

BA History and French
For students entering Part 1 in 2009/0

UCAS code: RV11

Awarding Institution:	University of Reading
Teaching Institution:	University of Reading
Relevant QAA subject Benchmarking group(s):	Languages and History
Faculty:	Arts and Humanities Faculty
Programme length:	4 years
Date of specification:	11/Aug/2010
Programme Director:	Dr Emily West
Programme Advisor:	Prof Joël Félix
Board of Studies:	History
Accreditation:	

Summary of programme aims

The degree in History and French offers insights into the richness and variety of human experience. Throughout this process of discovery, students encounter a wide range of subjects and approaches, while having the opportunity to pursue their own enthusiasms and to benefit from the research expertise and activities of staff. Within History, we aim to familiarise students with a broad chronological range, whilst providing them with the opportunity of specialisation in particular periods and topics of British, European and American history. The degree also aims to produce graduates who are competent communicators in spoken and written French and who are informed about French history and culture. Students are able to pursue their own interests through a dissertation. Subject-based and transferable skills are developed in a programme which encourages a scholarly, committed and enthusiastic engagement with the study of the past in association with a language programme.

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 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. Students of French will develop their abilities to communicate in the French language and to deal with intellectual problems effectively by locating information, assessing it critically, communicating independent points of view logically and clearly (both orally and in writing), and substantiating opinions with evidence.

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 both Parts 2 and 3 students choose modules which account for 60 credits in History and 60 credits in French.

Part 1 introduces the disciplines. The History modules focus on historical causation and contextualisation and the use of sources in the discipline. The French modules explore French history and culture and develop students' language skills according to their level of ability on entry. In Part 2 History students focus upon periodisation and the development of their disciplinary skills. In French, students' language abilities are developed and thematic aspects of French history and culture are explored. During the year abroad, the experience of living in a French or French-speaking country enables students to make great strides in their linguistic skills and further broaden their knowledge of French culture. In Part 3 students pursue specifically defined modules in depth in historical studies, translation, and French culture. At this stage, they are expected to work more independently and the dissertation involves a substantial research effort.

Not all optional modules will necessarily be available in any year. Admission to optional modules will be at the discretion of theDDTL.

Part 1 (three terms)*Compulsory modules*

<i>Mod Code</i>	<i>Module Title</i>	<i>Credits</i>	<i>Level</i>
HS1APH	Approaches to History	20	4
HS1LMH	Landmarks in History	20	4

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

HS1DSH	Directed Study in History	20	4
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Either:

Advanced French*Compulsory modules*

FR101	Advanced French Language	20	4
FR103	Contemporary France	20	4

Optional Module

FR104	French Cinema	20	4
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Or:

French Intermediate*Compulsory Modules*

FR102	Intermediate French Language	20	4
FR103	Contemporary France	20	4

Optional Module

FR104	French Cinema	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>
FR201	French Language	20	5
ML2CMS	Career Management Skills	5	5

History (60 credits)

Students must take two period modules (one Early and one Modern) (20 credits each) with their co-requisite skills modules (10 credits each) totalling 60 credits in all. A list of modules can be found in the BA programme handbook. Not all modules run in every year.

French

Optional modules (40 credits)

Students must take two 20-credit modules from a list made available in the Department of French.

The following module is compulsory. Its credits are distributed through the 120 credits of Part 2

ML2CMS	Careers Management Skills	5	5
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Year abroad/Year away/Additional year (three terms)*Compulsory modules*

FR2Y34	French Language Abroad	20	5
FR3Y02	Oral in French	40	6
HS3YDPF	Dissertation Preparation in History and French	20	6

In French

Either

FR2Y31	University Study Abroad	40	5
Or			
FR2Y32	Assistantship Abroad	40	5
Or			
FR2Y33	Work Placement Abroad	40	5

20 level 6(H) credits of the 40 credit joint dissertation are placed in the year abroad (Dissertation Commencement Module) with a further 20 in the final year (Dissertation Module). When the module mark for the Dissertation Module is known that mark is entered for both dissertation modules. The 20 credits taken during the year abroad (Dissertation Commencement) therefore has no result until it is assessed alongside the Part 3 dissertation module. The mark for the Dissertation commencement module does not affect progression from the Year Abroad to Part 3, students may therefore progress to part 3 with no mark for the Dissertation.

Part 3 (three terms)

Compulsory modules

<i>Mod Code</i>	<i>Module Title</i>	<i>Credits</i>	<i>Level</i>
HS3DCF	Dissertation Completion in History and French	20	6
FR303	Advanced French Language Skills	20	6

All students take the Dissertation in History and French module of 40 credits, split over the year abroad and part three. In addition, in History, students choose either two optional 20-credit Topic modules or a Special Subject consisting of two co-requisite modules of 20 credits each, totalling 40 credits in all. A list of modules can be found in the BA programme handbook. Not all modules run in every year.

French

Students choose two 20-credit modules from a list made available in the Department of French.

