

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

UCAS code: WW64

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/Jun/2013
Programme Director:	Dr Simone Knox
Programme Advisor:	Dr John Gibbs
Board of Studies:	Film, Theatre and Television
Accreditation:	

Summary of programme aims

The central aim of this multi-disciplinary programme is to enable students to gain an understanding of major areas of cinema, of theatre since the late nineteenth century and of British and other English language television drama and documentary. Students will experience some of the varied achievements of film-makers, writers (for both the stage and television), directors, producers and theatre practitioners, and become familiar with a range of perspectives which can inform analysis of film, drama and television texts. Students also undertake practical work, closely informed by critical issues ('critical practice'), which is designed both to extend understanding of how film and theatre or television creates meaning, and to develop appropriate practical expertise.

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.

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 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. In Parts 1, 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
FT1TFC	Introduction to Television Studies	20	4
FT1CRI	Critical Practice	60	4

Part 2 (three terms)

Compulsory modules

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

FT2HOA	Hollywood and Beyond A	20	5
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FT2HOB	Hollywood and Beyond B	10	5
FT2PEA	Performance and Nation A	20	5
FT2PEB	Performance and Nation B	10	5
FT2AFA	Alternative Forms A	20	5
FT2AFB	Alternative Forms B	10	5
FT2PO	Practical Option	30	5

Students taking the programme without critical practice will normally take the following modules:

FT2HOA	Hollywood and Beyond A	20	5
FT2HOB	Hollywood and Beyond B	10	5
FT2PEA	Performance and Nation A	20	5
FT2PEB	Performance and Nation B	10	5
FT2AFA	Alternative Forms A	20	5
FT2AFB	Alternative Forms B	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 WBL optional module will substitute this for 10 credits in any Part 2 module. 10 credit modules MUST be taken together with the relevant 20 credit module, making the module worth 30 credits.

Part 3 (three terms)

Compulsory modules

FT3PO	Independent Project	40	6
Or			
FT3DISS	Dissertation	40	6

Optional modules (80 credits)

Students must take two Critical Options, comprising 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.

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:

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

Obtain an overall average of 40% in 120 credits taken in Part 2; and
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 is through seminars, lectures and essay tutorials. Selected modules, including several Television modules, involve practical production exercises designed to test critical ideas. In addition the Dissertation module is supported by workshops and individual supervisions. Teaching styles are varied to encourage active engagement by students. Film and television viewing and theatre visits are central to the teaching of the degree. Over the programme as a whole, assessment will be conducted through a mixture of assessed essays, presentations, practical projects and reflective documentation, other assessed assignments plus informal and formal examination. 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

Entrants to the Joint Degree programme are normally required to have obtained:

UCAS Tariff: Either 280 points from 3 A2s, to include 100 pts [grade B] in at least one of the following:

English Literature, English Literature and Language, Theatre Studies, Dance, Film Studies, Media Studies, History, Philosophy, Sociology, Classics or Psychology;

or 320 points from 3 A2s + up to 2 AS, to include 100 pts [Grade B] in at least one of the following: English Literature, English Literature and Language, Theatre Studies, Dance, Film Studies, Media Studies, History, Philosophy, Sociology, Classics or Psychology.

AS: 2 good AS grades are accepted as one supporting A level

Scottish Highers ABBBB or above (A in English Literature)

Irish Leaving Certificate at least ABBBB (A in English Literature)

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

GCSE/O 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 in at least one of the following: English Literature, English Literature and Language, Theatre Studies, Dance, Film Studies, Media Studies, History, Philosophy, Sociology, Classics or Psychology or equivalent qualification. In other respects, concessions may be made to reflect the value of other qualifications and experience.

Admissions Tutor: Dr Faye Woods

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

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. From a highly structured introduction in Part 1, in Parts 2 and 3 students take increasing responsibility for their learning and module choice. The Department has a range of film/video viewing rooms and 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 and holds 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. >Graduates find that the specific and transferable skills developed by the programme enable them to enter many fields of work, including television, film, radio, theatre, arts management, visual effects, journalism, corporate video, advertising, marketing, public relations, the public sector, business and commerce. Many graduates also go onto to postgraduate study at MA and PhD levels, both at Reading and elsewhere.

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

Knowledge and Understanding

A. Knowledge and understanding of:

1. A selection of film and theatre texts from a range of national and cultural contexts from the late nineteenth century until the present day; a selection

Teaching/learning methods and strategies

Knowledge and understanding are gained through formal teaching (lectures, seminar discussions, workshops and practical exercises, and individual

- of television texts (primarily British television drama and documentary)
2. A variety of approaches to filmmaking, and television and theatre production
 3. Methods of critical, dramatic, filmic and televisual analysis
 4. Ways in which theatre, film 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 approaches in Television, Film and Theatre studies
 7. Ways in which critical and theoretical perspectives can inform practical work
 8. Methods and skills of small scale television and video production
 9. Selected special fields of Television, Film and Theatre studies.

essay feedback), prescribed and recommended reading and viewing, and the writing of essays and a dissertation. Part 1 offers a broad introduction to 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 7 & 8. In Part 2 the understanding and skills acquired in Part 1 are developed with particular emphasis on 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 7 and 8 through seminars, lectures, practical exercises and various forms of feedback. Part 3 introduces more specialized study, particularly in relation to 3, 5, 6 and 9 through a choice of seminar-based modules incorporating practical exercises, together with supervised, independent study leading to a 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 opinions 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

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.

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

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

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

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 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.