

**BA English Literature and Politics**  
**For students entering Part 1 in 2014/5**

**UCAS code: LQ23**

Awarding Institution:	University of Reading
Teaching Institution:	University of Reading
Relevant QAA subject Benchmarking group(s):	English Literature and Politics
Faculty:	Arts, Humanities and Social Science Faculty
Programme length:	3 years
Date of specification:	29/Oct/2014
Programme Director:	Dr Stephen Thomson
Programme Advisor:	Dr Emma Mayhew
Board of Studies:	English
Accreditation:	

**Summary of programme aims**

This is a cross-disciplinary programme that aims to provide students with subject-specific knowledge of both Politics and English Literature. The joint degree seeks to impart knowledge of a variety of different kinds of literary texts together with training in political theories and techniques, thereby providing a perspective on different methods of critical analysis. 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, selected from across the available range. The course also aims to foster an independent approach to formulating problems and arguments, using the systematic research, close reading and analytical skills that are fundamental to both disciplines.

**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.

Politics and English Literature are disciplines that lend themselves to critical judgement and problem-solving, both through personal engagement with issues and through dialogue and groups 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.

In addition, students will develop a range of intellectual skills including the ability to synthesise, analyse and evaluate information and ideas; the ability to formulate independent arguments and to appraise and improve their own performance; and the ability to translate subject-specific knowledge and skills to new environments.

**Programme content**

Each Part of the degree programme comprises 120 credits. At Part 1 students are required to take 60 credits in English Literature and 60 credits in the Politics. In Part 2, students must normally take 60 credits in both Politics and English Literature. In Part 3, students take 40 credits in each subject and undertake a 40-credit compulsory dissertation, either in English Literature or Politics, or in the form of a Joint Dissertation bridging both subjects. However, in consultation with their programme adviser, Part 2 and Part 3 students may choose to take up to 20 credits each year from modules elsewhere in the University.

**Part 1 (three terms)**

*Compulsory modules*

<i>Mod Code</i>	<i>Module Title</i>	<i>Credits</i>	<i>Level</i>
PO1IRS	Politics: International Relations and Strategic Studies	20	4
PO1IPI	Introduction to Political Ideas	20	4
EN1GC	Genre and Context	20	4
EN1RC	Research and Criticism	20	4

EN1PE	Poetry in English	20	4
PO1ICD	Introduction to Contemporary Democracy	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

### In English (60 Credits)

Students choose three optional modules of 20 credits each. At least one option must be chosen from a list of pre-1800 modules. A complete list of modules is available from the Programme Director and in the Part 2 Module Supplement.

### In Politics and International Relations

#### Compulsory module:

	<i>Either</i>		
PO2CGP	Comparative Government and Politics	20	5
	<i>Or</i>		
PO2PHC	Political Classics	20	5

#### Optional module: Please choose one:

PO2AMG	American Government and Politics	20	5
PO2BGP	British Government and Politics (numbers capped at 40 - selection based on Part 1 results)	20	5
PO2EPI	European Political Integration	20	5
PO2MUN	Model United Nations (numbers capped at 18 - students selected by the Politics dept)	20	5
PO2THI	Political Thinking	20	5
PO2TMP	The Media and Politics (numbers capped at 30 - students to be selected by the Politics dept)	20	5

Students can choose to take a module outside their programme. One of the above modules may be replaced with a 20 credit module in another department or with a work placement.

PLEASE NOTE: It is the student's responsibility to seek approval from the department concerned.

	A 20 credit module in another department	20	5
PO2WPP	Work Placement & Project. Student has to do placement in the vacation before October of Part 2. Contact Vicki Wiles to register your interest now - v.l.wiles@reading.ac.uk	20	5

There are also opportunities to study abroad in Part 2 - see this link for more information :

<https://www.reading.ac.uk/studyabroad/outgoingstudents/vso-outgoingstudents.aspx>

Students need to register their interest with Dr Andreas Behnke, Study Abroad Coordinator for Politics, before the end of the summer and no later than the first week of the Autumn Term in Part 2.

## Part 3 (three terms)

### Dissertation (40 credits)

Students choose ONE of the following:

EN3DIS	Dissertation in English	40	6
PO3DIS	Dissertation in Politics	40	6
EN3DIP	Joint Dissertation	40	6

### In English (40 Credits)

Students choose two optional 20-credit modules, one in each term, to make a total of 40 credits.

