

**BA Art and English Literature**  
**For students entering Part 1 in 2009/0**

**UCAS code: QW31**

|   |   |
|---|---|
| Awarding Institution:                       | University of Reading                       |
| Teaching Institution:                       | University of Reading                       |
| Relevant QAA subject Benchmarking group(s): | Art and Design                              |
| Faculty:                                    | Arts, Humanities and Social Science Faculty |
| Programme length:                           | 4 years                                     |
| Date of specification:                      | 04/May/2012                                 |
| Programme Director:                         | Mr Alun Rowlands                            |
| Programme Advisor:                          | Dr John Holmes<br>Susanne Clausen           |
| Board of Studies:                           | Art   |
| Accreditation:                              | The University of Reading                   |

**Summary of programme aims**

The programme aims to give subject-specific knowledge and a thorough broad based training in Art and English Literature and provide students with the opportunity to explore areas of overlap between the disciplines. In Art, the programme is arranged to provide a basis for practice as an artist. Students are encouraged to develop a habit of study embracing all the technical resources of the Department which will lead them to take an increasing level of responsibility for their individual programme. In English Literature, the programme provides knowledge of a variety of different kinds of literary texts, from a range of periods, 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 the discipline.

**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 career management, communication (both written and oral), information handling, numeracy, problem-solving, team working and use of information technology (word-processing and use of web-based materials) and will have been encouraged to further develop and enhance the full set of skills through a variety of opportunities available outside their curriculum.

Within the Art programme students will develop visual awareness and dexterity. They will extend their abilities in visual, oral and written communication including the use of presentational aids. Students will learn to identify and independently pursue their aims. Students will develop research skills including the ability to locate and assemble visual and written material, they will engage in evaluative analysis of visual and critical sources. They will acquire basic knowledge of a range of materials, tools, machinery and technological skills. Students will extend their experience of working to a brief, meeting deadlines, planning, team working, problem solving and career management. In English Literature students are also expected to have gained experience and show competence in the following transferable skills: 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, and to work co-operatively with others.

**Programme content**

The profile which follows states which modules must be taken (the compulsory part), together with one or more lists of modules from which the student must make a selection (the option modules). Students must choose such additional modules as they wish, in consultation with their programme adviser, to make 120 credits in each Part. The number of modules credit for and the level of each module is shown in brackets after its title.

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 Art, Part 1 introduces the range of contemporary art practice and a guided introduction to the development of a personal practice across media. Part 2 provides students with the opportunity to identify and investigate particular (individual) interests and concerns through practical engagement in their own studio spaces and to relate their studio work to relevant contemporary issues through the study visits, seminars and lecture programmes. Of the 120 credits in Part 2, five are taken up by Career Management Skills. Part 2I provides the opportunity to build on the intellectual and technical skills of the second year through increasingly independent development of work in the studio and through an exploration of the discourse surrounding contemporary art

and art theory. Part 3H encourages the focused development of an individual body of work in the studio and the location of studio practice in relation to contemporary art and art theory.

In English Literature, Part 1 introduces students to debate about approaches to the study of literature, through close study of selected texts from a number of different periods. Part 2 provides greater breadth of coverage, and studies texts within historical periods and generic traditions. At Part 2I students have the opportunity of more specialized and independent literary study, choosing their modules from a wide range of options. At Part 3H they complete a dissertation on an independent research topic of their own choice, with supervision.

### **Part 1 (three terms)**

#### *Compulsory modules*

|        |  |    |   |
|--------|--|----|---|
| FA1MP  | Part 1 Compulsory Module Multimedia & Painting | 40 | 4 |
| EN1LL  | Languages of Literature                        | 20 | 4 |
| EN1WKT | What Kind of Text is This?                     | 20 | 4 |
| EN1REE | Researching the English Essay                  | 20 | 4 |

### **In the Art Department:**

#### *Optional modules- 20 credits from:*

| Mod Code | Module Title            | Credits | Level |
|----------|-------------------------|---------|-------|
| FA1AT    | Contemporary Art Theory | 20      | 4     |
| FA1SP    | Skills & Processes      | 20      | 4     |

Any other 20-credit module available in the Faculty

### **Part 2 (three terms)**

#### *Compulsory modules*

| Mod code | Module Title                                     | Credits | Level |
|----------|--|---------|-------|
| FA2AT    | Contemporary Art and Theory                      | 20      | 5     |
| FA2S2    | Part 2 Studio including Career Management Skills | 40      | 5     |

### **In the English Department:**

Students choose three 20-credit modules from a list of options. At least one of these must be drawn from a list of pre-1800 options. A full list of options is available from the Programme Director and in the Part 2 Module Supplement.

