# **BA English and Sociology**

# UCAS code: LQ33

Awarding Institution: Teaching Institution: Relevant QAA subject benchmarking group(s): Faculty of Arts and Humanities For students entering Part 1 in 2002 Programme Director: Dr Tom Woodman Programme Adviser: Dr Tanya Cassidy Board of Studies: English and Sociology Accreditation: not appropriate The University of Reading The University of Reading English and Sociology Programme length: 3 years Date of specification: July 2002

# Summary of programme aims

This is a cross-disciplinary programme which aims to provide students with subject-specific knowledge of both English and Sociology. The joint degree seeks to impart knowledge of a variety of different kinds of literary texts together with a training in sociological theories and techniques, thereby providing a perspective on different methods of critical analysis. 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**

The University's Strategy for Teaching and Learning has identified a number of generic transferable skills which all students are expected to have developed by the end of their degree. In following this programme, students will have had the opportunity to develop their skills relating to career management, communication (both written and oral), information handling, problem-solving, team working and use of information technology.

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 take 60 credits in the School of English and American Literature, and at least 40 credits in the Sociology Department; the remaining 20 credits may be made up from optional Certificate-level Sociology modules and/or from modules available elsewhere in the University. In Parts 2 and 3, students must normally take 60 credits in both English and Sociology in each Part. However, in consultation with their programme adviser, they may choose to take up to 20 credits each year from modules elsewhere in the University.

Part 1 (three terms) Certificate level		Credits	Level
<u>In English</u> (60 c			
Compulsory mod	dules		
EN1LL	Languages of Literature	20	С
EN1RS	Revisioning Shakespeare	20	С
EN1WKT	What Kind of Text is This?	20	С
In Sociology (4	0 or 60 credits)		
Compulsory mo	dules		
SOIINT	Introduction to Sociology	20	С

SO1MET	Methods 1: Main Sociological Methods	20	С
Optional module	s (may be taken if students wish to gain additional cre	dits in Soc	iology)
SO1CES	Contemporary European Society	10	С
SO1CSI	Contemporary Social Issues	10	С

# Part 2 (three terms) Intermediate level

Credits Level

10

Ι

#### In English (60 credits)

Students choose three modules in Part 2, at least one in the Autumn and one in the Spring terms. One module must be chosen from each of Groups A, B and C.

Autumn Term Group A

SO2STR

Social Stratification

Group A			
EN2CMN	Chaucer and Medieval Narrative	20	Ι
EN2 RTC	Renaissance Texts & Cultures	20	Ι
EN2RR	Restoration to Romantics	20	Ι
Group B			
EN2WW1	Women's Writing and Feminist Theory 1	20	Ι
EN2MC1	Modernity and Cultural Crisis 1	20	Ι
EN2WAI	Writing America 1	20	Ι
Group C			
EN2SH1	Shakespeare A	20	Ι
EN2NCN	Nineteenth Century Novel	20	Ι
EN2LCT	Literary Criticism & Theory	20	Ι
Spring Term			
Group A			
EN2LV	<i>Lyric Voices 1340 - 1650</i>	20	Ι
EN2ERE	English Renaissance Epic	20	Ι
EN2SH2	Shakespeare B	20	Ι
Group B			
EN2RD	Romantics to Decadents	20	Ι
EN2MC2	Modernity and Cultural Crisis 2	20	Ι
EN2MDR	Modern Drama	20	Ι
Group C			
EN2WW2	Women's Writing and Feminist Theory 2	20	Ι
EN2WA2	Writing America 2	20	Ι
EN2FN	Film Narrative	20	Ι
In Sociology (6	0 credits)		
Compulsory mo			
SO2THE	Theory 1: The Classical Tradition	10	Ι
SO2CUL	Sociology of Culture	10	Ī
	so choose <i>one</i> of the following three modules:		-
SO2POL	Political Sociology	10	Ι
SO2ECO	Economic Sociology	10	Ī
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Optional modules (chosen in Spring Term. 3 options, worth a total of 30 credits, are required):

