

**BA History and Politics**  
**For students entering Part 1 in 2012/3**

**UCAS code: VLD2**

Awarding Institution:	University of Reading
Teaching Institution:	University of Reading
Relevant QAA subject Benchmarking group(s):	History and Politics
Faculty:	Arts, Humanities and Social Science Faculty
Programme length:	3 years
Date of specification:	28/May/2014
Programme Director:	Prof Patrick Major
Programme Advisor:	Dr Emma Mayhew
Board of Studies:	History
Accreditation:	

**Summary of programme aims**

The History element of the degree 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 in 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.

In Politics, the programme aims to give students an appreciation of the normative, methodological and institutional issues involved in the study of politics in relation to one of the three main subfields of the discipline: political philosophy, comparative government and international relations. Students focus on comparative government and/or political theory compulsory modules, and associated optional modules. Students select modules from across the range available. 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 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 Politics 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. The disciplines also prompt an awareness of numeracy through chronology, periodisation, and basic quantification. The programme develops students' familiarity with information technology in the production and presentation of their work and develops their skills in using computers for the location and retrieval of bibliographic and source material, accessing sophisticated databases and exploiting the internet.

**Programme content**

Each Part comprises 120 credits. In Part 1 40 credits must be taken in History, with the remaining credits can be made up from any optional modules and/or from modules elsewhere in the University. In Part 2 students must normally take 60 credits in both subjects, and in Part 3 students take 40 credits in each subject plus a dissertation, in one subject or the other, of 40 credits.

**Part 1 (three terms)**

*Compulsory modules*

HS1LMH	Landmarks in History	20	4
HS1APH	Approaches to History	20	4
PO1IRS	Politics: International Relations and Strategic Studies	20	4
PO1MOG	Modern Government	20	4
PO1IPI	Introduction to Political Ideas	20	4

Optional module which may only be taken if the compulsory modules are also studied

HS1DSH	Directed Study in History	20	4
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Optional module

PO1BRI	British Society	20	4
PO1FRE	Freedom	20	4

## Part 2 (three terms)

*Compulsory modules*

<i>Mod Code</i>	<i>Module Title</i>	<i>Credits</i>	<i>Level</i>
PO2SOP	The Study of Politics	20	5
HS2TPH	Historical Themes in Practice	20	5

### In History

Students must take two Period group modules: one Early (Medieval or Early modern) and one Modern at 20 credits each in addition to the compulsory Themes and Practice in History module. A list of modules can be obtained from the Department of History.

### In Politics

#### Optional Modules (40 credits)

Either

PO2CGP	Comparative Government and Politics	20	5
Or			
PO2PHC	PHC Political Classics	20	5

#### Options

If PO2CGP taken one from:

PO2AMG	American Government and Politics	20	5
PO2BGP	British Government and Politics	20	5
PO2EPI	European Political Integration	20	5
PO2MUN	Model United Nations	20	5
PO2WPP	Work Placement and Project	20	5

If PO2PHC taken:

PO2THI	Political Thinking	20	5
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## Part 3 (three terms)

*Compulsory modules*

Students must choose a 40-credit dissertation module.

PO3DIS	Dissertation in Politics	40	6
or			
HS3HLD	Dissertation in History	40	6

In History: Students choose two optional 20- credit Topic modules, totalling 40 credits. A list of modules is available from the Department of History.

In Politics: Students choose two 20 credit modules, one from each of the following lists.

#### List A

PO3BFD	British Foreign and Defence Policies	20	6
PO3 MEA	Politics and International Relations of the Middle East	20	6

PO3NAT	Nationalism	20	6
PO3 UKP	United Kingdom Politics since 1960	20	6
PO3 USF	United States Foreign Policy since 1950	20	6

#### List B

PO3CPP	Contemporary Power Politics	20	6
PO3CSS	Critical Security Studies	20	6
PO3CAP	Crime and Punishment : Theoretical Approaches	20	6
PO3DDP	Democracy and Democracy Promotion	20	6
PO3 GST	Grand Strategy from Classical Rome to Modern China	20	6
PO3INT	Intelligence, War and International Relations	20	6
PO3ITE	International Terrorism	20	6
PO3PIE	Politics of the International Economy	20	6
PO3STH	Strategic Theory	20	6
PO3SWW	Strategy in the Two World Wars	20	6
PO3TOL	Toleration: Theory and Practice	20	6
PO3UNI	The UN and International Order	20	6
PO3 WPE	War, Peace and International Ethics	20	6

Students may choose to take a module outside the programme. One of the above modules may be replaced with a 20 credit module in another department - or with a work placement if not previously taken.

**Please note: It is the student's responsibility to seek approval from the department concerned.**

Specify the code      A 20 credit module in another department

PO2WPP      Work Placement and Project. Student has to do placement in the  
(Student can      vacation before October of Part 3. Contact Vicky Wiles to register  
only take 20      your interest now - v.l.wiles@reading.ac.uk  
credits at Part 2  
level)

Must total 120 credits

#### Progression requirements

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.

To gain a threshold performance at Part 2, a student shall normally be required to achieve:

- (i) a weighted average of 40% over 120 credits taken at Part 2;
- (ii) marks of at least 40% in individual modules amounting to not less than 80 credits; and
- (iii) marks of at least 30% in individual modules amounting to not less than 120 credits.

#### 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

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, while the Dissertation includes an element of oral presentation.

In Politics, Part 1 modules and the compulsory Part 2 modules involve both lectures and seminars. Part 2 and Part 3 optional modules typically place greater emphasis on seminars. Part 1 modules are assessed by a mixture of coursework (40%) and examinations (60%); Part 2 and 3 modules, except for the Study of Politics and the Dissertation, are assessed by a mixture of 25% (coursework) and 75% (examination).

