

BA Ancient History
For students entering Part 1 in 2014/5

UCAS code: V110

Awarding Institution:	University of Reading
Teaching Institution:	University of Reading
Relevant QAA subject Benchmarking group(s):	Classics and Ancient History
Faculty:	Arts, Humanities and Social Science Faculty
Programme length:	3 years
Date of specification:	31/Aug/2016
Programme Director:	Dr Rachel Mairs
Programme Advisor:	Dr Rachel Foxley
Board of Studies:	Classics
Accreditation:	

Summary of programme aims

The programme aims to provide a thorough degree level education in Ancient History. The syllabus aims to familiarise students with the core chronological and geographical range of Greek and Roman cultures, whilst providing them with the opportunity to study more thematic topics in depth. The programme also provides for the development of the specific historical interests of students through independent study and specifically the dissertation. Students are encouraged to include elements of ancient languages throughout their degree programme. Students will expand the range, depth and sophistication of their knowledge of Ancient History through the structured progression of Parts 1, 2, and 3 of the 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 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.

Programme content

Part 1 introduces students to the study of Greek and Roman Civilisations, with a particular emphasis upon the development of the study of primary sources and source criticism, alongside the development of historical writing skills to explore specific historical topics. Part 2 develops the student's knowledge of the chronological changes within the period of study via compulsory core modules which also develop their historical skills. In addition, students choose between 30 and 50 credits from the optional modules on offer that are either more thematic or add greater depth than the core modules. In Part 3, there is an increasing specialisation and progression to approach topics in greater depth through the provision of optional modules and the opportunity to research a dissertation topic in depth. Students take 120 credits per year.

Not all options will necessarily be available every year. Admission to options will be at the discretion of the Programme Director.

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

CL1CA	The Civilization of Fifth-Century Athens	20	4
CL1CB	Rome in the Augustan Age	20	4

Optional Modules

A maximum of 40 credits to be chosen from modules available in the department of Classics

Mod code	Module Title	Credits	Level
CL1TR	TEXTS AND READERS	20	4
CL1SO	ANCIENT SONG	20	4
CL1G1	Ancient Greek 1	20	4
Or			

CL2G2	Ancient Greek 2	20	5
Or			
CL2G3	Ancient Greek 3	20	5
CL1L1	Latin 1	20	4
Or			
CL2L2	Latin 2	20	5
Or			
CL2L3	Latin 3	20	5

Exceptionally, students may take Latin or Ancient Greek at Stage 4 (Level 6)

A further 40-80 credits to be chosen from modules available elsewhere in the University

Part 2 (three terms)

Compulsory modules

Mod code	Module Title	Credits	Level
CL2RO	Roman History: From Republic to Empire	20	5
CL2GH	Greek History: Archaic Age to Alexander	20	5
CL2PR	Prospects for Classicists and Ancient Historians	10	5

Optional modules (70 credits)

A complete list of optional modules is available from the Programme Director, and a list of current options can be found in the BA Programme Handbook. Part 2 modules normally include options in classical Literature, History, Art, Culture and Reception. Students may also take cross-listed Museum Studies modules. Students may take IWLP Modern Greek in place of one level 5 module.

Part 3 (three terms)

Compulsory modules

CL3DP	Preparation for Dissertation in Classics	10	6
and			
CL3DN	Dissertation in Classics	30	6
Or			
CL3INP	Independent Third Year Project	30	6

Optional modules (80 credits)

A complete list of optional modules is available from the Programme Director, and a list of current options can be found in the BA Programme Handbook. Part 3 modules normally include a range of cross-disciplinary options. Students may also take cross-listed Museum Studies modules. Students may take IWLP Modern Greek in place of one level 6 module.

Progression requirements

To proceed from Part 1 to Part 2 students must:

1. Obtain at least 40% in the module CL1CA and at least 40 % in the module CL1CB;
2. Achieve an overall average of 40% in 120 credits;
3. Achieve a mark of at least 30% in individual modules amounting to not less than 100 credits taken in Part 1.

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.
- In order to progress from Part 2 to Part 3, a student must achieve a threshold performance

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 the Examinations Office website.