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 the year abroad , students must:

1. achieve an overall average of 40% over 120 credits taken in Part 2; and
2. obtain at least 40% in each compulsory module and
3. achieve a mark of at least 30% in individual modules representing a total of at least 100 credits.

To proceed from Part 2 to the Year Abroad students should achieve at least 40% in FR201.

To proceed from the Year Abroad to Part Three, students must normally satisfy the examiners they have completed an approved programme of study or employment in a French-speaking country.

The weighted average for four year degrees with a year abroad is calculated on the basis of 2:3:4 (part 2: YA: part 3). Therefore, where the dissertation is split across the year abroad and the final year, the Dissertation Commencement module will be weighted at 3, while the Dissertation module will be weighted at 4.

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 skills exercises while the Dissertation is assessed both as coursework and through oral presentation. At all levels, independent research is expected and encouraged. It is most apparent and significant in the preparation of the Dissertation, although individual supervisory support is also provided.

In French, classes will normally be conducted through a combination of lectures and seminar discussions. In Part 1, lectures to the entire year group will be accompanied by small-group teaching in seminars. All language teaching is based on work in groups of no more than 15 students. In French, Part 1 modules are assessed by a mixture of coursework and formal examination. Part 2 modules are assessed by coursework only. Part 3 modules are assessed exclusively by formal examination (Finals).

The conventions for assessment and classification are included in the Programme Handbooks, but it should be noted that Part 2 modules will count for 33% of final assessment, and Part 3 modules will count for 67% of final assessment.

Admission requirements

UCAS Tariff: 340 points from three A levels only. History at Grade B. Total points exclude Key Skills and General Studies.

International Baccalaureate: 32 points, with History at grade 6 or Advanced GNVQ: 18 units at Distinction overall; or Scottish and Irish Highers: 5 Bs or equivalent thereof.

Those with non-standard qualifications will be considered on an individual basis.

Applicants who are not able to offer French at A or AS level but who have achieved a Grade A* in GCSE French should apply for permission to take French Course B. On successful completion of Part 1 French B, students will be eligible to proceed to any appropriate degree course involving French.

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.

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).

Handbooks are provided to students in the first year. They are also available on the internet: <http://www.reading.ac.uk/french/courses/courses.htm> and

<http://www.reading.ac.uk:80/AcaDepts/lh/History/history.htm>. The Department of French Studies has a departmental library containing a wide range of essential and secondary texts, and videos of French films and documentaries. The departmental newspaper room contains daily newspapers and weekly or monthly magazines. There is also a satellite TV enabling students to watch French programmes. In the Department of French Studies, students are supported and advised by their Personal Tutor or the Director of Teaching and Learning or the Senior Tutor. The grammar course at Part 2 has all the Powerpoint information and supplementary grammar exercises available online in pdf format. French Career Management Skills at Part 2 has its own Blackboard site, containing computer-assessed and other learning activities. The Language Resource Centre (LRC) contains a range of audio and audio-visual materials to promote self-study in languages, together with facilities for watching French television by satellite. The University Library is particularly well stocked with works relating to many different aspects of European History and French culture, and the Faculty possesses a video suite to support cinema studies. The Departmental Libraries contain a range of reference works which can be used by students and offer congenial study spaces. In History, students are supported and advised by the Director of Teaching and Learning. There is also 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. Liaison officers for both History and French coordinate the programme.

Career prospects

Graduates in History and French are trained in clear thinking, language skills, diligence, independence, and adaptability. Graduates may use their degree as a springboard for various areas of employment both in Britain and abroad. Jobs include accountancy, banking and commerce, law, publishing, museum work, teaching and social work. There are opportunities to enter the business world through management training schemes operated by national companies in retailing, marketing, sales, computing and, alternatively, to work for the public sector, in the civil service or local government. The degree will also equip graduates to go on to postgraduate study in either History or French, both at MA and PhD level.

Opportunities for study abroad or for placements

Students spend the third year of their programme studying abroad.

Programme Outcomes

By the end of the programme, students are expected to be able to

- read and understand a variety of historical and literary texts from different periods and discuss their significance in their cultural contexts;
- express clearly-constructed, soundly based arguments about the works and topics studied, making effective use both of published studies and of their own independent judgement;
- understand native-spoken French within an educated environment and to communicate orally with fluency and accuracy;
- write accurately in French with an appropriate understanding of the implications of register and style;

Knowledge and Understanding

A. Knowledge and understanding of:

1. Key approaches and methods of historical and political and/or literary and cultural analysis;
2. The broad sweep of post-classical history and its principal divisions;
3. A range of eras and cultures and more focussed historical themes and issues;
4. The contextualization of forces, events, and individual experiences in the historical process;
5. The nature and variety of historical sources as defined by period and culture;
6. The nature of debate and dispute in historical writing and critical analysis;
7. The French language;
8. French and francophone history, politics and/or literature and culture;

Teaching/learning methods and strategies

Acquisition of aspects 1 - 8 is by lecture, workshop, seminar, tutorial and/or interrupted lecture. Students are expected to undertake independent reading and research from sources indicated in module bibliographies (library, internet), in order to gain fuller understanding of the topic and its context.

