

**BA Television & Film & Theatre**  
**For students entering Part 1 in 2009/0**

**UCAS code: WW64**

Awarding Institution:	University of Reading
Teaching Institution:	University of Reading
Relevant QAA subject Benchmarking group(s):	Dance, Drama and Performance Studies; Communications, Media, Film and Cultural Studies
Faculty:	Arts and Humanities Faculty
Programme length:	3 years
Date of specification:	14/Apr/2011
Programme Director:	Dr Simone Knox
Programme Advisor:	Dr John Gibbs
Board of Studies:	Film, Theatre and Television
Accreditation:	

**Summary of programme aims**

The central aim of this multi-disciplinary programme is to enable students to gain an understanding of major areas of cinema, of theatre since the late nineteenth century and of British and other English language television drama and documentary. Students will experience some of the varied achievements of film-makers, writers (for both the stage and television), directors, producers and theatre practitioners, and become familiar with a range of perspectives which can inform analysis of film, drama and television texts. Students also undertake practical work, closely informed by critical issues ('critical practice'), which is designed both to extend understanding of how film and theatre create meaning, and to develop appropriate practical expertise.

**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, 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 degree 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, and use basic wordprocessing, information retrieval and IT skills; the ability to work co-operatively with others. Practical work enables students to develop their ability to work co-operatively with others and their skills of effective communication using the methods of television and video, developing projects through co-operation and dialogue, taking leadership and management roles.

**Programme content**

In each Part of the degree programme students must take modules to make up a total of 120 credits. In Part 1 of the Television and Film & Theatre degree, students will take 80 credits worth of modules in the Department of Film, Theatre & Television. They will be free to acquire their remaining 40 credits from modules elsewhere in the University. In Part 2 they must normally take 60 credits in Film & Theatre and 60 credits in Television; however, in consultation with their programme adviser, students may substitute up to 20 credits from modules available elsewhere in the University. At part 3 students must normally take 40 credits in Film & Theatre and 40 credits in Television and then select a dissertation module, which will either be in Film & Theatre or in Television, or a joint dissertation. Again, in consultation with their programme adviser, students may substitute up to 20 credits from modules available elsewhere in the University.

**Part 1 (three terms)**

*Compulsory modules*

<i>Mod Code</i>	<i>Module Title</i>	<i>Credits</i>	<i>Level</i>
FT1CHA	Introduction to Film and Theatre	40	4
FT1TFC	Introduction to Television Studies	20	4
FT1CPT	Introduction to Critical Practice in Television	20	4

## Part 2 (three terms)

### Compulsory modules

FT2BTA	British Theatre	20	5
FT2BTB	British Theatre	10	5
FT2BTVA	British Television A	20	5
FT2BTVB	British Television B	10	5
FT2CMS	Career Management Skills	5	5
FT2CPT	Critical Practice in Television	30	5
FT2US1A	US Cinema 1	20	5
FT2US1B	US Cinema 1	10	5

### Optional Module

FT2BP	Bulmershe Production	10	5
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### Notes:

Students taking the Bulmershe Production optional module will substitute this for 10 credits in any Part 2 module.

10 credit B modules MUST be taken together with the relevant 20 credit A module, making the module worth 30 credits.

Students may choose to replace 20 credits in Film & Theatre or in Television either with a module or modules totalling 20 credits from outside the programme.

## Part 3 (three terms)

Students choose one of the three dissertation modules, depending on their choice of topic, which may be combined Television with Film and/or Theatre, or Television only, or Film and/or Theatre only.

FT3TVDS	Dissertation: Television and Film and Theatre	40	6
FT3TD	Dissertation: Television	40	6
FT3DISS	Dissertation: Film and Theatre	40	6

### Designated Film & Theatre modules

Students take one Critical Option, comprising of two linked 20 credit modules with the suffixes A and B, which must be taken together. A complete list of Critical Options is available from the Director of Teaching and Learning in Film Theatre & Television. Admission to optional modules will be at the discretion of the Director of Teaching and Learning.

### Optional Module

FT3BP	Bulmershe Production	10	6
FT3WBLWork	Based Learning in Film, Theatre or Television	10	6

### Note

Students taking the Bulmershe Production or WBL optional module will substitute this for 10 credits of assessment in any Part 3 module.

### Designated Television Modules

FT3CTA+B	Contemporary Television Drama	20+20	6
FT3CDA+B	Contemporary Documentary	20+20	6

Students will normally take one Critical Option, comprising two linked modules with the suffixes A and B, which must be taken together, selected from the above.

