

**BA Film & Theatre**  
**For students entering Part 1 in 2011/2**

**UCAS code: W480**

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, Humanities and Social Science Faculty
Programme length:	3 years
Date of specification:	17/May/2013
Programme Director:	Dr John Gibbs
Programme Advisor:	Prof Lib Taylor
Board of Studies:	Film, Theatre and Television
Accreditation:	

**Summary of programme aims**

The central aim of the programme is to develop students' critical understanding of film and modern theatre as cultural forms in their own right and in terms of their historical relationships. Students will become familiar with the varied achievements of film and theatre practitioners, developing critical skills through close study of films, plays and theatre performances, underpinned by debates and theories which have influenced analysis of theatre and cinema. 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. The course also incorporates the study of television in similar terms, and by similar methods, which students can make a larger or smaller part of their studies according to the options pursued.

**Transferable skills**

During the course of their studies at Reading, all students will be expected to enhance their academic and personal transferable skills. 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 addition, on completion of this programme, students are expected to have developed a range of specific transferable skills including: critical analysis and coherent argument; the ability to formulate and evaluate their own arguments and those of others; researching and evaluating evidence; effective communication using the methods of theatre and/or video; undertaking self-directed, independent work; developing projects through co-operation and dialogue; taking leadership and management roles; effective time management.

**Programme content**

Each Part of the degree comprises 120 credits. At Part 1 students will normally take Course A and Course B. Students taking Course B only may be admitted to the degree but will be ineligible for the critical practice modules. Course B may be taken either as 40 credits (in which case students will take FT1CHA only) or as 60 credits. For students taking Course B as 40 credits, the remaining credits can be made up from modules available elsewhere in the University. In Parts 2 and 3, up to 20 credits can be taken 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
FT1CRI	Critical Practice	60	4

**Course A**

*Compulsory module:*

FT1CRI	Critical Practice	60	4
FT1CHA	Introduction to Film and Theatre	40	4

*Optional module:*

FT1TFC	Introduction to Television Studies	20	4
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**Course B**

*Compulsory module:*

FT1CHA	Introduction to Film and Theatre	40	4
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*Optional module:*

FT1TFC	Introduction to Television Studies	20	4
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**Part 2 (three terms)**

*Compulsory modules*

<i>Mod Code</i>	<i>Module Title</i>	<i>Credits</i>	<i>Level</i>
FT2PO	Practical Option	30	5
FT2ALA	Alternative Forms A	20	5
FT2ALB	Alternative Forms B	10	5
FT2PEA	Performance and Nation A	20	5
FT2PEB	Performance and Nation B	10	5
FT2HOA	Hollywood and Beyond A	20	5
FT2HOB	Hollywood and Beyond B	10	5

Compulsory modules

Students taking the programme with critical practice will normally take the following modules:

FT2HOA+B	Hollywood and Beyond	20+10	5
FT2PEA+B	Performance and Nation	20+10	5
FT2ALA+B	Alternative Forms	20+10	5
FT2PO	Practical Option	30	5

Students taking the programme without critical practice will normally take:

FT2HOA+B	Hollywood and Beyond	20+10	5
FT2PEA+B	Performance and Nation	20+10	5
FT2ALA+B	Alternative Forms	20+10	5
FT2IP	Second Year Independent Project	30	5

Optional Module

FT2BP	Research Production	10	5
FT2WBL	Work Based Learning in Film, Theatre or Television	10	5

Notes

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

10 credit modules MUST be taken together with a relevant 20 credit module.

Students wishing to take a 20 credit Faculty module will take two of the Film & Theatre critical modules as 20 credits each.

**Part 3 (three terms)**

*Compulsory modules*

Students will normally take either:

FT3PO	Independent Project	40	6
(various)	Critical Option	20+20	6
(various)	Critical Option	20+20	6
Or			
FT3DISS	Dissertation	40	6
(various)	Critical Option	20+20	6
(various)	Critical Option	20+20	6

Each Critical Option comprises 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	Research Production	10	5
FT3WBL	Work Based Learning in Film, Theatre or Television	10	5

#### Notes

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

Students taking a 20 credit module from outside the programme will substitute this for one 20 credit critical option module with the suffix 'B'.