Optional modules: A complete list of options is available from the Programme Director and in the Part 3 Module Supplement. Admission to optional modules will be at the discretion of the Programme Director.

(In Politics and International Relations) total 40 credits

*1 Optional module from:*

PO3BFD	British Foreign and Defence Policy since 1945	20	6
PO3MEA	Politics and International Relations of the Middle East	20	6
PO3UKP	United Kingdom Politics since 1960	20	6
PO3USF	United States Foreign and Defence Policy since 1950	20	6
PO3NAT	Nationalism	20	6

*1 Optional module from:*

PO3CAP	Crime and Punishment: Theoretical Approaches	20	6
PO3CPP	Contemporary Power Politics	20	6
PO3CSS	Introduction to Critical Security Studies	20	6
PO3DDP	Democracy and Democracy Promotion	20	6
PO3FPT	Feminism and Political Theory	20	6
PO3GST	Grand Strategy from Classical Rome to Modern China	20	6
PO3INT	Intelligence, War and International Relations (Autumn term only)	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 (Autumn term only)	20	6
PO3TOL	Toleration: Theory and Practice (Autumn term only)		
PO3UNI	The UN and International Order	20	6
PO3WPE	War, Peace and International Ethics	20	6

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

PLEASE NOTE: It is the student's responsibility to seek approval from the department concerned.

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

### Progression requirements

To proceed from Part 1 to Part 2, a Joint Honours student must obtain

1. an overall average of 40% over 120 credits taken in Part 1, where all the credits are at C level or above;
2. a mark of at least 40% in all compulsory English Literature modules;
3. a mark of at least 40% in each of the compulsory Politics and International relations modules;
4. 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: <http://www.reading.ac.uk/internal/exams/Policies/extra-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 English Literature, teaching is through seminars, lectures and essay tutorials. In Politics, Part One modules and the compulsory Part Two modules involve both lectures and seminars. Part Two and Three optional modules typically place greater emphasis on seminars. In addition, the Joint Dissertation module is supported by workshops and individual supervisions in both departments.

In Politics, Part 1 modules are assessed by a mixture of coursework (40%) and examination (60%). All Part 2 and Part 3 modules other than the Study of Politics and the Dissertation are assessed by a mixture of coursework (25%) and examination (75%). Over the programme as a whole, assessment will be conducted through a mixture of assessed essays and formal examination. Conventions for degree 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**

A previous qualification in Politics is not required. Entrants to the Joint Degree programme are normally required to have obtained:

ABB or AAC from 3 A level subjects including a grade B in English Literature or a related subject

Scottish Highers AABBB

Irish Leaving Certificate: AAABB at Higher Level, including English

International Baccalaureate 32 points with 5 for Higher level English Literature

All applications are considered on their individual merits. Mature candidates will be usually be expected to have a B at A level in English or equivalent qualifications, but consideration is also given to applicants with other qualifications and experience.

**Admissions Tutor:** Dr Mary Morrissey

### **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 of both English Literature and Politics receive Handbooks which give information about the programme, staff, facilities, and sources of specialized help within the University, such as the Study Advice Team and the Counselling Service, as well as guidance on study skills such as note-taking and referencing. The English programme is designed to give students extensive teaching support in Part 1 leading to more independent work in Part 3. The Part 1 module EN1RC Research and Context fosters core skills in research and writing through a combination of lectures, seminars and practical exercises, and guides students in the selection and use of appropriate resources. This module also introduces students to the subject librarian and to the wealth of print and electronic resources, including the OED, the MLA Bibliography, and JSTOR, held by the Library. Support for the Dissertation starts in Part 2, with lectures, seminars and tutorials helping students to develop an

appropriate topic, which is then supervised in Part 3 through a combination of group work and individual supervision. The Politics programme lays increasing emphasis on options and course work over the three years. Throughout the Programme, all written assignments are returned with written feedback, and from Part 2 this is supported by one-to-one essay tutorials. Further academic and personal support is provided through the personal tutor system.

The Department of Politics provides additional support in the Study of Politics module in Part Two. There is also written feedback on essay work. In addition, Politics students have access to a departmental Library, and a photocopier.