### **Year abroad/Year away/Additional year (three terms)**

#### *Compulsory modules*

| <i>Mod Code</i> | <i>Module Title</i>         | <i>Credits</i> | <i>Level</i> |
|-----------------|-----------------------------|----------------|--------------|
| FA2IS2          | Part 2I Studio              | 40             | 5            |
| FA2IAT          | Contemporary Art and Theory | 20             | 5            |
| FA2ITEX         | Image Action Text           | 20             | 5            |

### **In the English Department**

#### *Optional modules:*

Students choose two optional 20-credit modules, one in each term, to make a total of 40 credits. A complete list of options is available from the Programme Director and in the Part 3 Module Supplement. Admission to optional modules will be at the discretion of the Programme Director.

### **Part 3 (three terms)**

#### *Compulsory modules*

| <i>Mod Code</i> | <i>Module Title</i>    | <i>Credits</i> | <i>Level</i> |
|-----------------|------------------------|----------------|--------------|
| FA3HS2          | Studio (joint honours) | 80             | 6            |
| EN3DIS          | Dissertation           | 40             | 6            |

### **Progression requirements**

To proceed from Part 1 to Part 2 students must:

obtain a mark of at least 40% in FA1MP and achieve a threshold performance

AND

obtain a mark of at least 40% in all English Literature modules.

To proceed from Part 2 to 2I and from Part 2I to Part 3 students must:

obtain a mark of at least 40% in FA2S2 and FA2IS2 and achieve a threshold performance

AND

achieve an overall average of 40% across English Literature Part 2 and Part 3 modules.

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

In Art, at Part 1 teaching is by workshops, tutorials, seminars, lectures and visits to museums and galleries. At Parts 2, 2I and 3H teaching is by tutorials, seminars and lectures. Technical assistance and instruction occurs appropriately at the students request. Directed visits to museums and galleries take place throughout the programme. In Part 1 Compulsory module FA1MP, formative assessment takes place at presentations of work when students receive diagnostic verbal feedback. Part 1 optional modules are assessed by coursework. In Parts 2 and 2I studio modules there are two types of assessment, an Interim and a Part assessment. Interim Assessments are formative and take place mid-module where a diagnostic mark is achieved. The Part Assessment occurs at the end of the module, the results contributing to the Final Degree classification. At Part 3H assessment is by examination in the form of an exhibition. In all studio modules assessment is by coursework selected and presented by the student. Critical Collaborative Methods, Image Action Text and Contemporary Art Theory are assessed by coursework. Full details are given in module descriptions. In English Literature, teaching is by lectures, seminars and essay tutorials. Assessment is by a mixture of coursework and timed examination.

### **Admission requirements**

Applications from mature and international students are welcome. We recommend you contact our Admissions Tutor or departmental secretary to discuss your individual circumstances and/or arrange a visit to the department. All home students are interviewed with their portfolio of practical work.

Standard offer:

UCAS tariff: minimum 300 points for 3 A levels, 300 points for 3 A levels plus 1 AS level

Subjects normally grade B or above will be required in an Art or Art History A level and Grade B in English Literature or English Language and Literature.

International Baccalaureate 30 points

Irish Highers BBBBC

**Admissions Tutor:** Tina O'Connell

### **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)

In Art at Part 1 a studio space is shared. In Parts 2, 2I and 3H individual studio space is provided for every student. In addition, several bookable spaces are available for installation and time based work. There are construction workshops and facilities for video and digital editing. There are directed visits to museums and galleries.

The Department of English and American 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 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 specialized help within the University, such as the Study Advice Team and the Counselling Service. Academic feedback and guidance is given through one-to-one essay tutorials and written feedback on coursework essays. Dissertation workshops prepare students for the Part 3 dissertation which is individually supervised. The Geoffrey Matthews Collection, housed in the Department, provides books, photocopied materials, cassettes and an extensive collection of videos for loan to students. A video-viewing suite is available within the Faculty. The Library is well stocked for students of English Literature with printed materials as well as essential electronic databases on-line and on CD ROM, such as the OED, the MLA Bibliography, and JSTOR. Specialist subject librarians are available to give students advice and guidance to library resources.

### **Career prospects**

In addition to working as artists, graduates with an Art component to their degree, have found employment in theatre, television, community services, art therapy, art writing, journalism, publishing, post production, curating, gallery and museum administration, and even popular music. A number of students proceed to postgraduate study, or teacher training.

