

BA History with German
For students entering Part 1 in 2010/1

UCAS code:

Awarding Institution:	University of Reading
Teaching Institution:	University of Reading
Relevant QAA subject Benchmarking group(s):	History, Modern Languages
Faculty:	Arts, Humanities and Social Science Faculty
Programme length:	3 years
Date of specification:	08/May/2012
Programme Director:	Dr Emily West
Programme Advisor:	Dr Ian Roe
Board of Studies:	History
Accreditation:	

Summary of programme aims

The degree in History with German 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 German and who are informed about German 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.

Students of German will develop their abilities to communicate in the German 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 80 credits in History and 40 credits in German.

Part 1 introduces the disciplines. The History modules focus on historical causation and contextualisation and the use of sources in the discipline. The German modules explore German 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 and they, also undertake the Themes and Issues in History Module. In German, students' language abilities are developed and thematic aspects of German history and culture are explored. In Part 3 students pursue specifically defined modules in depth in historical studies, translation, and German culture. At this stage, they are expected to work more independently and the dissertation in History involves a substantial research effort.

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 in History (20 credits) which may be taken only if the compulsory modules are also studied

HS1DSH	Directed Study in History	20	4
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Either (for students entering with A- or AS-level German or equivalent)

Compulsory modules

GM1AGL	Advanced German Language	20	4
GM1IMG	Icons of Modern Germany	20	4

Or (for students entering with GCSE German or equivalent)

Compulsory modules

LA1PG4	IWLP German Level 4	20	4
GM1ICI	Icons of Modern Germany (Intermediate/Beginners)	20	4

The following optional modules are also available: (maximum of 40 credits)

GM1ILG	The Inner Life of the German Language	10	4
GM1NPP	The German Nazi-Past and the Present	10	4
GM1LRH	Literary Reflection of Historical Events	10	4
GM1IHD	Interpreting Historical Documents	10	4

Part 2 (three terms)

Compulsory modules

HS2CMS	Career Management Skills	5	5
HS2TIH	Themes and Issues in History	20	5
GM2L2	German Language	20	5

In History (80 credits)

All students normally take the compulsory Themes and Issues module (20 credits) , two Period modules (20 credits) (one Early and one Modern) and their corequisite skills modules (10 credits each). A list of modules is available from the Department of History

Students take 20 credits (10 in each term) from a list of optional modules on German culture or language .

Part 3 (three terms)

In History (80 credits)

Compulsory modules

All students take the Dissertation in History module of 40 credits, HS3HLD. In addition they choose two 20 credit Topic modules. A list of modules is available from the Department of History.

In German Studies (40 credits)

One of

GM3GPT	Translation into German and English	20	6
GM3GSC	German Structure and Composition	20	6
GM3L3	German Language III	20	6

Plus one 20-credit module to be chosen from a list of available options supplied by the Department in the relevant year. All optional modules will be subject to availability of staff and will require a minimum and maximum number of participants to run.

Progression requirements

To progress from part one to part two, students must:
achieve an overall average of 40% over the 120 credits taken in Part 1, and
obtain at least 40% in each compulsory module, and
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

In History at Part 1, teaching is by large group lectures reinforced by seminars, and for those taking the Directed Study, individual supervision is provided. At Parts 2 and 3, it is principally by seminars. At all levels, independent research is expected and encouraged. It is most apparent and significant in the Dissertation, although individual supervisory support is also provided. All Parts are assessed by a mixture of coursework and timed examination. The Part 2 Skills in Periods modules are based solely on coursework, whilst the Dissertation includes an element of oral presentation.

In German, language modules are taught in small groups; other modules typically involve a mixture of lectures and small-group seminars. Most modules are assessed by a mixture of coursework and formal examination. 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

A levels: 340 UCAS points in 3 A levels, or 360 points from 3 A and 1 AS levels. B at A level in History is required in either case. Total points exclude Key Skills and General Studies.

IB: 6,6,6 in Higher Level (HL) subjects, including 6 for HL History.

Scottish Highers: 340/360 UCAS points in Scottish Framework Qualifications, either 3 Advanced Highers or a combination of Advanced Highers and Highers. This must include B at Advanced Higher History in all cases.

Vocational Qualifications: AVCE, VCE and BTEC Nationals can be included in an application; but tariff points must be equal to those for A levels, and A level History at B must be included in all cases.

Applications from international candidates are welcomed. Those not offering A level or IB qualifications are advised to contact the international admissions tutor as to the acceptability of their qualifications. For those whose education has not been undertaken in English, the IELTS requirement is 7.0, with no language component under 6.5.

Admissions Tutor: Dr Anne Lawrence-Mathers

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

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. 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 History Resource Room which provides quiet study space and a photocopier.

The University Library is particularly well stocked with works relating to many different aspects of European History and German culture, and the Department of Modern Languages and European Studies has DVD and video viewing facilities to support cinema studies. The Departmental Libraries contain a range of reference works which can be used by students and offer congenial study spaces. The Department of Modern Languages and European Studies has a programme adviser for each part of the programme and provides detailed course handbooks for each section of the programme. Liaison Officers for both History and German coordinate the programme.

Career prospects

Graduates in History with German 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 German, both at MA and PhD level.

Opportunities for study abroad or for placements

Students have the opportunity to spend a period of study abroad (normally in Part 2). They will require the consent of both departmental study abroad coordinators in order to participate. Full details of potential destinations can be found on both the Erasmus and Study Abroad websites.

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 German within an educated environment and to communicate orally with fluency and accuracy;
- write accurately in German with an appropriate understanding of the implications of register and style;

Knowledge and Understanding

A. Knowledge and understanding of:

1. The broad sweep of post-classical history and its principal divisions
2. Key approaches and methods of historical and political and/or literary and cultural analysis
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. A wide range of German vocabulary and idiom, and also the fundamental aspects and concepts of German grammar and syntax (and important contrasts with English)
8. Core aspects of German history, society, literature and culture post-1900, together with a selection of additional topics in German history, society, literature and culture

Teaching/learning methods and strategies

Acquisition of aspects 1 - 6 and 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 German is by small-group learning and regular non-assessed coursework.

Assessment

The assessment of knowledge is by a combination over the whole degree of seen and unseen examination, coursework essays, oral examination, skills exercises, 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. Read a variety of texts closely and critically
4. Identify problems and issues and conduct lucid arguments in support of a case, using evidence appropriately
5. Think critically and independently and be able to reflect on one's own positions and to challenge received conclusions
6. Accumulate and apply information in a structured manner and to be able to demonstrate the interrelationships between primary and secondary sources
7. Demonstrate and exercise independence of thought and sensitivity to cultural difference

C. Practical skills - *able to:*

1. Speak, write, read and understand German 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 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;

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

Assessment

Skill 1 is 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 (skill 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

6. be responsible and self-reliant;
7. assess the relevance and importance of the ideas of others;
8. Make informed career plans.

session under the personal tutor system. Skills 3 to 7 are developed from the outset in seminars or interrupted lecture. 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 student's 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 in the dissertation presentation. 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.