### Progression requirements

In order to progress from Part 1 to Part 2, a student shall normally be required to:

Obtain an overall average of 40% in 120 credits taken in Part 1, where all the credits are at C level or above; and  
Obtain a mark of at least 30% in individual modules amounting to not less than 100 credits taken in Part 1; and

Obtain marks of at least 40% in all compulsory modules.

In order to progress from Part 2 to Part 3, a student shall normally be required to:

Obtain an overall average of 40% in 120 credits taken in Part 2; and

Obtain a mark of at least 30% in individual modules amounting to not less than 100 credits taken in Part 2.

Obtain marks of at least 40% in all compulsory modules.

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

Teaching is through seminars, lectures and essay tutorials. Selected modules, including most Television modules, involve practical production exercises designed to test critical ideas. In addition the Dissertation module is supported by workshops and individual supervisions. Teaching styles are varied to encourage active engagement by students. Film and television viewing and theatre visits are central to the teaching of the degree. Over the programme as a whole, assessment will be conducted through a mixture of assessed essays and other assessed assignments plus informal and formal examination. The weighting between Part 2 and Part 3 for classification purposes is 33% and 67%. Assessment criteria for each of the Levels are given in the appropriate Departmental Handbook.

### **Admission requirements**

Entrants to the Joint Degree programme are normally required to have obtained:

UCAS Tariff: Either 280 points from 3 A2s, to include 100 pts [grade B] in at least one of the following: English Literature, English Literature and Language, Theatre Studies, Dance, Film Studies, Media Studies, History, Philosophy, Sociology, Classics or Psychology;

or 320 points from 3 A2s + up to 2 AS, to include 100 pts [Grade B] in at least one of the following: English Literature, English Literature and Language, Theatre Studies, Dance, Film Studies, Media Studies, History, Philosophy, Sociology, Classics or Psychology.

AS: 2 good AS grades are accepted as one supporting A level

Scottish Highers ABBBBB or above (A in English Literature)

Irish Leaving Certificate at least ABBBB (A in English Literature)

International Baccalaureate 31 points with 6 or 7 for Higher level English Literature

GCSE/O Language preferred: grade C or above.

All applications are considered on their individual merits. Mature candidates will usually be expected to have a B (100 points) at A level in at least one of the following: English Literature, English Literature and Language, Theatre Studies, Dance, Film Studies, Media Studies, History, Philosophy, Sociology, Classics or Psychology or equivalent qualification. In other respects, concessions may be made to reflect the value of other qualifications and experience.

**Admissions Tutor:** Dr Ashley Thorpe, Dr Tom Brown and Dr Faye Woods

### **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-session 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)

Students in the Department of Film, Theatre & Television 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 specialised help within the University, such as the Study Skills Advisor and the Counselling Service. Academic feedback and guidance is given through detailed written comments. Academic and personal support for students in their studies is also provided through the University's Personal Development Planning (PDP) scheme, in which students meet their personal tutors regularly to review their

progress. From a highly structured introduction in Part 1, in Parts 2 and 3 students take increasing responsibility for their learning and module choice. The Department has a range of film/video viewing rooms and extensive technical facilities for small scale production in theatre and digital video. It also houses an extensive collection of films and television programmes. The Library, which has buildings on both the Whiteknights and Bulmershe campuses, has an extensive collection of printed materials as well as electronic databases. The Bulmershe Library holds one of the country's leading academic collections of film and modern theatre material. Specialist subject librarians are available to give students advice and guidance to library resources.

### **Career prospects**

Career possibilities for Reading graduates in Television and Film & Theatre are very wide ranging. Graduates find that the specific as well as the transferable skills developed by the programme enable them to enter many fields of work including education, publishing, journalism, management, administration, public relations, advertising and the media and performance industries. A Reading Television and Film & Theatre degree provides graduates with a range of communication, analytical, practical and social skills that will serve them in good stead in the world of work. A number of graduates each year go on to further professional training, academic study and research.

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

Students have the opportunity to study abroad for a term either within Europe via the ERASMUS programme or at one of the University of Reading's non-European partner institutions. They will require the consent of the departmental study abroad coordinator and the departmental Director of Teaching and Learning in order to participate. Full details of potential destinations can be found on both the departmental and Erasmus & Study Abroad websites.