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 delivered by a mixture of lectures and seminars in Parts 1 and 2 and with a greater emphasis on seminars in Part 3. The dissertation in Part 3 comprises a piece of work based on supervised independent study.

Admission requirements

No previous experience of Ancient History is required for admission.

Entrants to this programme are normally required to have obtained:

Grade C or better in English in GCSE; and achieved

A-Levels: ABB from three A-level subjects (excluding General Studies).

International Baccalaureate: 32 points overall.

Scottish Highers: ABBBB/ Advanced Highers: ABB

Irish Leaving Certificate: AABBB

Admissions Tutor: DR MATTHEW NICHOLLS

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

The Department of Classics is the Curator of the Ure Museum of Greek Archaeology.

Career learning

Career prospects

Graduates in Ancient History have found that their degree course has been a good basis for careers in management and administration; the civil service; commerce; law; the media including journalism, broadcasting and publishing; librarianship; and teaching. Graduates have also gone on to postgraduate courses within the field of the Classics at Reading and elsewhere.

Opportunities for study abroad

As part of the degree programme students have the opportunity to study abroad at an institution with which the University has a valid agreement.

CL2PL is the placement module Work Placement for Classicists and Ancient Historians. It gives students the opportunity to gain experience in a graduate level employment position. Students find their own placements (that is part of the exercise), but they are guided and supported in this by the Department. Full details of assessment etc. may be found in the module description.

Students are encouraged to study abroad for a term to a year (normally in Part 2) either within Europe via the ERASMUS programme or at one of the University of Reading's non-European partner institutions. They will require the consent of the departmental study abroad coordinator in order to participate. Full details of potential destinations can be found on both the departmental and Erasmus & Study Abroad websites. Application early in the preceding year (autumn term/very early spring term) is essential. There are also opportunities to study at the British Schools at Rome and Athens.

Placement opportunities

CL2PL is the placement module Work Placement for Classicists and Ancient Historians. It gives students the opportunity to gain experience in a graduate level employment position. Students find their own placements (that is part of the exercise), but they are guided and supported in this by the Department. Full details of assessment etc. may be found in the module description.

Students are encouraged to study abroad for a term to a year (normally in Part 2) either within Europe via the ERASMUS programme or at one of the University of Reading's non-European partner institutions. They will require the consent of the departmental study abroad coordinator in order to participate. Full details of potential destinations can be found on both the departmental and Erasmus & Study Abroad websites. Application early in the preceding year (autumn term/very early spring term) is essential. There are also opportunities to study at the British Schools at Rome and Athens.

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. other culture's history and political and social organisation.
2. a diverse range of primary materials.
3. a range of problems of interpretation and evaluation of primary materials.
4. a range of techniques and methodologies.

Teaching/learning methods and strategies

Knowledge and understanding are gained through formal teaching (lectures, seminars, and individual essay feedback), recommended reading, and the writing of essays and a dissertation.

Assessment

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

Skills and other attributes

B. Intellectual skills - able to:

engage in analytical and evaluative thinking about texts, sources, arguments and interpretations, independently estimating their relevance to the issue in question, discriminating between opposing theories, and forming judgements on the basis of evidence and argument.

Teaching/learning methods and strategies

Skills will be introduced in lectures, developed through reading, writing of essays, dissertation and examination

Assessment

Coursework and examinations, as well as in the

dissertation

C. Practical skills - able to:

1. gather, organise and deploy evidence and information, and to show awareness of the consequences of the unavailability of evidence,
2. develop the capacity for critical judgement in the light of evidence and argument,
3. select and apply appropriate methodologies in assessing the meaning and significance of evidence or data,
4. have effective bibliographical and library research skills.

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

Assessment

Coursework and examinations, as well as in the dissertation

D. Transferable skills - able to:

1. deploy a range of IT resources effectively,
2. present material orally in a clear and effective manner,
3. present material in a written form, with discrimination and lucidity in the use of language, professional referencing, and clear layout,
4. work creatively, flexibly and adaptably with others,
5. to write and think under pressure and to meet deadlines.

Teaching/learning methods and strategies

In lectures and seminars and applied in self-study and writing of assignments

Assessment

Coursework and examinations, as well as in the 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.