seminar classes and essay assignments.

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

#### *Assessment*

**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.**