### **Programme Outcomes**

#### **Knowledge and Understanding**

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

1. A selection of film and theatre texts from a range of national and cultural contexts from the late nineteenth century until the present day; a selection of television texts, from a range of national and cultural contexts (particularly Britain and the US).
2. A variety of approaches to filmmaking, and television and theatre production
3. Methods of critical, dramatic, filmic and televisual analysis
4. Ways in which theatre, film and television have informed each other historically
5. Ways in which social, cultural and historical contexts inform theatre, film and television texts
6. A range of approaches in Television, Film and Theatre studies
7. Ways in which critical and theoretical perspectives can inform practical work.
8. Methods and skills of small scale television and video production.
9. Selected special fields of Television, Film and Theatre studies

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

Knowledge and understanding are gained through formal teaching (lectures, seminar discussions, workshops and practical exercises, and individual essay feedback), prescribed and recommended reading and viewing, and the writing of essays and a dissertation. Part 1 offers a broad introduction to 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 7 & 8. In Part 2, the understanding and skills acquired in Part 1 are developed with particular emphasis on 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 7 and 8 through seminars, lectures, practical exercises and various forms of feedback. Part 3 introduces more specialized study, particularly in relation to 3, 5, 6 and 9 through a choice of seminar-based modules incorporating practical exercises, together with supervised, independent study leading to a dissertation.

##### *Assessment*

In Parts 1 and 2, knowledge and understanding of 1 - 5 are tested through a combination of essays, and take-away examinations. 1, 2, 3, 7 and 8 are assessed through practical work and accompanying critical reflection. In Part 3, assessment is through a mixture of methods, such as extended essays, essays plus take-away exams, practical work, reflective documentation and the dissertation.

#### **Skills and other attributes**

##### **B. Intellectual skills - *able to*:**

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

1. Capacity for independent analysis and research
2. Identification of problems and issues
3. The ability to read, watch and interpret closely and critically
4. An ability to reflect on one's own opinions and those of others
5. Apply conceptual frameworks and methods of analysis to new contexts and material
6. Ability to integrate critical thinking with creative work

Intellectual skills are acquired through independent reading and viewing (1), preparation and discussion in seminars and practical exercises and workshops, essay writing (1, 2, 3, 5 and 6) and a variety of written and verbal feedback (2, 3, 4 and 5). 5 and 6 are assessed formatively and summatively through practical work supervision and documentation of practical projects.

#### *Assessment*

1 - 3 are assessed both formatively and summatively in coursework essays and take-away exams. 1- 4 are assessed formatively through seminar discussion and essay feedback. All are assessed formatively and summatively through practical work and documentation of practical projects.

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

1. The ability to criticize and formulate interpretations of television, drama and film texts (including theatre performances)
2. An ability to engage in critical argument using relevant theoretical approaches and by testing ideas in group television production exercises.
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 Film and Theatre and Television to cultural and social issues
7. Basic skills of television and video production
8. An ability to evaluate practice in the light of critical study
9. Presentation skills.

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

1 - 3 and 6 are developed in seminars, workshops, seminar presentations, essays and essay tutorials. 4 and 5 are developed through essays, essay feedback and dissertation guidance and supervision. Skills 6, 7, 8 are developed through practical projects and accompanying reflective documentation.

#### *Assessment*

1 -6 are assessed through formative and summative essays. 1 - 3 and 6 are also tested in seen and unseen examinations. Skills 6, 7, 8 are assessed through projects in a range of television forms, each of which are accompanied with critical, reflective documentation. Some assignments may be assessed through presentations as well as written reports /essays, enabling the assessment of 9.

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

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 and the ability to manage personal workloads.
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
11. Career management skills

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

Transferable skills are developed through seminar and workshop discussions (1, 2, 3, 4, 7 and 9), through seminar presentations, essay writing, tutorial feedback, seen and unseen examinations (1 - 9), and through sessions and assignments associated with the module on Careers Management Skills (11). 4 and 7 particularly are developed through requiring students to draw on acquired knowledge and skills when analysing new material in essays, seen and unseen examinations. The majority of these skills (including 7, 8 and 9) are developed through practical work and accompanying critical reflection (in class and on the page). 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 - 8 and 9 are formatively assessed through coursework essays, workshops, practical projects and seminar presentations, and summatively assessed through essays, seen and unseen examinations, group / individual practical projects / accompanying documentation and the dissertation. 9 is encouraged through essay feedback and essay tutorials, and in reflective discussion in class and in the documentation around practical projects. 8 is encouraged through seminars, workshops, tutorials, and group practical projects.

**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.**