BA History and European Literature and Culture   UCAS code:
For students entering Part 1 in 2009/0

Awarding Institution:	University of Reading
Teaching Institution:	University of Reading
Relevant QAA subject Benchmarking group(s):	History, Area Studies
Faculty:	Arts and Humanities Faculty
Programme length:	3 years
Date of specification:	14/Apr/2011
Programme Director:	Dr Emily West
Programme Advisor:	Dr Daniela La Penna
Board of Studies:	History
Accreditation:	Not appropriate

Summary of programme aims

This is a multi-disciplinary programme which aims to provide students with subject-specific knowledge, including knowledge of a variety of different kinds of literary, cultural and historical texts from a range of periods, together with perspectives on different methods of critical and interpretative analysis, and a knowledge of core developments in History and European Literature and Culture. More generally, the course 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. The European Literature and Culture part of the programme aims to provide undergraduate students with subject-specific knowledge and related skills. In particular, it aims to: give the student an introduction to the intellectual and historical context within which the works were produced, develop the student's understanding of the interrelationship between the works studied and the context within which they were produced;
develop the student's understanding of the comparative importance of national and European creative developments;
enable the student to contextualise, to think conceptually about European creative production, and to develop an intercultural awareness.

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, self-management, numeracy, 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.

On completion of the programme for European Literature and Culture, 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, and use basic word-processing and IT skills; the ability to work cooperatively with others.

Programme content

Each Part of the degree programme comprises 120 credits. In Part 1 students are required to take a minimum of 40 credits in History and 40 credits (the compulsory modules) in European Literature and Culture. Other modules can be chosen from elsewhere in the Faculty. Part 1 introduces students to the discipline of History through study of historical causation, contextualisation and the utilisation of both primary and secondary sources. In European Literature and Culture, students are introduced to fundamental debates about the study of literature through close analysis of selected texts from different periods and from different European countries and through exploration of core issues involved in the comparative study of literatures in translation. In Parts 2 and 3, students normally take 60 credits in both History and European Literature and Culture in each Part. In

consultation with their programme adviser, they may choose to take up to 20 credits each year from modules elsewhere in the University. In Part 2 students are required to engage with a broad span of historical and literary topics which develop both their range of knowledge and their analytical/critical skills. Part 3 involves the study in depth of Topics or a Special Subject which require that students apply their analytical skills in focused areas and undertake independent research, especially in the Dissertation.

The programme 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 optional part). 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 credits in each module is shown in the column after its title, and the credit requirements in History and in European Literature and Culture are indicated for each Part.

Part 1 (three terms)
Compulsory modules

Mod Code	Module Title	Credits	Level
HS1APH	Approaches to History	20	4
HS1LMH	Landmarks in History	20	4
ML1EMF	European Modernist Fiction	20	4
ML102	Core Issues in the Comparative Study of European Literature	20	4

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

HS1DSH	Directed Study in History	20	4

In European Literature and Culture
Optional modules:
Students can choose a maximum of 40 credits of optional modules

FR104	French Cinema	20	4
IT1004	Italian Medieval and Renaissance Culture	20	4
IWLP	Modern foreign language	20	4

Part 2 (three terms)
Compulsory modules

Mod Code	Module Title	Credits	Level
HS2CMS	Career Management Skills	5	5
ML2ROM	European Romanticism: Themes and Genres	20	5
EN2MDR	Modern Drama	20	5

Students must take 60 credits in History and 60 credits in European Literature and Culture. Of the 120 credits in Part 2, 5 are taken up by Career Management Skills and will be delivered by the Department of History.

In History (60 credits)

Students must take two Periods (20 credits) with their corequisite skills modules (10 credits), totalling 60 credits in all.
A full list of modules will be available from the Department. Not all modules will run each year and entry is at the discretion of the BA Programme Director.

In European Literature and Culture (60 credits)

Students take the TWO compulsory modules and ONE optional module.

Optional modules:
(N.B. Not all of these modules will necessarily be available every year. Admission to optional modules will be at the discretion of the Programme Director.)

ML2LOVE	Medieval Love Literature (French)	20	5
IT205	Italian Cinema	20	5
GM2BRE	Brecht in Translation	20	5

IWLP	Modern foreign language	20	5

Part 3 (three terms)
Compulsory modules

Mod Code	Module Title	Credits	Level
HS3HEL	Dissertation in History and European Literature and Culture	40	6

In History (40 credits)

Students will take two Topic modules of 20 credits each.
A full list of modules is available from the Department. Entry is at the discretion of the BA Programme Director.

In European Literature and Culture (40 credits)
ML3REAL	European Realism	20	6

plus one further core module from the following list:
ML3EME	The Epic in Medieval Europe	20	6
ML3MAL	Medieval Arthurian Literature	20	6
IT3EC2	European Cinema	20	6

Not all modules will be available every year; please check with the programme advisor for details.
Students must take the following compulsory module:

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.