In recent years students who have gained a combined English Literature degree from Reading have gone into a wide variety of jobs, including teaching, publishing, journalism, the media, management, administration, and public relations. An English Literature degree component provides graduates with a range of communication and analytical skills that will serve them in good stead in the marketplace. A number of graduates each year go on to further academic study and research. In addition to the help provided by the University Careers Advisory Service, the Department of English & American Literature has a Careers Tutor available to advise students in English Literature on researching and planning their career choices.

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

There are opportunities to study abroad including North America under the student exchange scheme at Rutgers University, Ottawa University and Monash Australia; also an Erasmus exchange with L'Ecole des Beaux Arts, Dijon. Individual student interest in work experience and public exhibition of work is supported through staff advice and contacts.

### **Programme Outcomes**

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

#### **Knowledge and Understanding**

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

###### **In Art:**

1. relevant practical processes
2. the technical language of the subject
3. the necessary negotiation between intention and realisation of works of art
4. key issues and artists, movements and current urgencies relevant to their own practice.

###### **In English:**

1. literary texts in English 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

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

###### **In Art:**

I and 2: in Part 1 all students engage in both painting and sculpture / media. There are optional introductory modules in skills and processes and lectures which introduce students to processes and vocabulary of the subject. Work is directed through tutorials and group tutorials. Specialist knowledge and deeper understanding is fostered in Part 2, 2I, and 3H where studio teaching and oral feedback is through tutorials, studio seminars, presentations and technical demonstration and exemplified in seminars, lectures and talks by visiting artists. 3 is exemplified in talks by visiting artists and through lectures. It is developed in students own practice

- issues relate to texts
5. a range of approaches in English studies
  6. selected special fields of English Literature.

through tutorials and studio seminars. 4 is of particular focus in seminars and lecture fostered through guided selection of subject for research and independent study including the Art Dissertation in Part 3H.

**In English:**

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 modules offer a broad introduction to items 1-5. In Part 2, the understanding and skills acquired at Part 1 are developed with particular emphasis on 1, 2 and 4 through seminars, lectures and individual feedback. Part 3 introduces more specialized study, particularly in relation to 3, 5 and 6, through a choice of seminar-based modules together with supervised, independent study leading to a Joint Dissertation.

*Assessment*

**In Art:**

At Part 1 knowledge is examined through a display of studio projects with an accompanying statement /notebook and in lectures through coursework. In parts 2 and 2I knowledge is tested through individual displays of studio work together with a written statement and dialogue with tutors. Seminars and lectures are assessed through coursework.

**In English:**

At Parts 1 and 2, knowledge and understanding of 1 &ndash; 5 are tested through a combination of essays and unseen written examinations. At 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:**

**In Art:**

1. analyse the visual world
2. engage in creative and speculative propositions
3. initiate, evaluate and progress intentions
4. convey ideas through visual and written means and resources
5. plan, organise and present an independent enquiry.

**In English**

- 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**

**In Art:**

1 is exemplified through lectures, seminars, tutorials and studio seminars throughout the programme and the Part 2 study visits. 2: lectures and seminars explore examples of creative and speculative thought, this is also an intrinsic part of all tutorials and studio seminars. 3: tutorials in Parts 1 and 2 focus on the initiation and progression of work, in Parts 2I and 3H the emphasis is upon the evaluation and progression of intentions. Lectures by visiting artists exemplify differing approaches. 4: tutorials and studio seminars explore the clarity of ideas in students' work throughout the programme. Documentary presentations of work in Part 3H extend abilities in oral presentation and the use of presentational aids. Written skills are developed through studio statements, contextual study, seminars and lectures, including use of the internet

and the library. 5 is emphasised throughout the programme in tutorials and particularly in Part 3H through the final exhibition and art dissertation.

**In English:**

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*

**In Art:**

1, 2, 3 and 4 are constantly assessed in all parts of the programme through coursework, 5 is particularly emphasised in Part 3H through the Final exhibition and the art dissertation.

**In English**

1 &ndash; 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 Art:**

1. learn and work within practical processes with due regard to health and safety implications
2. judge appropriate media and materials for the task and develop skills through practice and research
3. have basic knowledge relating to a range of tools, materials, processes and common IT skills
4. identify and locate relevant resources e.g. galleries, texts, internet sites.

**In English:**

1. the ability to criticize and formulate interpretations of texts
2. an ability to engage in critical argument using relevant theoretical approaches
3. an awareness of the rhetorical resources of the English language
4. bibliographical and research skills
5. a knowledge of appropriate conventions in the presentation of written work
6. an ability to relate the study of English Literature to cultural and social issues.

