BA History with Italian   **UCAS code: V1R3**
For students entering Part 1 in 2010/1

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: 3 years
Date of specification: 13/Aug/2010
Programme Director: Dr Emily West
Programme Advisor: Ms Paola Nasti
Board of Studies: History
Accreditation:

Summary of programme aims

The degree in History with Italian 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 Italian and who are informed about Italian 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 Italian will develop their abilities to communicate in the Italian 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 Italian.

Part 1 introduces the disciplines. The History modules focus on historical causation and contextualisation and the use of sources in the discipline. The Italian modules explore Italian 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 module Themes and Issues in History. In Italian, students' language abilities are developed and thematic aspects of Italian history and culture are explored. In Part 3 students pursue specifically defined modules in depth in historical studies, translation, and Italian 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

Mod Code	Module Title	Credits	Level
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 |

Part 1 -Compulsory modules for Italian:
For advanced students:

IT1001	Advanced Italian Language	20	4
IT1002	Twentieth-Century Italian Culture	20	4

Non-advanced students (including complete beginners) take ONE of the following, depending on experience:

IT1003	Italian Language (Elementary) and Culture	40	4
IT1005	Italian Language (Lower Intermediate) and Culture	40	4

Optional module (open to all students):

IT1004	Italian Mediaeval and Renaissance Culture (in translation)	20	4

Part 2 (three terms)
Compulsory modules

Mod Code	Module Title	Credits	Level
HS2CMS	Career Management Skills	5	5
HS2TIH	Themes and Issues in History	20	5

All students take the Themes and Issues in History module (20 credits) and two Period modules (one Early and one Modern) at 20 credits each, along with their corequisite Skills modules (10 credits each). A list of modules is available from the DDTL.

Part 2 - compulsory modules in italian
Either

IT201	Advanced Italian Language II	20	5

or

IT202	Intermediate Italian Language	20	5

And one optional modules of 20 credits to be chosen from a list available in the Department of Italian Studies

Part 3 (three terms)
Compulsory modules

Mod Code	Module Title	Credits	Level
HS3HLD	Dissertation in History	40	6
IT316	Italian as a Minor Language	20	6

History (80 credits)
Students take the 40-credit dissertation in History. In addition students choose two optional 20 credit Topic modules. Exceptionally, students can ask permission of the DDTL to take a Special Subject consisting of two co-requisite modules of 20 credits each, totalling 40 credits in all. A list of modules is available from the DDTL.

Italian
Optional modules
One module of 20 credits chosen from a list available in the Department of Italian Studies

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 Part1,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 part three, 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.

Summary of teaching and assessment
In History at Part 1, teaching is by large group lectures reinforced by seminars of c. 15 students, and for those taking the Directed Study, individual supervision is provided. At Parts 2 and 3, it is principally by seminars, of around 25 students in Periods, 20 in Topics, and 12 in Special Subjects. 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, while the Dissertation includes an element of oral presentation.
In Italian, teaching and learning is by lectures, seminars and workshops while language modules are always taught in small groups. 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 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).

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, a photocopier and networked computers.
The Access Point for Individual Language Learning (APILL) contains a range of audio and audio-visual materials to promote self-study in languages, together with facilities for watching Italian television by satellite. The University Library is particularly well stocked with works relating to many different aspects of European

History and Italian culture, and the Faculty possesses a video suite to support cinema studies. The Departmental Resource Rooms contain a range of reference works which can be used by students and offer congenial study spaces. Liaison Officers for both History and Italian coordinate the programme.

Career prospects
Graduates in History with Italian 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. Employment opportunities exist in accountancy, banking and commerce, law, publishing, museum work, teaching and social work. They are also available in the business world through management training schemes operated by national companies in retailing, marketing, sales, computing, and in the civil service and local government. The specialist linguistic skills equip students to teach English as a Foreign Language abroad, work as translators, or in the travel industry. They also enable graduates to go on to postgraduate study in either History or Italian, both at MA and PhD level.