To progress from part two to part three, students must:
achieve an overall average of 40% over 120 credits taken in Part 2; and achieve a mark of at least 30% in individual modules representing a total of at least 100 credits.

Summary of Teaching and Assessment
Over the programme as a whole, teaching is through a combination of lectures, seminar discussion and essay tutorials. The Dissertation module is supported by workshops and individual supervision. Assessment is conducted through a mixture of assessed coursework and formal examination.
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
Entrants to the Joint Degree programme are normally required to have obtained:
A levels 340 points in 3 A2s. An A2 in History is not required.
AS 2 good AS grades are accepted as 1 supporting A2. History is not specifically required.
Scottish Highers ABBBB or above
Irish Highers at least ABBBB
International Baccalaureate 31 points
GCSE/O English Language preferred: grade C or above.
All applicants are considered on their individual merits and History may vary these requirements if it sees fit.
Mature applicants. Applications from mature candidates are welcomed. In other respects generous concessions may be made to reflect the value of other qualifications and experience. 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 A2 subjects, 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 Department.

Admissions Tutor:

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 (SEECC), 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

In 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. Additional support is given through orientation sessions on module choices and the Dissertation. Advice is also given by the 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 Personal Tutors for discussion with students. There is also a Departmental Resource Room which provides quiet study space, a photocopier and networked computers.

Students in the Department of Modern Languages and European Studies receive Handbooks 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. Academic feedback and guidance is given through one-to-one essay tutorials, and academic and personal support is provided through the personal tutor system and PAR. A video-viewing suite is available within the Faculty. The Library is well-stocked with printed materials as well as electronic databases, such as 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.

Career prospects

History and Modern Language and European Studies graduates 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 accountancy, banking and commerce, law, publishing, journalism, the media, public relations, information science, museum work, teaching and social work. Many also enter the business world through management training schemes operated by national companies in retailing, marketing, sales, computing, while others go into the civil service and local government. Graduates go on to postgraduate study in both at MA and PhD level, at Reading and elsewhere.

Opportunities for study abroad or for placements

Students have the opportunity to spend a term abroad (normally in Part Two). More information is available form the Visiting Students office.

Programme Outcomes

Knowledge and Understanding

A. Knowledge and understanding of:	Teaching/learning methods and strategies
1. Literary and other cultural texts in European Literature from selected periods between the Middle Ages and the present day 2. A range of kinds of texts including fiction, poetry	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

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 European Literature studies
6. Selected special fields of European Literature
7. The broad sweep of post-classical history and its principal divisions
8. A range of eras and cultures and more focused historical themes and issues
9. The contextualisation of forces, events, and individual experiences in the historical process
10. The nature and variety of historical sources as defined by period and culture
11. The nature of debate and dispute in historical writing

a dissertation. Certificate Level modules in European Literature offer a broad introduction to 1, 2, 3, 4 and 5, while in History they introduce students to 7, 10 and 11 in particular. At Intermediate Level the understanding and skills acquired at Certificate Level are developed in European Literature with particular emphasis on 1, 2, 3 and 4, and in History with emphasis on 7, 8, 9 and 11 through seminars, lectures and individual feedback. Honours Level modules introduce more specialized study, particularly in relation to 3, 5 and 6,8, 10 and 11 through a choice of seminar-based modules together with supervised, independent study leading to a dissertation.

Assessment
At Certificate and Intermediate Levels, knowledge and understanding of 1 - 11 are tested through a combination of essays and unseen written examinations. At Honours Level, 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
5. Accumulate and apply information in a systematic manner

Teaching/learning methods and strategies

Intellectual skills are acquired through independent reading (1), seminar preparation and discussion, and essay writing (1-5) 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- 5 are assessed formatively through seminar discussion and essay feedback and tutorials

C. Practical skills - *able to:*

1. develop and carry out individual research programmes and strategies
2. criticize and formulate interpretations of texts
3. engage in critical argument using relevant theoretical approaches
4. undertake bibliographical and research skills
5. demonstrate a knowledge of appropriate conventions in the presentation of written work
6. demonstrate an awareness of the rhetorical resources of the language
7. relate the study of European literature to cultural and social issues
8. locate and synthesise large quantities of historical material
9. use IT to access sources and information

Teaching/learning methods and strategies

1 - 5 are developed in seminars ,essays and essay tutorials. 4 and 5 are developed through essays, essay feedback and dissertation guidance and supervision. 3 and 6 are particular to European Literature. 8 is particular to History. 9 is common to both subjects

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

D. Transferable skills - *able to:*

Teaching/learning methods and strategies

1. Fluency in written and oral communication
2. The ability to formulate and present arguments
3. Assessing the merits of competing approaches
4. The ability to translate subject-specific knowledge and skills into other environments
5. The ability to find and use relevant information resources
6. Time-management skills
7. A creative approach to problem-solving
8. Group and interpersonal skills
9. An ability to self-evaluate and self-reflect
10. Use of information technology, especially word-processing

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
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.