

BA History and Philosophy
For students entering Part 1 in 2010/1

UCAS code: VV15

Awarding Institution:	University of Reading
Teaching Institution:	University of Reading
Relevant QAA subject Benchmarking group(s):	History and Philosophy
Faculty:	Arts, Humanities and Social Science Faculty
Programme length:	3 years
Date of specification:	04/May/2012
Programme Director:	Dr Emily West
Programme Advisor:	Dr John Preston
Board of Studies:	History
Accreditation:	

Summary of programme aims

The History element of the syllabus 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. 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. It also enables students to pursue their own interests through independent study and 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.

The Philosophy part of the programme aims to give students an understanding of central philosophical principles, concepts, problems, texts and figures, and to provide a programme of study which introduces progressive intellectual challenges and consolidates previous experience at each new level. Students will be allowed to study in depth some aspects of Philosophy in which they have greater interest and alongside developing their aptitude for Philosophy, they will be encouraged to identify with a community of inquiry and their intellectual development will prepare them, where appropriate, for possible postgraduate study. The programme provides a supportive learning environment with full access to welfare, pastoral and careers support.

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 and Philosophy are disciplines that lend themselves to critical judgement and problem solving, both through personal engagement with issues and through dialogue and group discussion. Students are encouraged to defend and to challenge established positions through the collection, collation and analysis of substantial quantities of material, the rigour of argument, and effective communication and presentation.

Programme content

Students must take 120 credits in each Part. In History Part 1 introduces students to the discipline through study of historical causation, contextualisation and the utilisation of both primary and secondary sources. In Parts 2 students normally take 60 credits in History and 60 in Philosophy. In Part Three students choose either a history or Philosophy dissertation, then take a further 40 credits in each subject. In History students are required to engage with a broad span of historical periods which develop both their range of knowledge and their analytical/critical skills, and to carry out independent work in historiography and applied historical skills. Part 3 involves the study in depth of Topics which require that students apply their analytical skills in focussed areas and undertake independent research, especially in the Dissertation.

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

Part 1 (three terms)

Compulsory modules

HS1APH	Approaches to History	20	4
HS1LMH	Landmarks in History	20	4

Joint honours History and Philosophy students must acquire a minimum of 40 credits and a maximum of 60 credits in Philosophy, and a minimum of 40 credits and a maximum of 60 credits in History. Other credits, to 120 in total, to be acquired from outside the Philosophy and History Departments.

In History

Optional module (20 credits)

The module below may only be taken if both the above modules are also studied:

HS1DSH	Directed Study in History	20	4
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In Philosophy

Students must choose a minimum of two 20-credit modules and a maximum of three 20-credit modules from the list below

PP1MW	Mind & World	20	4
PP1VV	Values & Virtues	20	4
PP1HN	Human Nature	20	4
PP1CT	Critical Thinking	20	4

Part 2 (three terms)

Compulsory modules

Mod code	Module Title	Credits	Level
HS2CMS	Career Management Skills	5	5

In History

Students should take two Period modules (one Early and one Modern at 20 credits each) with their co-requisite skills modules (10 credits each), totalling 60 credits in all. A complete list of modules is available from the DDTL.

Of the 120 credits in Part 2, 5 are taken up by Career Management Skills (HS2CMS).

In Philosophy

Students must acquire 60 credits from the list of options in Philosophy available from the Philosophy BA Programme Coordinator. A list of current options can also be found in the BA Programme Handbook. Part 2 modules include Philosophy of Mind, Logic and modules in the history of Philosophy.

In History

Students must choose a 40-credit dissertation module in either History or Philosophy

HS3HLD	Dissertation in History	40	6
Or			
PP3DIS	Dissertation in Philosophy	40	6

Optional modules

Students choose two Topic modules of 20 credits each (40 credits in total). A complete list of modules is available from the History Department.

In Philosophy

Students must acquire 40 credits from the list of options in Philosophy available from the Philosophy BA Programme Coordinator. A list of current options can also be found in the BA Programme Handbook. A wide variety of part 3 options will be available each year, reflecting the research interests of teaching staff.

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.
4. achieve an average of at least 40% in the Philosophy modules taken at Part 1
5. achieve a mark of at least 40% in individual Philosophy modules amounting to not less than 40 credits in Part 1.

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 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, while the Dissertation includes an element of oral presentation.

Teaching within Philosophy combines lectures, small group seminars and supervisions, with appropriate visual aids and course materials being provided throughout.

The conventions for classification are included in the Programme Handbooks but you should note that weighting between Part 2 and Part 3 for classification purposes is 33% and 67%.