SO2ORG	Sociology of Organizations	10	Η
SO2POE	Political Economy	10	Н
SO2GEN	Sociology of Gender	10	Н
SO2POP	Popular Culture	10	Н
SO2SOA	Sociological Analysis	10	Н
SO2EI	Evil Influences	10	Н

SO2POP	Popular Culture	10	Η
SO2FEM	Feminisms	10	Η
SO2SEX	Human Sexualities	10	Η
SO2MPM	Moral Panics, the Media, and Moral Crusades	10	Η
SO2REL	Understanding Religion and Belief	10	Η

Of the 120 credits at Part 2, 5 are taken up by Career Management Skills

Careers Management Skills	5	Ι

Students may choose to replace one 20-credit English module from Groups B or C, or the 20-credit International Relations optional module, *either* with a module or modules totalling 20 credits from outside the programme, *or* with:

EN2CWA	Communications at Work	20	Ι
•	erms) Honours level	Credits	Level
Compulsory EN3JDS	Joint Dissertation (20 credits in each subject)	40	Н

# In English (40 credits)

Students choose two modules, one in each term, from an approved list. (NB. Not all these options will necessarily be available every year. Admission to these modules will be at the discretion of the Programme Director.)

Optional modules

	African American Literature	20	П
EN3AAL	African American Literature	20	Н
EN3AF	American Fiction: Chopin to Carver	20	Н
EN3AP	American Poetry: Bishop to Dove	20	Н
EN3CD	Contemporary Drama	20	Н
EN3CF	Contemporary Fiction	20	Н
EN3CL1/2	Children's Literature	20	Η
EN3CWF	Canadian Women's Fiction	20	Η
EN3DD	Decadence and Degeneration: Literature of the 1890s	20	Н
EN3DF	Detective Fiction	20	Н
EN3DIC	Dickens	20	Η
EN3EMP	'For Profit and Delight': Early Modern Poetry	20	Н
	Collections		
EN3ETW	Elizabethan Travel Writing	20	Н
EN3FSS	Further Spenser Studies	20	Н
EN3GG	Grotesque to Gothic: Body Text and Audience 1680-	20	Η
	1800		
EN3HJ	Henry James	20	Н
EN3HP	Harold Pinter	20	Н
EN3JA	Jane Austen and her Contemporaries	20	Н
EN3JAF	Jewish American Fiction	20	Н
EN3LC1	Topics in Literary Theory and Criticism 1	20	Н
EN3LC2	Topics in Literary Theory and Criticism 2	20	Н
EN3LP	Literature and Psychoanalysis	20	Н
EN3LTT	Irish Literature of 'The Troubles'	20	Н
EN3MA	Margaret Atwood	20	Н
EN3MDN	Medieval Dream Narrative	20	Н
EN3MID	Modern Irish Drama	20	Н
EN3MP	Modern Poetry: Larkin to Muldoon	20	Н
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EN3MPP	Marvell, Poetry and Politics in the Mid-17thCentury	20	Н
EN3OEL	Introduction to Old English Literature	20	Η
EN3OE2	Old English 2	20	Η
EN3PCE	Popular Culture in Early Modern England	20	Η
EN3PR	Pre-Raphaelitism	20	Η
EN3RD	Renaissance Drama	20	Η
EN3RWW	Renaissance Women Writing	20	Η
EN3SB	Samuel Beckett	20	Η
EN3SF	British Science Fiction	20	Η
EN3SHG	Shakespeare and Gender	20	Η
EN3SHH	Shakespeare and History	20	Η
EN3SHR	Shakespeare and Romance	20	Η
EN3SIR	The American South: Image and Representation	20	Η
EN3SJ	Samuel Johnson	20	Н
EN3VSP	Victorian Sensation and Popular Fiction	20	Н
EN3TH	Thomas Hardy	20	Н
EN3TTC	From Troy to Camelot: Medieval Romance	20	Η
EN3TVL	Television, Literature and Popular Culture	20	Η
EN3TVP	Television Police Drama	20	Η
EN3WOR	Wordsworth	20	Н
EN3WP	War Poetry: from the Crimean to World War 2	20	Н
EN3YJ	Yeats and Joyce	20	Н