Opportunities for study abroad or for placements
Students have the opportunity to study abroad for a term (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 it is expected that students will 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 Italian within an educated environment in practical and/or predictable situations and communicate orally in non-specialised contexts;
write competently in Italian in non-specialised contexts with an appropriate understanding of the implications of register and style.

Knowledge and Understanding

A. Knowledge and understanding of:

The broad sweep of post-classical history and its principal divisions
Key approaches and methods of historical and political and/or literary and cultural analysis
A range of eras and cultures and more focussed historical themes and issues
The contextualization of forces, events, and individual experiences in the historical process
The nature and variety of historical sources as defined by period and culture
The nature of debate and dispute in historical writing and critical analysis.
A wide range of Italian vocabulary and idiom, and also the fundamental aspects and concepts of Italian grammar and syntax (and important contrasts with English)
Core aspects of Italian history, society, literature and culture, together with a selection of additional topics in Italian history, society, literature and culture

Teaching/learning methods and strategies

1. In History, 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.
2. 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.
3. At Part 1, Italian is taught at three distinct levels: beginners, intermediate and advanced. Separate teaching is maintained throughout Part 2, in Part 3, all
students follow the same courses. Teaching is always in
small groups, with different classes being devoted to grammar, oral and aural skills, reading and writing skills and translation. Audio-visual resources are

used
as appropriate and the use of self-access facilities is encouraged. Regular non-assessed coursework is set,
and considerable emphasis is based on individual study.
4. Throughout the programme, students are expected to
undertake independent reading on the basis of bibliographies issued for each module, and prepare seminar papers and assessed essays. The Dissertation
provides an opportunity for the further development of
independent research.

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. 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.

Teaching/learning methods and strategies

These skills are developed throughout the programme. Classes in historical, literary, cinematic and other cultural modules involve analysis and discussion, often based on papers presented by students; and set essays involve analysis and debate on intellectual problems. Awareness of new approaches is encouraged as options are often linked to teachers' research interests. Individual feedback is provided on content and organisation of essays. Independent thinking is developed especially through the dissertation module for which initial preparation and regular support are provided.

Assessment
These skills are assessed in all Parts of the programme by a combination of coursework essays and examination. The Dissertation is a key element, and there are opportunities for writing extended essays.

C. Practical skills - *able to:*

1. Read and understand Italian in practical and/or predictable situations and speak and write it competently in non-specialised contexts;
2. Develop and carry out individual research programmes and strategies;
3. Seek out and select information from published and Internet sources and use it creatively and critically;
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.

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 Italian. Language classes are compulsory throughout the programme and there is regular unassessed coursework. Students regularly give oral

presentations and write essays and are given feedback on them. In the latter half of the programme the Dissertation and extended essays provide experience of researching topics independently.

Assessment
Skill 1 is assessed at different stages by oral examinations and unseen written papers. Skills 2-5 are assessed by a combination of coursework essays, portfolios of skills, examinations and dissertation.

D. Transferable skills - *able to:*

1. Construct and communicate arguments clearly and effectively in speech and writing, and support arguments with evidence;
2. Think critically and assess the relevance and importance of the ideas of others;
3. Locate information and use information technology (especially word-processing and web-based resources);
4. Participate effectively in group activities and have good interpersonal skills;
5. Be self-reliant, organise their own time purposefully and work independently;
6. Show sensitivity to cultural differences;
7. Make informed career plans.

Teaching/learning methods and strategies

Skills 1-6 are developed progressively throughout the programme. Participation in seminars and oral classes develops skills in self-expression and teamwork. Critical thought, the construction of arguments, and information skills are all developed through essay writing and the dissertation, and all assessed work must be word-processed. Time-management skills are enhanced by the regular production of language work and the meeting of strict essay deadlines. Sensitivity to cultural difference informs the whole programme. 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. Skills 1-2 are assessed through coursework and examinations, and the oral assessment element of the Dissertation. The location of information especially forms part of the activity involved in the Dissertation. Skill 4 is not directly assessed. There are strict, clearly defined penalties for lateness in handing in assessed work and for plagiarism.

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.