At Part 1 formal lectures impart crucial information and perspective which is reinforced and deepened by regular seminars. As the degree progresses, less use is made of the lecture form and students engage with historical problems and texts through the structured exploratory contexts of the seminar and the workshop. Class sizes become progressively smaller as greater emphasis is placed on student-centred learning.

The importance of both primary and secondary

texts is registered throughout the degree, and is established at the outset particularly in the Approaches module, being reinforced in the Dissertation.

Development of the skills of reading, writing, listening and speaking French is by small-group learning and regular non-assessed coursework. The acquisition of French grammar is by Powerpoint lectures in at Part 1, supplemented by access on the internet to the lectures and other self-access material. In Part 2, grammar is learnt in small groups with regular non-assessed coursework.

Assessment

The assessment of knowledge is by a combination over the whole degree of seen and unseen examination, coursework essays, skills exercises, oral examination, and dissertation .

Skills and other attributes

B. Intellectual skills - able to:

1. Analyse and interpret historical, literary or cinematic works in their cultural, socio-economic and political contexts
2. Apply literary and historical concepts
3. Identify problems and issues and to conduct lucid arguments in support of a case, using evidence appropriately
4. Think critically and independently and be able to reflect on one's own positions and to challenge received conclusions
5. Accumulate and apply information in a structured manner and to be able to demonstrate the interrelationships between primary and secondary sources
6. Demonstrate and exercise independence of thought and sensitivity to cultural difference

C. Practical skills - able to:

1. speak, write, read and understand French at high or a near-native level of proficiency;
2. develop and carry out individual research programmes and strategies;
3. apply key methods and concepts of linguistic and literary and/or historical analysis;
4. make clearly-constructed written and oral

Teaching/learning methods and strategies

Intellectual skills are developed through the teaching and learning programme outlined above. Each module involves discussion of the key issues, practise in applying key concepts both orally and in writing, analysis and interpretation of material and, where appropriate, individual feedback sessions on work produced. Through specific focus on topics, issues and texts in seminars, workshops and personal study, students are enabled to develop critical modes of enquiry about the selection and treatment of material. Through essay, project, and dissertation preparation, the research and analytical skills are reinforced which are necessary to form and to validate arguments and judgements. The Dissertation requires students to engage creatively and critically with primary sources and/or historical interpretative works.

Assessment

The variety of assessment methods employed places great emphasis on the learner's ability to demonstrate skills through the production of coherent written and oral responses to the tasks set. Throughout the programme skills are assessed through a combination of coursework essays and examinations and all of the skills are relevant to the production of the dissertation.

Teaching/learning methods and strategies

All students receive initial guidance on how to identify, locate and use material available in the university and departmental libraries and elsewhere. Comprehensive bibliographies are provided at the outset of each course. Classes and tutorials are given to all students on the production of essays and literary, historical or linguistic concepts. Language

presentations and to engage in critical argument using relevant evidence or theoretical approaches;
5. acquire bibliographical and research skills through the retrieval and selection of information from a variety of sources.

D. Transferable skills - *able to*:

1. structure ideas and communicate them effectively orally and in writing;
2. manage time and work to deadlines;
3. participate effectively in groups;
4. work independently;
5. find information and use information technology;
6. be responsible and self-reliant;
7. assess the relevance and importance of the ideas of others;
8. Show sensitivity to cultural differences;
9. Make informed career plans.

classes are compulsory in every year, and much primary and secondary reading material is in French.

Assessment

Skills 1 and 4 assessed by orals and unseen written examinations. There is regular unassessed coursework. Skills 2-4 are assessed through a pattern of coursework essays, skills exercises, and examinations. Skill 5 is developed throughout the programme but is particularly relevant to the dissertation.

Teaching/learning methods and strategies

All modules require regular written and oral work, enabling the student to develop understanding and the need for effective and coherent expression (1). Skill 2 is learnt through the management of different deadlines for different modules within the programme and is a focus of initial one-to-one session under the PARS student development scheme. Skills 3 to 7 are developed from the outset in seminars or interrupted lecture. Skills 6 and 8 are especially developed during the year abroad, its importance being established during the preparatory session in year 2. IT skills are encouraged and developed by being an integral part of much teaching from year 1 onwards. Vocational awareness is promoted by the Careers Management Skills module.

Assessment

Effective communication of ideas is a major criterion for the assessment of students' work, including organisation of material, problem-solving skills, justified reasoning and logical arguments and fluency - clear introduction, clear presentation of argument and full conclusions. Written skills are examined at every stage both under timed conditions and in course work. Oral skills are examined the oral presentation for the Dissertation. Clearly notified penalties are imposed on students not adhering to deadlines or who plagiarise. Students are encouraged to use technology-enhanced language learning, but this skill is not formally assessed.

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.