### **Career learning**

Career learning starts in Part 1 with the skills-focused module EN1RC Research and Criticism, in whose Summer Term students work on and submit a career learning exercise. Feedback on this exercise is provided at the start of Part 2 through the Personal Tutor system. Students are also regularly reminded that they may make an appointment with the English Department's Careers Tutor at any time. They may also consult the English Placement Tutor at regular drop-in sessions. All of this information is summarised in a Career Development folder on English Department Blackboard, which provides links to the Careers Centre, the RED (Reading Experience and Development) award, the UROP (Undergraduate Research Opportunities) Programme and other University resources and opportunities, as well as the Department's own graduate database which outlines the career paths and provides contact details of past students who have agreed to be contactable by present undergraduates.

### **Career prospects**

A Reading degree in English Literature and Politics provides graduates with a range of communication and analytical skills that stand them in good stead in the market place. In recent years graduates with qualifications in these subjects have gone into a wide variety of jobs, including teaching, publishing, journalism, the media, management, administration, and public relations. A sizeable minority follow careers in accountancy, banking or commerce, and the civil service; others have pursued interests in law. A number of graduates each year go on to further academic study and research.

### **Opportunities for study abroad**

Students may, with permission, opt to spend the Autumn or Spring Term of Part 2 at one of the European universities with which the English Department has an ERASMUS exchange agreement, or with one of the universities in North America or Australia with which the University has an exchange agreement. Students taking this option will select courses at the host university for the relevant term equivalent to 60 Reading credits (30ECTS) at Intermediate level which will count towards final degree classification. As well as experience of the teaching and learning processes of another institution, this option gives students the chance to experience daily life in another culture, to learn or improve their knowledge of a European language, and to enhance their curriculum vitae.

### **Placement opportunities**

The Part 2 optional module British Government and Politics includes an academic placement, taking place over two weeks during the Easter vacation, through which students will be able to explore some aspect of British government and politics in detail. In addition to the Part 2 module EN2CAW Communications at work, which involves a placement, all English modules at Parts 2 and 3 come with the option of an 'academic placement' which complements and develops the learning on a module. These academic placements may take place either before or after the teaching of the module. They will normally be assessed by a placement report in lieu of one element from the normal assessment pattern, but students may also elect not to have their placement report contribute towards assessment for the module. Students have the chance to discuss and develop their placement ideas at regular drop-in sessions held by the Placement Tutor. Students may take a maximum of two placements over the course of their degree.

## **Programme Outcomes**

### **Knowledge and Understanding**

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

In English Literature:

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

In English Literature, knowledge and understanding

1. Literary texts in English from selected periods between the Middle Ages and the present day;
  2. A range of kinds of texts including fiction, poetry and drama
  3. Methods of critical textual analysis
  4. A range of approaches in English studies
  5. Selected special fields of English Literature
- In Politics**
7. The fundamental concepts of Political Theory and major texts from the Greeks to the present time;
  8. The comparative analysis of government institutions, political movement and the social bases of politics
  9. The various approaches to the study of Modern International Relations
  10. range of selected specialised subjects within the fields of Political Theory, Comparative Government and International Relations.

are gained through formal teaching (lectures, seminar discussions, and individual essay feedback), prescribed and recommended reading, and the writing of essays and a dissertation. Part 1 modules offer a broad introduction to items 1-5. In Part 2, the understanding and skills acquired at Part 1 are developed with particular emphasis on 1, 2 and 4 through seminars, lectures and individual feedback. Part 3 introduces more specialized study, particularly in relation to 3, 5 and 6, through a choice of seminar-based modules together with supervised, independent study leading to a Joint Dissertation.

#### *Assessment*

At Parts 1 and 2, knowledge and understanding of 1 - 5 are tested through a combination of essays and unseen written examinations. At Part 3, assessment is through a mixture of methods, such as extended essays, essays plus unseen exams, and the dissertation.

In Politics, 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 the Joint Dissertation. In Part 1 and Part 2 students attend both lectures and seminars and in Part 3 most teaching is through seminars.