#### Progression requirements

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

1. Obtain an overall average of 40% in 120 credits taken in Part 1, where all the credits are at level 4 or above; and
2. Obtain a mark of at least 30% in individual modules amounting to not less than 100 credits taken in Part 1; and
3. 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:

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

#### Assessment and classification

The University's honours classification scheme is:

Mark	interpretation
70% - 100%	First class
60% - 69%	Upper Second class
50% - 59%	Lower Second class
40% - 49%	Third class
35% - 39%	Below Honours Standard
0% - 34%	Fail

For the University-wide framework for classification, which includes details of the classification method, please see: <http://www.reading.ac.uk/internal/exams/Policies/exa-class.aspx>.

The weighting of the Parts/Years in the calculation of the degree classification is

#### Three-year programmes

Part 2 one-third

Part 3 two-thirds

Teaching styles are varied to encourage active engagement by students, to encourage independence and foster initiative and effective time management. Interaction in seminars is central to the programme and weekly seminars are common to all critical modules, with lectures designed to provide informing perspectives for the module and for individual seminars. Theatre visits are integral to the programme. Practical modules are taught through group and individual projects, based on workshops, group work and tutorials. The Dissertation and Independent Project modules in Part 3 are supported by individual supervision. Assessment of critical modules is by coursework, which includes formal essays as well as other written assignments such as take-away exam questions. In practical modules assessment is by a combination of practical work and critical documentation. 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**

A minimum of 300 points from 3 full A Levels. These must include a Grade B (or better) in at least one of the following subjects: English Literature, Drama, Theatre Studies, Film Studies.

As an alternative 340 points from A Levels and no more than two AS Levels. The full A Levels must include a Grade B (or better) in at least one of the following subjects: English Literature, Drama, Theatre Studies, Film Studies.

**Admissions Tutor:** Dr Ashley Thorpe

### **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 Careers, Placement and Experience Centre (CPEC), 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, academic issues (eg problems with module selection) and exam related queries. 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 tutor system, 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. In practical work the move to individual projects is supported by detailed supervision and advice. The Department has a range of specialist studio and theatre spaces, together with 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 has an extensive collection of printed materials as well as electronic databases holding 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**

Since this is not a vocational programme, career prospects are wide-ranging. The combination of scholarly rigour and practical expertise, of group work and individual practice, gives students the opportunity to develop a highly competitive range of skills sought by employers, including: leadership, initiative, collaboration and negotiation, research, analysis, management, articulacy and expression in a range of different media.

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

The Work Based Learning in Film, Theatre or Television module aims to provide an opportunity for reflective learning in relation to work experience gained during the summer vacation or the academic year. The module

aims to provide students with an opportunity for critical reflection on the work of an arts or media organisation and on their own career development. Students will also be encouraged to reflect on the transferable skills they have acquired in the course of their studies and to identify skills they plan to develop in relation to future employment.

As part of the degree programme students have the opportunity to study abroad at an institution with which the University has a valid agreement, either within Europe via the ERASMUS programme or at one of the University's non-European partner institutions. The period in which students can study abroad is Autumn Term of Part 2. They will require the consent of the department study abroad coordinator and the department Director of Teaching and Learning in order to participate. Key partner institutions for students in the Department of Film, Theatre & Television currently include Rhode Island, Georgia and Mississippi (USA), and Monash (Australia). Full details of potential destinations can be found on the Erasmus & Study Abroad website. Whilst every effort is made to place students at the institution of their choice, the University cannot guarantee students the possibility to study at a particular institution.

Students have the opportunity to undertake a work placement in their second and third years, in the 10-credit Work-Based Learning module. After the work placement has been completed, the module requires the student to critically reflect in writing on the arts or media organisation in which they have worked, and on their own career development and transferable skills. Students must notify the department placements officer well in advance of taking up a placement or work experience opportunity if they wish it to form the basis of their participation in the Work-Based Learning module. Students are supported in identifying and applying for placements by the Placements and Development support team in The Careers Centre.