<u>In Sociology</u> (40 credits) Students must choose four of the following options *Optional modules* 

	20		
SO3DEA	Sociology of Death	10	Н
SO3NAR	Narrative Analysis	10	Н
SO3ART	Social Dynamics of Art	10	Н
SO3DDS	Death in the State	10	Н
SO3NAT	The Nation State and Modernity	10	Н
SO3MED	The Sociology of Media	10	Н
SO3EI	Evil Influences	10	Н
SO3SMT	Sociology of Market Transitions	10	Н
SO3IND	Industrial Sociology	10	Н
SO3SOB	Social Boundaries	10	Н
SO3CIT	Citizenship, Economy, and Society	10	Н
SO3IDE	Identities: Ethnic, National, Cultural and Racial	10	Н
SO3HUM	Sociology of Humour	10	Н
SO3GLO	Nationalism and Globalism	10	Н
SO3BEL	Religion and Belief in Contemporary Society	10	Н
SO3SOM	Social Movements	10	Н
SO3INT	Internet Studies	10	Н
SO3PSC	Power and Social Control	10	Н
SO3POW	Power and Inequality in Pre-Industrial Societies	10	Н
SO3GEN	Gender, Family, and the Work Place	10	Н
SO3CLA	Class and Inequality in Contemporary Society	10	Н
SO3LIF	Sociology of the Life Course	10	Η
SO3CRS	Crime and Society	10	Η
SO3AME	American Society: Power, Culture & Structure	10	Н
SO3CHI	Contemporary Chinese Society	10	Н
SO3ENT	Entrepreneurship: The Social Science Perspective	10	Η
SO3MIG	Sociology of Migration	10	Н

SO3CRI	Criminology	10	Н
SO3MOR	Moral Controversies in Modern Societies	10	Н
SO3EDU	Sociology of Education	10	Η
SO3CHI	Contemporary Chinese Society	10	Η
SO3AME	Contemporary American Society	10	Η
SO3PCO	Culture and Power	10	Н
SO3LIM	Advanced Topics in Liminality	10	Η
SO3IDE	Advanced Topics in Ideology	10	Η
SO3RHE	Advanced Topics in Rhetoric of Science	10	Η
SO3EVL	Advanced Topics in Everyday Life	10	Η
SO3LES	Advanced Topics in Leisure	10	Η

# **Progression requirements**

To proceed from Part 1 to Part 2, a Joint Honours student must (i) obtain an average of 40% across all Part 1 modules; (ii) achieve a minimum of 40% in each English module, and 40% in each compulsory module in Sociology; and (iii) have no mark less than 30% in any module, except that marks of less than 30% in a total of 20 credits may be condoned, provided that the candidate has pursued the course for that module with reasonable diligence and has not been absent from the examination without cause. To proceed from Part 2 to Part 3, students must obtain an overall average of at least 40% and achieve not less than 30% in any module, except that marks of less than 30% in a total of 20 credits may be condoned, provided that the candidate has pursued the course for that module with reasonable diligence and has not been absent from the examination without cause.

# Summary of teaching and assessment

Teaching is through seminars, lectures and essay tutorials. In addition the Dissertation module is supported by workshops and individual supervisions. 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%.

The University's honours classification is as follows:

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

# Admission requirements

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

**UCAS Tariff:** 280 points including 100 points in English Literature *or* English Language & Literature.

Scottish Highers ABBBB or above (A in English Literature)

Irish Highers at least ABBBB (A in English Literature)

**International Baccalaureate** 31 points with 6 or 7 for Higher level English Literature **GCSE/O:** English Language preferred, grade C or above.

All applications are considered on their individual merits. Mature candidates will be usually be expected to have a B (100 points) at A level English, or equivalent qualification, but consideration is also given to applicants with other qualifications and experience.