#### *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*:**

- Demonstrate the capacity for independent analysis and research
- Identify problems and issues
- Read closely and critically
- Reflect on one's own positions
- 5. Analyse and critically deconstruct claims and arguments
- 6. Critically read, comprehend and evaluate a large range of texts
- 7. Negotiate both primary and secondary sources and be able to demonstrate how they inter-relate
- 8. Synthesise information from a range of sources, providing a coherent overview of positions in logical space
- 9. Analyse the logical construction of arguments
- 10. Produce and defend positions in response to critical pressure
- 11. Develop creative intelligence in independent research and interpretation
- 12. Think logically on political matters
- 13. Analyse issues of political life
- 14. Understand the evolving state of knowledge in

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

Intellectual skills in English Literature are acquired through independent reading (1), seminar preparation and discussion, and essay writing (1, 2, 3) and essay feedback through tutorials (2, 3 and 4). In Politics, the methods and strategies in the previous section are used, plus the facilitation of self-directed learning through the use of research-based teaching materials and methods, and logical exercises. Essay, portfolio, and dissertation preparation reinforce the research and analytical skills 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 Joint Dissertation.

#### *Assessment*

In English Literature, 1 - 5 are assessed both formatively (in seminar discussion, coursework

the rapidly developing discipline of Politics  
15. Transfer appropriate knowledge from one area within the disciplines to another.

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

Criticize and formulate interpretations of texts  
Engage in critical argument using relevant theoretical approaches  
Recognise the rhetorical resources of the English language  
Exercise bibliographical and research skills  
Deploy appropriate conventions in the presentation of written work  
Relate the study of English Literature to cultural and social issues  
Develop and carry out individual research programmes and strategies  
Gather, organise, and deploy evidence, data and information from a variety of primary and secondary sources  
Locate and synthesise large quantities of material  
Present a coherent talk delivered from notes  
Produce concise and accurate written reports  
Critically discuss particular issues and arguments, and engage in discussion of each other's responses as well as articulate their own  
Utilise problem-solving skills  
Manage their own learning self-critically, reflect upon it, and seek and make use of feedback.

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

Communicate fluently and effectively with a wide range of individuals using a wide range of means, including written and oral communication  
Formulate and present arguments  
Assess the merits of competing approaches  
Translate subject-specific knowledge and skills into other environments  
Find and use relevant information resources  
Demonstrate time-management skills and prioritise workloads  
Work independently, demonstrating initiative and self-organisation  
Develop a creative approach to problem-solving in a variety of theoretical and more practical situations  
Self-evaluate and self-reflect, with recognition of the steps required for improvement  
Use information technology, especially word-processing, e-mail and the internet for the retrieval and presentation of information, including statistical or numerical data;  
11. Analyse data  
12. Exercise group and interpersonal skills  
13. Develop vocational awareness with a view to

essays, essay feedback and tutorials) and summatively, in essays, unseen exams and the Joint Dissertation.

In Politics, assessment of 6 - 15 is carried on through coursework, written unseen examinations, seminar presentations, and discussion in supervisor-led small groups and seminars.

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

1 - 3 and 6 are developed in English seminars, essays and essay tutorials. 4 and 5 are developed through essays, essay feedback and dissertation guidance and supervision.  
In Politics, these skills are developed through lectures, supervised small group discussions, seminar groups with a facilitator, oral presentations and, especially in Part Three, independent learning. Feedback on an individual basis combined with the University's personal tutor system encourages constructive self-criticism.

#### *Assessment*

In English Literature, all the subject-specific practical skills are assessed through formative and summative essays. 1 - 3 and 6 are also tested in unseen examinations. In Politics, assessment of 7-14 is carried on through coursework, written unseen examinations and seminar presentations.

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

The skills are developed through seminar discussions, seminar presentations, essay writing, tutorial feedback and unseen examinations. 4 and 7 particularly are developed through requiring students to draw on acquired knowledge and skills when analysing new material in essays and unseen examinations. 5 and 10 are developed through use of the library and other sources of information for seminar preparation, essay writing, and research for the joint dissertation.

Most of these skills are embedded in all Politics 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 Three of the programme. Vocational awareness is promoted especially by the CMS module.

#### *Assessment*

All the itemized skills are formatively assessed through coursework essays and seminar presentations, and summatively assessed through

planning a career.

essays, unseen examinations, portfolios of work and the Joint 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.**