

**BA English Literature and European Literature & Culture**  
**For students entering Part 1 in 2010/1**

**UCAS code: QR39**

Awarding Institution:	University of Reading
Teaching Institution:	University of Reading
Relevant QAA subject Benchmarking group(s):	English, Area Studies
Faculty:	Arts, Humanities and Social Science Faculty
Programme length:	3 years
Date of specification:	25/Apr/2012
Programme Director:	Dr Andrew Nash
Programme Advisor:	Dr Daniela La Penna
Board of Studies:	English
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 analysis, and a knowledge of core developments in English Literature 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, 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.

In following this programme, students will have had the opportunity to enhance their skills relating to literacy and communication and the ability to apply these in appropriate contexts, the ability to understand, interrogate and apply a variety of theoretical positions and weigh the importance of alternative perspectives, the ability to present sustained and persuasive written and oral arguments cogently and coherently, career management, a broad awareness of cultural difference in a European dimension, information handling, problem-solving, team working and use of information technology.

**Programme content**

Each Part of the degree programme comprises 120 credits. In Part 1 students are required to take 60 credits in English Literature and a minimum of 40 credits in European Literature and Culture. Part 1 students are introduced to fundamental debates about the study of literature through close analysis of selected texts from different periods and from different countries and through exploration of core issues involved in the comparative study of literatures in translation. In Parts 2 and 3, students must normally take 60 credits in both English Literature and European Literature and Culture in each Part. However, in consultation with their programme adviser, they may choose to take up to 20 credits each year from modules elsewhere in the University. Both strands of the programme provide increased breadth of coverage, focusing on a variety of historical periods and generic traditions. Students will have the possibility of selecting specialised optional modules.

**Part 1 (three terms)***Compulsory modules*

EN1LL	Languages of Literature	20	4
EN1WKT	What Kind of Text is This?	20	4
EN1REE	Researching the English Essay	20	4
ML102	Core Issues in the Comparative Study of European Literature	20	4
ML1EMF	European Modernist Fiction	20	4

**In European Literature and Culture***Optional modules (20 credits)*

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***In European Literature and Culture (60 credits)**

Mod Code	module Title	Credit	Level
EN2CMS	Career Management Skills	5	5
ML2ROM	European Romanticism: Themes and Genres	20	5
EN2MDR	Modern Drama	20	5

**In English Literature (60 credits)**

Students normally take 60 credits consisting of optional modules of 20 credits each. At least one of these modules must be drawn from a list of pre-1800 options. A complete list of options is available from the Programme Director and in the Part 3 Module Supplement.

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

**In European Literature and Culture***Optional modules:*

Students must take ONE optional module.

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

ML2LOV	Medieval French Love Literature	20	5
IT205	Italian Cinema	20	5
GM2BRE	Brecht in Translation	20	5
IWLP	Modern foreign language	20	5
EU2STA	Society, Thought, and Art in Modern Europe	20	5

Students may choose to replace one 20-credit intermediate module from English or European Literature and Culture with one 20-credit module from outside the programme.

**Part 3 (three terms)***Compulsory modules*

<i>Mod Code</i>	<i>Module Title</i>	<i>Credits</i>	<i>Level</i>
EN3JDE	Dissertation - English and European Literature and Culture	40	6
ML3REAL	European Realism	20	6

**In English**

In addition, students choose two optional 20-credit modules, one in each term, to make a total of 40 credits.

**Optional modules:** A complete list of options is available from the Programme Director and in the English Part 3 Module Supplement. Admission to optional modules will be at the discretion of the Programme Director. All students have the opportunity to pursue a placement option in any Part 3 module.

### **In European Literature and Culture (40 credits)**

Students must take the following compulsory module:

ML3REAL	European Realism	20	6
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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.