### **Admission requirements**

A levels: 320 UCAS points in 3 A levels, or 340 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: An overall pass, including at least 3 subjects at Higher level, including History, with grades of 6,6,5 or above.

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 Rachel Foxley

### **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)

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.

In Politics, students are provided with Departmental Handbooks which outline the programme, provide guidance on study skills, and contain information on staff, facilities and specialised sources of help within the University. Additional support is given in the Study of Politics module in Part 2. There is also written feedback on essay work. There is also a departmental Library, and a photocopier.

Liaison officers for both History and Politics coordinate the programme.

### **Career prospects**

Over the years students who have followed programmes involving History and Politics 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), the civil service, local government, public corporations, hospital management, and in the social services, such as, child care, youth employment, probation, and so on. In

the private sector, recent jobs include working for advertising, journalism, radio and television, computer firms and large finance and insurance companies.

### **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.

In History students have the opportunity to partake in an academic placement in the Historical Themes in Practice module at Part 2 and/or a teaching placement in Part 3, which also encourages engagement with forward-thinking career planning.

In Politics students have the opportunity to complete a stand-alone placement module PO2WPP-Work Placement and Project at Part 3 (if the module hasn't been taken at Part 2 or no other modules - such as level 2 IWLP for example are taken). Students will receive 20 credits for 120 hours of work experience. The placement must be approved by the module convenor, in terms of academic suitability and the School Placement Officer, in terms of health and safety. Students can only pick this module once and the placement must be secured before they can register for the module. Students should contact the School Placement Officer to find out more about the module, collect a placement pack and to register interest.

During your time at Reading you will also have the opportunity to develop non-vocational skills, gain new work experiences, and further boost your employability through a diverse range of other placement opportunities. The University's Careers, Placement and Experience Centre (CPEC) provides all Reading students with information about a wide range of placement opportunities (<http://www.reading.ac.uk/careers/placements/>), including the Summer Enterprise Experience & Discovery internship scheme (<http://www.reading.ac.uk/careers/placements/seed/>), the Community Service Volunteering scheme (tutoring in local schools; <http://www.reading.ac.uk/studentrecruitment/StudentTutoring/sr-studenttutoringinschools.aspx>), the Student Associates Scheme (work experience in local schools; [http://www.reading.ac.uk/internal/urop/urop\\_home.aspx](http://www.reading.ac.uk/internal/urop/urop_home.aspx)), and the Undergraduate Research Opportunities Programme (UROP; [http://www.reading.ac.uk/internal/urop/urop\\_home.aspx](http://www.reading.ac.uk/internal/urop/urop_home.aspx)).

## **Programme Outcomes**

### **Knowledge and Understanding**

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

1. The broad sweep of post-classical history and its principal divisions;
2. A range of 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. The fundamental concepts of Political Theory and major texts from the Greeks to the present time;
7. The comparative analysis of government institutions, political movement and the social bases of politics;
8. The various approaches and the study of Modern International Relations;
9. A range of selected specialised subjects within the fields of Political Theory, Comparative Government and International Relations.

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

Knowledge and understanding are gained through formal teaching (lectures, seminar discussions, and individual essay feedback), prescribed and recommended reading, and the writing of essays and a dissertation. In Part 1 and Part 2 students attend both lectures and seminars, and in Part 3 most teaching is through seminars. Part 1 modules introduce 1, 2, 3, 6, 7 and 8 which Part 2 modules deepen and develop students understanding. The optional modules in Part 3 both build upon and sharpen the focus of study.

#### *Assessment*

Most knowledge is tested through a combination of coursework and formal examination. Dissertations and oral presentations also contribute.

## Skills and other attributes

### B. Intellectual skills - *able to:*

1. Critically read, comprehend and evaluate a large range of historical and political 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;
7. Think logically on Political matters;
8. Analyse issues in Political life;
9. Understand the evolving state of knowledge in the rapidly developing discipline of Politics;
10. Transfer appropriate knowledge from an area within the disciplines to another;

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

1. Develop and carry out individual research programmes and strategies;
2. Gather, organise, and deploy evidence, data and information from a variety of primary and secondary sources;
3. Locate and synthesise large quantities of material;
4. Present a coherent talk delivered from notes;
5. Produce concise and accurate written reports;
6. Critically discuss particular issues and arguments, and to engage in discussion of each other's responses as well as articulate their own;
7. Utilise problem-solving skills;
8. Manage their own learning self-critically, reflect upon it, and seek and make use of feedback.

### 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 for the retrieval and presentation of information, including statistical or numerical data;
6. Work independently, demonstrating initiative, self-organisation and time management;
7. Develop a vocational awareness with a view to planning their career.

### 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, portfolio, and dissertation preparation, the research and analytical skills are reinforced which are necessary to form and to validate arguments and judgements.

The ability to think logically is essential to the understanding and analysis of the discipline. Analysis requires an appreciation of the issues and results in organisation of written work and oral presentations. Students are encouraged to link core and optional modules and also to use experience from modules in the dissertation

#### *Assessment*

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

### Teaching/learning methods and strategies

These are developed through lectures, supervised small group discussions, seminar groups with a facilitator, oral presentations and, especially in Part 3, independent learning. 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.

### Teaching/learning methods and strategies

Most of these skills are embedded in all modules. The development of IT skills occurs throughout the programme and is especially apparent in modules where there is a research component. Independent learning is also developed throughout but becomes particularly important in Part 3 of the programme.

#### *Assessment*

Coursework; written unseen exams; seminar presentations, skills exercises, a dissertation.

**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.**