

**BA Classical and Medieval Studies**  
**For students entering Part 1 in 2014/5**

**UCAS code: QV81**

Awarding Institution:	University of Reading
Teaching Institution:	University of Reading
Relevant QAA subject Benchmarking group(s):	Classics & Ancient History; History
Faculty:	Arts, Humanities and Social Science Faculty
Programme length:	3 years
Date of specification:	16/Sep/2014
Programme Director:	Prof Phiroze Vasunia
Programme Advisor:	Prof Patrick Major Mrs Debbie King
Board of Studies:	Classics
Accreditation:	

**Summary of programme aims**

The programme aims to provide a through degree level education in Classical and Medieval Studies. It aims to produce graduates who have experience of literary, thematic and genre-based approaches to both the cultures of antiquity and the Medieval period. Students explore issues of critical and historical interpretation and engage with primary sources from both eras.

**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.

Medieval and Classical Studies are disciplines which lend themselves to critical judgement and problem-solving, both through personal engagement with issues and through dialogue and group discussion. Also integral is the collection, collation and analysis of substantial quantities of material and its communication and presentation. Both fields of study also prompt an awareness of numeracy through chronology, periodisation, and basic quantification. In addition, the development of powerful tools of research, analysis and presentation associated with information technology is reflected in several ways, such as in the location and retrieval of bibliographic and source material, the production and presentation of student work, and, where appropriate, the use of more sophisticated databases and exploitation of the internet.

**Programme content**

Each Part comprises 120 credits. Students must normally take a minimum of 40 credits in Classics and 60 credits in History in Part 1. In Part 1 the remaining credits can be made up from any optional modules and/or from modules elsewhere in the University. In Part 2 they must normally take a minimum of 60 credits in each subject, and in Part 3, 40 credits in each subject, plus the dissertation of 40 credits in one subject. In consultation with their programme adviser, they may choose to take up to 20 credits each year from modules available elsewhere in the University.

Part 1 introduces students to the disciplines; Part 2 develops skills through the study of broad, contrasting genres and periods, and Part 3 contains the detailed focus and specific research work.

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

**Part 1 (three terms)**

*Compulsory modules*

HS1LM1	Landmarks in History 1	20	4
HS1LM2	Landmarks in History 2	20	4
HS1SSH	Study Skills in History	10	4
HS1HDS	Directed Study in History	10	4

Students must choose to take

*Either*

CL1CA	The Civilization of Fifth-Century Athens	20	4
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<i>and</i>				
CL1CB	Rome in the Augustan Age	20	4	
<b>OR</b>				
CL1SO	Ancient Song	20	4	
<i>and</i>				
CL1TR	Texts, Readers, and Writers	20	4	

Students can choose 20 credits of Latin or Greek modules or 20 credits from modules available from the rest of the University.

## Part 2 (three terms)

### *Compulsory modules*

CL2PR	Prospects for Classicists and Ancient Historians	10	5	
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### **In Classics (Optional modules (50 credits))**

Students will take between 20 - 40 credits from core modules and between 10 - 30 credits from among **either** core **or** optional modules

#### *Core modules*

CL2AE	Ancient Epic	20	5	
CL2DR	Ancient Drama	20	5	
CL2GH	Greek History: Archaic Age to Alexander	20	5	
CL2RO	Roman History: From Republic to Empire	20	5	

*Optional modules:* 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.

### **In History**

Students must take THREE Period modules (20 credits each, totalling 60 credits). These should be chosen from the Medieval periods on offer. A complete list of Period modules is available from the Department of History. Not all optional modules run in one given year.

## Part 3 (three terms)

### *Compulsory modules*

HS3HLD	Dissertation in History	40	6	
Or				
CL3DP	Preparation for Dissertation in Classics	10	6	
and either				
CL3DN	Dissertation in Classics	30	6	
or				
CL3INP	Independent Third Year Project	30	6	

Admission to CL3INP is at the discretion of the Programme Director

### **In Classics (40 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.

### **In History**

Students choose two optional 20 credit Topic modules. Both should be chosen from the medieval modules on offer. A complete list of Topic modules is available from the Department of History. Not all optional modules run in any one given year.

