

## BA in Ancient History

UCAS code: V110

Awarding Institution:  
Teaching Institution:  
Relevant QAA subject benchmarking group(s):  
Faculty of Arts and Humanities  
For students entering Part 1 in 2003  
Programme Director: Ray Laurence  
Programme Adviser: Alastair Blanshard  
Board of Studies: Classics  
Accreditation: University of Reading

The University of Reading  
The University of Reading  
Classics and Ancient History  
Programme length: 3 years  
Date of specification: January 2004

### 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 through Parts 1,2, and 3 of the programme.

### 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 programme. In following this programme, students will have had the opportunity to enhance their skills relating to career management, communication (both written and oral), information handling, problem-solving, team working and use of information technology.

### 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. Students are encouraged to take an additional 20 credits as well in Greek and Roman Civilisations. Part 2 develops the students knowledge of the chronological changes within the period of study via compulsory core units, and includes also units to develop their academic capabilities (study skills, historical skills). In addition, students choose two option units that are either more thematic or add greater depth than the core units. In Part 3, there is an increasing specialisation and progression to approach topics in greater depth through the provision of optional units 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.

#### Part 1 (three terms)

##### *Compulsory modules*

| Mod Code | Module Title  | Credits | Level |
|----------|---|---------|-------|
| CL1CA    | Greek and Roman Civilisations A: Fifth Century Athens     | 20      | C     |
| CL1CB    | Greek and Roman Civilisations B: Rome in the Augustan Age | 20      | C     |

##### *Optional module:*

| Mod Code | Module Title            | Credits | Level |
|----------|-------------------------|---------|-------|
| CL1GRF   | Greece and Rome on Film | 20      | C     |

| <b>Part 2 (three terms)</b> |                     | <i>Credits</i> | <i>Level</i> |
|-----------------------------|---------------------|----------------|--------------|
| <i>Compulsory modules</i>   |                     |                |              |
| Mod Code                    | <i>Module Title</i> |                |              |
| CL2SS                       | Study Skills        | 10             | I            |
| CL2HS                       | Historical Skills   | 10             | I            |
| CL2GH                       | Greek History       | 20             | I            |
| CL2RR                       | Roman Republic      | 20             | I            |
| CL2RE                       | Roman Empire        | 20             | I            |

*Optional modules:*

|          |                            |    |   |
|----------|----------------------------|----|---|
| Mod Code | <i>Module Title</i>        |    |   |
| CL2EG    | Egypt and Greece           | 20 | I |
| CL2AM    | Greek and Roman Medicine   | 20 | I |
| CL2AP    | Greek and Roman Painting   | 20 | I |
| CL2AS    | Greek and Roman Sculpture  | 20 | I |
| CL2RL    | Greek and Roman Religions  | 20 | I |
| CL2CM    | Classical Mythology        | 20 | I |
| CL2GD    | Greek Drama                | 20 | I |
| CL2AE    | Ancient Epic               | 20 | I |
| CL2GL    | Greek Lyric Poetry         | 20 | I |
| CL2LP    | Roman Love Poetry          | 20 | I |
| CL2PS    | Plato                      | 20 | I |
| CL2EP    | Early Greek Philosophy     | 20 | I |
| CL2BG    | Beginners Ancient Greek II | 20 | I |
| CL2IG    | Intermediate Greek II      | 20 | I |
| CL2AG    | Advanced Greek II          | 20 | I |
| CL2BL    | Beginners Latin II         | 20 | I |
| CL2IL    | Intermediate Latin II      | 20 | I |
| CL2AL    | Advanced Latin II          | 20 | I |
| CL2LL    | Later Latin Authors        | 20 | i |

Students may take IWLP Modern Greek in place of one I level module.

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

| <b>Part 3 (three terms)</b> |                     | <i>Credits</i> | <i>Level</i> |
|-----------------------------|---------------------|----------------|--------------|
| <i>Compulsory modules</i>   |                     |                |              |
| Mod Code                    | <i>Module Title</i> |                |              |
| CL3DS                       | Dissertation        | 40             | H            |