**Teaching/learning methods and strategies**

**In Art:**

1 is introduced through technical demonstration and tutorials in Part 1 then developed through increasingly independent work in the rest of the programme. 2 is through technical demonstration, tutorials, studio seminars, lectures by visiting artists and first hand study of works of art and the Part 2 study visits. 3 is through induction to workshops in Part 1 and technical demonstration throughout the programme. IT skills developed through technical demonstration, the seminars and lectures and in the Part 3H documentary presentation and art dissertation. 4 is through tutorials, Part 2 study visits, seminars and lectures.

**In English:**

1 &ndash; 3 and 6 are developed in English Literature seminars, essays and essay tutorials. 4 and 5 are developed through essays, essay feedback and dissertation guidance and supervision.

*Assessment*

**In Art:**

Basic knowledge relating to a range of tools, materials and processes is explicitly assessed in Part 1 'Skills and Processes', 1-3 are assessed constantly throughout the programme through presentation of studio work. IT skills are not explicitly assessed but are necessary for the successful completion of the course particularly in seminars, lectures, art dissertation and career management.

**In English:**

In English Literature, all the subject-specific practical skills are assessed through formative and summative essays. 1 &ndash; 3 and 6 are also tested in unseen examinations.

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

##### **In Art:**

1. work with visual awareness and dexterity
2. engage in creative and speculative propositions
3. initiate, evaluate and progress work independently
4. give oral and visual presentations
5. use a range of tools and machinery
6. use IT (word processing and the internet)
7. work as a part of a team
8. manage time effectively and meet deadlines
9. plan their career.

##### **In English:**

1. communicate fluently and effectively with a wide range of individuals using a wide range of means, including written and oral communication
2. formulate and present arguments
3. assess the merits of competing approaches
4. translate subject-specific knowledge and skills into other environments
5. find and use relevant information resources
6. demonstrate time-management skills and prioritise workloads
7. work independently, demonstrating initiative and self-organisation
8. develop a creative approach to problem-solving in a variety of theoretical and more practical situations
9. self-evaluate and self-reflect, with recognition of the steps required for improvement
10. use information technology, especially word-processing, e-mail and the internet for the retrieval and presentation of information, including statistical or numerical data
11. analyse data
12. exercise group and interpersonal skills
13. develop vocational awareness with a view to planning a career.

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

##### **In Art:**

1 and 5 are embedded throughout the programme, introduced through both compulsory and optional modules in Part 1 then extended through tutorials, studio seminars and technical demonstration in Parts 2, 2I, and 3H. 2 and 3 are embedded throughout the course through tutorials, seminars, lectures and in the documentary presentation and art dissertation in Part 3H as students take increasing responsibility for their own learning. 4 is embedded throughout the programme, of particular focus in Part 2 and Part 2I presentations, in Part 3H documentary presentations and Final exhibition, exemplified through lectures and visiting lecturers. 6: use of word processing and the internet is embedded in seminars and lectures. 7 plays a key role in Part 2 curatorial projects and on study visits and in Part 3H in planning and preparation for final exhibitions. 8: time management is essential for the effective completion of the programme. 9: career planning is introduced in Part 2, emphasised in Part 2I and of particular focus in Part 3H.

##### **In English:**

Transferable skills are developed through seminar discussions (1, 2, 3, 4, 7 and 9), through seminar presentations, essay writing, tutorial feedback and unseen examinations (1 & 9). 4 and 7 particularly are developed through requiring students to draw on acquired knowledge and skills when analyzing new material in essays and unseen examinations. 5 and 10 are developed through use of the library and other sources of information, for seminar preparation, essay writing and research for the dissertation. We require that all summatively assessed essays are word-processed (10).

##### *Assessment*

##### **In Art:**

1-3 are assessed throughout in coursework. 4: visual presentations are assessed throughout the programme, oral presentations are assessed in Parts 2 and 2I, documentary presentations in Part 3H are not explicitly assessed. 5 is assessed in Part 1 optional module 'Skills and Processes', in Parts 2, 2I, and 3H. This is not assessed directly but effective use of appropriate equipment will enhance performance. 6, 7 and 8 are not assessed directly but their effective use will enhance performance. 9 is assessed in Part 2.

##### **In English:**

1 & 7 and 9 are formatively assessed through coursework essays and seminar presentations, and summatively assessed through essays, unseen examinations, and the dissertation. 9 is encouraged through essay feedback and essay tutorials. 8 is encouraged through seminars and in tutorials.

**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.**