### **Programme Outcomes**

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

#### **Knowledge and Understanding**

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

1. Film, theatre and television texts from a range of national and cultural contexts, mainly produced between the late nineteenth century and the present day; a selection of television texts
2. A variety of genres and approaches to filmmaking, theatre and television
3. Methods of critical analysis appropriate to film, theatre and television
4. Ways in which film, theatre 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 critical and theoretical approaches in Film, Theatre and Television studies
7. Selected special fields of film, television and theatre
8. Methods and skills of small scale video and theatre production
9. How critical and theoretical perspectives can inform practical work.

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

Knowledge and understanding of 1-7 are gained through formal teaching (lectures, seminars), feedback on coursework, required and recommended reading and viewing, and the writing of essays and other assignments. 8 and 9 are based on group and individual practical work with accompanying documentation, under staff supervision, Part 1 offers an introduction to critical and historical study of film and theatre, and to 'critical practice'. Part 2 extends understanding and skills acquired in Part 1 in more selected areas of study through seminars, lectures, individual feedback and supervised individual and group practical work. Part 3 includes very challenging areas of theory and practice, as well as requiring students to undertake, under individual supervision, an independent practical project or dissertation.

##### *Assessment*

In Part 1, knowledge and understanding are tested through a combination of essays, take-away examinations, and group practical work with accompanying documentation. In Part 2, assessment is through written coursework, including essays and takeaway exams plus individual and group practical work with documentation and may include assessed presentations. Part 3 contains the same range of assessment but is characterised by the large scale challenge of dissertation or independent practical

project.

### **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, watch and interpret closely and critically
4. An ability to reflect on one's own ideas 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.

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

1. The ability to criticise and formulate interpretations of literary, drama, film and television texts (including theatre performances)
2. An ability to engage in critical argument using relevant theoretical approaches
3. Research skills
4. A knowledge of appropriate conventions in the presentation of written work
5. An ability to relate the study of film, theatre and television to cultural and social issues
6. Basic skills of video and theatre production
7. An ability to express critical understanding through exploratory practice in film/video, drama/theatre and/or television
8. An ability to evaluate practice in the light of critical study
9. Presentation skills.

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

1. Effective communication in speech and writing
2. Critical analysis and coherent arguments
3. Critical evaluation of evidence and argument
4. The ability to find and use relevant information resources
5. Time-management skills and the ability to manage personal workloads.
6. A creative approach to problem-solving
7. The ability to develop projects through co-operation and dialogue
8. The ability to take leadership and management roles
9. Undertaking self-directed, independent work

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

Intellectual skills are acquired through independent reading and viewing (1), preparation for and discussion in seminars and workshops, essay writing (1, 2, 3, 4, 5), essay feedback (2, 3 and 4, 5), supervised practical work and documentation (5 and 6).

##### *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. 5 and 6 are assessed formatively and summatively through practical work supervision and documentation of practical projects. Formative assessments are for the guidance of the students, and do not contribute to the module mark.

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

1 - 5 are developed in seminars, workshops, written coursework and feedback on coursework. 6 - 8 are developed through practical work and feedback on practice and associated documentation. 9 is developed through feedback on group and individual presentations.

##### *Assessment*

1 - 5 are assessed through formative and summative written coursework. 1 - 2 and 4 - 5 are also tested in take-away exams. 6 - 7 are assessed both formatively and summatively through practical work, and 8 through documentation accompanying practical work. 9, where appropriate, is assessed formatively and summatively through presentation and summatively through documentation accompanying presentations. Formative assessments are for the guidance of the students, and do not contribute to the module mark.

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

Transferable skills are developed through seminar discussions, seminar presentations, preparation and writing of written assignments, feedback on written work, and take-away exams (1 - 5, 9, 10). 5 - 8 are developed particularly through group and individual practical assignments, which also demand the skills listed as 9 and 10. We require that all essays and documentation after Term 1 are word-processed (10).

##### *Assessment*

1 - 5 and 10 are formatively assessed through written coursework and seminar presentations, and

10. Computer skills, ranging from basic word-processing to advanced digital video editing.

summatively assessed through coursework and take-away exams. 5 - 9 are expressed in and affect the formative and summative assessment of practical projects. Formative assessments are for the guidance of the students, and do not contribute to the module mark.

**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.**