*Optional modules:*

| Mod Code | Module Title   |    |   |
|----------|--|----|---|
| CL3AB    | Ancient Biography                                    | 20 | H |
| CL3CN    | Conversion of the Roman Empire                       | 20 | H |
| CL3GD    | Gender in Classical Antiquity                        | 20 | H |
| CL3AP    | Greek and Roman Painting                             | 20 | H |
| CL3GA    | Greek Art and Drama                                  | 20 | H |
| CL3LL    | Litigation and Life in the Graeco-Roman World        | 20 | H |
| CL3NC    | New Comedy   | 20 | H |
| CL3HO    | Odes of Horace                                       | 20 | H |
| CL3OA    | Oedipus and Antigone in the 20 <sup>th</sup> Century | 20 | H |
| CL3PW    | Peloponnesian War                                    | 20 | H |
| CL3POM   | Pompeii  | 20 | H |
| CL3PP    | Pornography and Power in the Graeco-Roman World      | 20 | H |
| CL3RM    | Renaissance Medicine                                 | 20 | H |
| CL3RL    | Roman Life Cycle                                     | 20 | H |
| CL3RF    | Rome On Film   | 20 | H |
| CL3ST    | Special Topics in Greek Drama                        | 20 | H |
| CL3TC    | Tourism, Classics and National Identity              | 20 | H |
| CL3UA    | Uses and Abuses of Antiquity                         | 20 | H |
| CL3BG    | Beginners Greek III                                  | 20 | H |
| CL3IG    | Intermediate Greek III                               | 20 | H |
| CL3AG    | Advanced Greek III                                   | 20 | H |
| CL3BL    | Beginners Latin III                                  | 20 | H |
| CL3IL    | Intermediate Latin III                               | 20 | H |
| CL3AL    | Advanced Latin III                                   | 20 | H |

Students may take IWLP Modern Greek in place of one H level module.

**Progression requirements**

To proceed from Part 1 to Part 2 students must:

- (a) obtain at least 40% average over both compulsory Ancient History modules;
- (b) achieve an overall average of 40% in 120 credits taken in the examination;
- (c) 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 the module(s) with reasonable diligence and has not been absent from the examination without reasonable cause.

To proceed from Part 2 to Part 3 students must:

- (a) achieve an overall average of 40% in 120 credits taken in the examination;
- (b) 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 the module(s) with reasonable diligence and has not been absent from the examination without reasonable cause.

**Summary of teaching and assessment**

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 should have achieved:

Entrants to this programme are normally required to have obtained:

Grade C or better in English in GCSE; and achieved

UCAS Tariff: BCC or 260 points from 3 A levels or 280 points from A and A/S levels

International Baccalaureat: 30 points

Scottish Highers: BBBB

Irish Leaving Certificate: BBBBC

Two AS grades are accepted in place of one A-Level

Admissions Tutor: Ray Laurence

### 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 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, the Careers Advisory Service, the University's Special Needs Advisor, Study Advisors, Hall Wardens and the Students' Union. The Department of Classics is the Curator of the Ure Museum of Greek Archaeology.

### Career prospects

Graduates in Ancient History have found that their degree course has been a good basis for careers in management, administration, the civil service, commerce, law, 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 or for placements

The Department of Classics is developing a Socrates exchange with the University of Aarhus, through which students can spend a period of study abroad (normally during Part 2).

### Educational aims of the programme

The programme aims to provide a thorough degree level education in Ancient History. It aims to produce ancient historians who have experience of chronological, thematic and genre based approaches to the history of antiquity.

### 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*

|   |  |
|---|--|
| <p><b>A. Knowledge and understanding of:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>➤ another culture's history and political and social organisation.</li><li>➤ a diverse range of primary materials.</li><li>➤ a range of problems of interpretation and evaluation of primary materials,</li><li>➤ a range of techniques and methodologies.</li></ul> | <p><b>Teaching/learning methods and strategies</b><br/>Knowledge and understanding are gained through formal teaching (lectures, seminars, and individual essay feedback), recommended reading, and the writing of essays and a dissertation.</p> <p><i>Assessment</i><br/>Most knowledge is tested through a combination of coursework and formal examination. The Dissertation and oral presentations also contribute.</p> |
|---|--|

#### *Skills and other attributes*

|  |   |
|--|---|
| <p><b>B. Intellectual skills – able to:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>➤ 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.</li></ul> | <p><b>Teaching/learning methods and strategies</b><br/>Skills will be introduced in lectures, developed through reading, writing of essays, dissertation and examination</p> <p><i>Assessment</i><br/>Coursework and examinations, as well as in the dissertation</p> |
|--|---|

**C. Practical skills** – able to:

- gather, organise and deploy evidence and information, and to show awareness of the consequences of the unavailability of evidence,
- develop the capacity for critical judgement in the light of evidence and argument,
- select and apply appropriate methodologies in assessing the meaning and significance of evidence or data,
- 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:

- deploy a range of IT resources effectively,
- present material orally in a clear and effective manner,
- present material in a written form, with discrimination and lucidity in the use of language, professional referencing, and clear layout,
- work creatively, flexibly and adaptably with others,
- 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 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.