# Admissions tutor: Carolyn Lyle

# Support for students and their learning

University support for students and their learning falls into two categories. Learning support includes IT Services, which has several hundred computers, and the University Library, which across its three sites holds over a million volumes, subscribes to around 4,000 current periodicals, has a range of electronic sources of information and houses the Learning Resource Centre with some 200 workstations. 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, the Careers Advisory Service, the University's Special Needs Advisor, Study Advisors, Hall Wardens and the Students' Union.

Students of both English and Sociology receive Handbooks which give details of the Programme, guidance on study skills such as note-taking and essay writing, and information about staff, facilities, and sources of specialised help within the University, such as the Study Skills Advisor and the Counselling Service. The English programme is designed to give students extensive teaching support in Part 1 leading to more independent work in Part 3. The Sociology programme lays increasing emphasis on options and course work over the three years. Academic feedback and guidance is given through one-to-one essay tutorials, and academic and personal support is provided through the tutor system and the University's Personal and Academic Record (PAR) Scheme. Dissertation workshops prepare students for the Part 3 dissertation which is individually supervised. The Geoffrey Matthews Collection, housed in the School of English, provides books, xeroxed materials, cassettes and an extensive collection of videos for loan to students. A video-viewing suite is available within the Faculty. The Library is well stocked with printed materials as well as electronic databases, such as the OED, the MLA Bibliography, and JSTOR. Specialist subject librarians are available to give students advice and guidance to library resources. The Department of Sociology provides additional appropriate supports for its students.

### **Career prospects**

A Reading degree in English and Sociology provides graduates with a range of communication and analytical skills that stand them in good stead in the market place. In recent years students 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. The degree can also prepare graduates for work in social science research units such as the Institute for Public Policy Research, the Policy Studies Institute, or Chatham House.

# **Opportunities for study abroad**

Students may, with permission, opt for a four-year degree programme which involves spending the third year abroad, at one of the European universities with which the School of English has a Socrates exchange agreement. They would actively participate in courses abroad, experience the teaching and learning processes of another institution, learn or improve their knowledge of another European language, and enhance their curriculum vitae. Students following the four-year programme must take 120 credits in their Year Abroad. Of this total, 40 credits of English studies (two courses undertaken at the host institution) will count towards degree classification; the remaining 80 credits are assigned for the experience and satisfactory completion of the year abroad, and are assessed on a Pass/Fail basis.

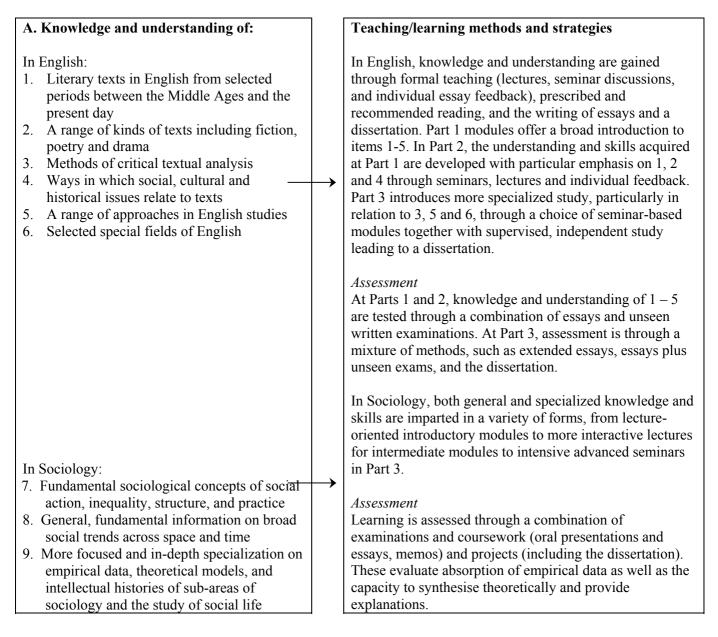
Alternatively, students following a 3-year degree course may arrange to spend one term of the second year studying at a European University under the Department of Sociology's Socrates exchange scheme. There may also be opportunities to study for one term in the United States under the auspices of the American Studies programme. While such exchanges may involve some

additional financial expenditures and some adjustments to coursework at Reading, we believe that they offer an excellent opportunity to broaden educational and life experience.