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. Advice is also given by the Liaison Officer. There is full written feedback on essay work. Each module tutor 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.

Within Philosophy, information and guidance is offered through the Part 1 Handbook, and the B.A. Course Handbook (covering Parts 2 and 3). There is also a Part 1 co-ordinator and an Honours Course co-ordinator who can be consulted on module choices within each part of the programme.

Liaison officers for both History and Philosophy coordinate the programme.

Career prospects

Over the years students who have followed this programme have gone into jobs in both the public and private sectors. In the public sector, jobs include academic and academic related jobs (e.g. lectureships, administrative posts on research boards), and the civil service. In the private sector, recent jobs include working for computer firms and large finance and insurance companies. In general, there is some evidence that IT firms appreciate the logical and analytic skills of the History and Philosophy graduate. Furthermore, a survey by the Royal Institute of Philosophy found that graduates with British Philosophy degrees consider their degree course to have been very relevant to their jobs, and report a very high level of job satisfaction

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

The programme provides opportunities for students to develop and demonstrate knowledge and understanding, qualities and other attributes in the following areas:

Knowledge and Understanding

A. Knowledge and understanding of:

1. The broad sweep of post-classical history and its principal divisions;
2. A range of eras and cultures, within a degree structure flexible enough to allow breadth or specialisation;
3. The contextualisation of forces, events, and individual experiences in the historical process;
4. The nature and variety of historical sources as defined by period and culture;
5. The nature of debate and dispute in historical writing;
6. Key historical aspects of Philosophy;
7. An appreciation of philosophical ideas and approaches;
8. Awareness of philosophical terms and concepts;
9. Awareness of current research in the field and its direction.

Teaching/learning methods and strategies

Lectures are used throughout the programme but, especially, during Part 1. Supervisor-led small group discussions, and seminar groups with facilitators are employed in each Part. Particular emphasis is placed on independent study as the programme progresses. This is exemplified by the Dissertation in Part 3 of the degree.

Assessment

Assessment is by coursework, written examinations that are both seen and unseen, Skills exercises, seminar presentations, and an independently researched dissertation which is partly assessed by oral presentation.

Skills and other attributes

B. Intellectual skills - able to:

1. Critically read, comprehend and evaluate a large range of historical and philosophical texts;
2. Negotiate both primary and second sources and be able to demonstrate how they inter-relate;
3. Synthesise information from a range of sources, providing a coherent overview of positions in logical space;
4. analyse the logical construction of arguments;
5. produce and defend positions in response to critical pressure;
6. Develop creative intelligence in independent research and interpretation.

Teaching/learning methods and strategies

As above, plus: self-directed learning facilitated through the use of research-based teaching materials and methods, and logical exercises. Through essay, Skills exercises, and dissertation preparation, the research and analytical skills are reinforced which are necessary to form and to validate arguments and judgements. Students' abilities to negotiate primary and secondary sources in History are developed, in particular, through Skills exercises in Periods.

Assessment

Coursework; written unseen and seen exams; seminar presentations. Plus discussion in supervisor-led small groups and seminars. Logical exercises

will also be evaluated in the Logic & Critical Thinking module.

C. Practical skills - *able to*:

1. Develop and carry out individual research programmes and strategies;
2. Locate and synthesise large quantities of material;
3. present a coherent talk delivered from notes;
4. produce concise and accurate written reports;
5. critically discuss particular issues and arguments, and to engage in discussion of each other's responses as well as articulate their own;
6. utilise problem-solving skills.

D. Transferable skills - *able to*:

1. manage time effectively and prioritise workloads;
2. communicate effectively with a wide range of individuals using a wide range of means;
3. evaluate his/her own performance, and recognise the steps required for improvement;
4. Utilise problem-solving skills in a variety of theoretical and more practical situations;
5. IT skills, e.g. word processing, e-mail and the internet.

Teaching/learning methods and strategies

These are developed through the deployment of seminar classes and essay assignments. Oral presentation also constitutes a percentage of the assessment of the dissertation. In History, the Skills in Periods modules consist of various appropriate exercises aimed to promote, amongst other things, research, IT and referencing skills. Feedback on an individual basis combined with the University's personal tutor system encourages constructive self-criticism.

Assessment

Coursework; written unseen exams; seminar presentations; the dissertation.

Teaching/learning methods and strategies

The learning of IT is encouraged through web site searches, use of library resources, and the presentation of word processed documents. Oral presentations are required at several points in the programme. Good time management is essential to organising a timetable to complete essays and project work.

Assessment

Assessment is through the production of essays and project work, written unseen examinations and, in Philosophy, seminar presentations.

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.