### **Progression requirements**

To proceed from Part 1 to Part 2 students should:

1. achieve an overall average of 40% in 120 credits;
2. obtain marks of at least 40% in each compulsory module;
3. achieve a mark of at least 40% in the module CL1CA and at least 40% in the module CL1CB; or, at least 40% in the module CL1TR and at least 40% in the module CL1SO;
4. obtain 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 through seminars, lectures and essay tutorials. Over the programme as a whole, assessment will be conducted through a mixture of assessed essays and formal examination. The Dissertation module is supported by workshops and individual supervision. The Part 2 Period modules are partly assessed through skills exercises and the Dissertation is assessed both as coursework and through oral presentation.

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

### **Admission requirements**

No previous experience of Classical Studies 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: ABBBB

All applicants are considered on their individual merits and the Department may vary these requirements if it sees fit.

Mature applicants. Applications from mature candidates are welcomed. A mature applicant is more likely to receive an offer of a place if he or she has undertaken recent study, for example two or more A levels or an Access course, but each case is assessed on its individual merits. We recommend that you contact an admissions tutor as soon as possible to discuss your individual circumstances.

International applicants. Applications from international candidates are welcomed. If you are not offering A levels we advise you to contact either the EU or the international admissions tutor before applying in order to discuss the acceptability of your qualifications. IELTS Band 7 (or equivalent) will be required for those whose education has not been undertaken in English.

Applicants wishing to make any inquiries should contact the Admissions Secretary who will pass your query to an appropriate Admissions Tutor. The current Admissions Secretary can be contacted by:

Telephone: 0118 378 6990

Email - [admissions-classics@reading.ac.uk](mailto:admissions-classics@reading.ac.uk)

**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](http://www.reading.ac.uk/student)

Departmental Handbooks are provided to students in the first year via Departmental websites. The Departmental Libraries contain a range of reference works which can be used by students and offer congenial study spaces. The Department of Classics is the Curator of the Ure Museum of Greek Archaeology. In the History Department, students are supported and advised by the Degree Course Tutor. There is also 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.

### **Career learning**

#### **Career prospects**

In recent years students who have gained degrees in Classical and Medieval Studies have gone into a wide variety of jobs, including teaching, publishing, journalism, the media, management, administration, and public relations. A number of graduates each year go on to further academic study and research.

#### **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.

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.

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### **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. the literature, thought, art and religion of antiquity and the Medieval period
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
5. the reception of Graeco-Roman culture in the West

##### **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 an oral presentation also contribute.

#### **Skills and other attributes**

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

1. 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
2. identify and appreciate the forces which generate historical and cultural change
3. negotiate both primary and secondary sources in classical and medieval studies, and demonstrate how they inter-relate
4. develop creative intelligence in independent research and interpretation.

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

Skills will be introduced in lectures, developed through reading, writing of essays, dissertation and examination. Through specific focus on topics, issues and texts in seminars, workshops and personal study, students are enabled to develop critical modes of enquiry about the selection and treatment of material. Through essay, project, and dissertation preparation, the research and analytical skills are reinforced which are necessary to form and to validate arguments and judgements. The Dissertation requires students to engage creatively and critically with primary sources and/or historical interpretative works.

##### *Assessment*

Essay and project work tests all aspects of intellectual skills, while examinations assess the ability to marshal information and arguments under given time constraints, and according to a variety of conventions, involving open book, seen and unseen papers. Independent study and the Dissertation represent the evaluation of personal research and creative interpretation.

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

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

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. use bibliographical and library research tools effectively

**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
6. Show a competency in numeracy within the parameters of the subject.
7. Assess aptitudes in preparation for a career.

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*

These skills are assessed through coursework and examinations, as well as in the dissertation

**Teaching/learning methods and strategies**

These are developed in lectures and seminars and applied in self-study and writing of assignments

*Assessment*

These skills are assessed through 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.**