### **Progression requirements**

To proceed from Part 1 to Part 2, a Joint Honours student must obtain

1. an overall average of 40% over 120 credits taken in Part 1, where all the credits are at C level or above;
2. a mark of at least 40% in each English Literature module;
3. a mark of at least 40% in each European Literature and Culture module;
4. a mark of at least 30% in individual modules amounting to not less than 100 credits taken in Part 1.

To proceed from Part 2 to Part 3, students must obtain

1. an overall average of 40% over 120 credits taken in Part 2;
2. a mark of at least 30% in individual modules amounting to not less than 100 credits taken in Part 2.

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

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 this programme are normally required to have obtained:

UCAS Tariff: 320-340 points, including 100 points (grade B) in English Literature or English Language and Literature, plus two other A2s.

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

Scottish or Irish Highers: ABBBBB (A in English Literature)

GCSE/O English 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 English Literature, or equivalent qualification. Consideration is also given to applicants with other qualifications and experience.

**Admissions Tutor:** Mrs Carolyn Lyle

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

University support for students and their learning falls into two categories. Learning support is provided by a wide array of services across the University, including: the University Library, the Student Employment, Experience and Careers Centre (SEEC), In-sessional English Support Programme, the Study Advice and

Mathematics Support Centre teams, IT Services and the Student Access to Independent Learning (S@il) computer-based teaching and learning facilities. There are language laboratory facilities both for those students studying on a language degree and for those taking modules offered by the Institution-wide Language Programme. Student guidance and welfare support is provided by Personal Tutors, School Senior Tutors, the Students' Union, the Medical Practice and advisers in the Student Services Centre. The Student Services Centre is housed in the Carrington Building and offers advice on accommodation, careers, disability, finance, and wellbeing. Students can get key information and guidance from the team of Helpdesk Advisers, or make an appointment with a specialist adviser; Student Services also offer drop-in sessions and runs workshops and seminars on a range of topics. For more information see [www.reading.ac.uk/student](http://www.reading.ac.uk/student)

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

Students in the Department of English Language & Literature and the Department of Modern Languages 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 Skills Advisor and the Counselling Service. The programmes are designed to give students extensive teaching support in Part 1 leading to more independent work in Part 3. Academic feedback and guidance is given through one-to-one essay tutorials, and academic and personal support is provided through the tutor system and the University's Personal and Academic Record (PAR) Scheme. Dissertation workshops prepare students for the Part 3 dissertation which is individually supervised. The Geoffrey Matthews Collection, housed in the Department of English Language & Literature, 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 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 recent years students who have gained an English Literature and European Literature degree from Reading have gone into a wide variety of jobs, including teaching, publishing, journalism, the media, management, administration, and public relations. An literature degree 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 and American Literature has a Careers Tutor available to advise students in English Literature on researching and planning their career choices. Students also have the opportunity to pursue a placement option at Part 3.

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

#### **Programme Outcomes**

##### **Knowledge and Understanding**

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

1. Literary and other cultural texts in English Literature and European Literature from selected periods between the Middle Ages and the present day
2. A range of kinds of texts including fiction, poetry and drama
3. Methods of critical textual analysis
4. Ways in which social, cultural and historical issues relate to texts
5. A range of approaches in English Literature and European Literature studies
6. Selected special fields of English Literature and European Literature

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

Knowledge and understanding are gained through formal teaching (lectures, seminar discussions, and individual essay feedback), prescribed and recommended reading, and the writing of essays and a dissertation. Certificate Level modules offer a broad introduction to 1, 2, 3, 4 and 5. At Intermediate Level the understanding and skills acquired at Certificate Level are developed with particular emphasis on 1, 2 and 4 through seminars, lectures and individual feedback. Honours Level modules introduce 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 dissertation.

#### *Assessment*

At Certificate and Intermediate Levels, knowledge and understanding of 1 - 5 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

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

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

#### *Assessment*

1 - 3 are assessed both formatively in coursework essays, and summatively in essays, unseen exams and the dissertation.

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

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

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

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

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

#### *Assessment*

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

#### **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
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

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

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.**