

BA History and Politics
For students entering Part 1 in 2015/6

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:	30/Jan/2017
Programme Director:	Prof Patrick Major
Programme Advisor:	Dr Emma Mayhew Mrs Deborah King
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 areas in British, European, US American, Russian, African, Middle Eastern and South Asian 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 60 credits must be taken in both History and Politics. 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

<i>Code</i>	<i>Title</i>	<i>Credits</i>	<i>Level</i>
HS1RSO	Research Skills and Opportunities in History	20	4
HS1JH1	Journeys through History1: Power and People	20	4
HS1JH2	Journeys through History 2: Culture and Concept	20	4
PO1IRS	Politics: International Relations and Strategic Studies	20	4

PO1ICD Introduction to Contemporary Democracy	20	4
PO1IPI Introduction to Political Ideas	20	4

In History

Students must take 60 credits: These can be chosen from the list of Part 2 Option modules or students may wish to replace one or two Option modules with one of more of the core modules.(My Career: Working it Out, Public History: Its Uses and Abuses, and/or Historical Approaches and My Dissertation) A list of Option modules can be obtained from the Department of History

In Politics

Students choose 40 credits from a range of optional modules available in the department. One of the modules maybe 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.**

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 Part 3 Option modules, totalling 40 credits. A list of modules is available from the Department of History.

In Politics: Students choose 40 credits from a range of optional modules available in the department. One of the modules maybe 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.**

Progression requirements

To progress from Part 1 to Part 2 students must achieve:

- (i) an overall average of 40% over the 120 credits taken in Part 1, and
- (ii) obtain at least 40% in each compulsory module, and
- (iii) 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 to progress to Part 3, 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.

Summary of Teaching and Assessment

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

In History

At Part 1, teaching in the core modules Journeys through History 1 & 2, and Research Skills and Opportunities in History, is by large group lectures augmented by seminars; assessment is by written assignment only, not timed examination. Options are taught by seminar and assessed by a mixture of written assignment and timed examination.

At Part 2 teaching is by a mixture of lectures and seminars. The Part 2 core modules Historical Approaches/My Dissertation and Public History/My Career are assessed by written assignment only. Options are assessed by a mixture of written assignment and timed examination.

At Part 3 teaching is predominantly by seminar. Special Subjects involve close document readings and are assessed by timed examination and written assignment. Options are taught by lectures and seminars and assessed by a mixture of written assignment and timed examination. Two optional Part 3 modules, History Education and Discovering Archives and Collections, are assessed by a mixture of performance on a 10-day placement, written coursework and oral presentation. The Dissertation involves supervised independent research, and 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 asc(160) Three 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).

Classification

For the University-wide framework for honours 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:

Part 2: one-third

Part 3: two-thirds.

Admission requirements

A levels: AAB-ABB from three A levels including a B in History/Ancient History.

IB: 35-32 points overall including 5 in History at higher level.

Those not offering A level or IB qualifications are advised to contact the Admissions Office 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 6.0.

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-sessional 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

In the Department of History, students are assigned Personal Tutors, and have online study tips via Blackboard, as well as the Studying History at Reading Handbook, which provides most of this information in one handy booklet. The Department also runs a Facebook and Twitter page which will give updates on forthcoming events. Additional support is given through orientation sessions on module choices, and Dissertation advice. There is full written feedback on assessed 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.

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 learning

Students are trained in clear thinking, research skills, diligence, independence, adaptability and the ability to understand people and situations in the world at large. As such, they are eagerly sought after by employers. In addition they are given specific vocational training and orientation through the Part 2 My Career: Working It Out module, and the third year optional modules, History Education and Discovering Archives and Collections.

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

As part of the degree programme students may have the opportunity to study abroad at an institution with which the University has a valid exchange agreement. These currently exist for North America, Europe and Australia.

Study abroad normally takes place at Part 2. Students will pursue a slightly modified version of the home programme, and bring back work from their host institution which will count towards their degree. Students wishing to study abroad will require the consent of the Departmental study abroad coordinator form both departments in order to participate. Full details of potential destinations can be found on both the Erasmus and Study Abroad websites.

Placement opportunities

Students have the opportunity to partake in an academic placement in the Discovering Archives and Collections module and History Education (teaching placement) module at Part 3, which also encourages engagement with forward-thinking career planning.

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 Tutoring Scheme (work experience in local schools; 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).

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;

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.

C. Practical skills - *able to*:

1. Develop and carry out individual research programmes and strategies;
2. Gather, organise, and deploy evidence, data and

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

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.

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.

3, independent learning. The Part 2 My Career: Working it Out module also fosters employability, as do the optional Part 3 modules, History Education and Discovering Archives and Collections. 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.