# Educational aims of the programme

The aims of this joint degree programme are both intellectual and practical. In English, the aim is to develop students' knowledge and understanding of a wide variety of literary texts, and to promote an informed and self-reflective awareness of procedures of critical analysis. The Sociology component of the degree places equal emphasis on developing the capacity of critical thought, analysis and problem-solving, asking questions and deconstructing others' arguments. Students also learn a variety of explanatory schemata and their application in understanding them in social life.

# Knowledge and Understanding



<b>B.</b> Intellectual skills :	Teaching/learning methods and strategies
<ol> <li>Capacity for independent analysis and research</li> <li>Identification of problems and issues</li> <li>The ability to read closely and critically</li> <li>An ability to reflect on one's own positions</li> <li>An ability to analyse and critically deconstruct claims and arguments</li> <li>To think in terms of cause-effect relations, variables and theories</li> <li>To organize arguments through the use of logic and empirical data</li> <li>To apply concepts and procedures of rigorous data collection and analysis</li> </ol>	<ul> <li>Intellectual skills in English 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). Theory and methods are at the heart of the discipline of Sociology. All Sociology modules, therefore, involve deconstruction and application of a wide range of theoretical frameworks, training students to analyse and apply different types of data relevant to sociological issues.</li> <li><i>Assessment</i>         In English, 1 – 5 are assessed both formatively (in seminar discussion, coursework essays, essay feedback and tutorials) and summatively, in essays, unseen exams and the Dissertation. In Sociology, examinations and written work assess students' capacities to present an argument that is a careful, critical, coherent and synthetic combination of theory and data. Hence, all intellectual skills are addressed in each module, although some modules, such as Theory and Methods, focus more narrowly on theoretical construction.     </li> </ul>
C. Practical skills: able to	Teaching/learning methods and strategies
<ol> <li>criticize and formulate interpretations of texts</li> <li>engage in critical argument using relevant theoretical approaches</li> <li>recognise the rhetorical resources of the English language</li> <li>exercise bibliographical and research skills</li> <li>deploy appropriate conventions in the presentation of written work</li> <li>relate the study of English to cultural and social issues</li> <li>Design a research project, from setting a research question, to implementing it with data collection and analysis techniques</li> <li>Write coherent arguments</li> <li>Work in teams (in group projects) as well as individually (dissertation or seminar papers)</li> <li>Evaluate policies, social trends, and other social data</li> </ol>	<ul> <li>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. While research techniques arise in each of the Sociology modules, these are specifically addressed in the 'Methods' module students are exposed to in their introductory year.</li> <li>Assessment</li> <li>In English, all the subject-specific practical skills are assessed through formative and summative essays. 1 – 3 and 6 are also tested in unseen examinations. In Sociology, students are formally assessed in research and analysis techniques by means of the coursework required by the Methods modules. Some modules include group projects to encourage precise analysis and critical commentary of readings or issues at hand.</li> </ul>

# **D.** Transferable skills:

- 1. Fluency in written and oral communication
- 2. The ability to formulate and present arguments
- 3. Assessing the merits of competing approaches
- 4. The ability to translate subjectspecific knowledge and skills into other environments
- 5. The ability to find and use relevant information resources
- 6. Time-management skills
- 7. A creative approach to problemsolving
- 8. Group and interpersonal skills
- 9. An ability to self-evaluate and self-reflect
- 10. Use of information technology, especially word-processing
- 11. Analysis of data
- 12. Numeracy

# 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 analyzing 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. Sociology modules pay special attention to collaborative work on group projects (8), the presentation and appraisal of arguments, and the analysis of both qualitative and quantitative data (11-12).

# Assessment

All the itemized skills are formatively assessed through coursework essays and seminar presentations, and summatively assessed through essays, unseen examinations, and 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 expect 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 module and programme handbooks.