

BA English and Television Studies

UCAS code: QW36

Awarding Institution:

The University of Reading

Teaching Institution:

The University of Reading

Relevant QAA subject benchmarking group(s):

English; Dance, Drama, Performing Arts
and Media, Film and Cultural Studies

Faculty of Arts and Humanities

Programme length: 3 years

For students entering Part 1 in 2003

Date of specification: April 2003

Programme Director: Dr Ronan McDonald

Programme Adviser: Dr Jonathan Bignell

Board of Studies: English; Film, Theatre & TV Studies

Accreditation: not appropriate

Summary of programme aims and learning outcomes

This is a multi-disciplinary programme that aims to provide students with subject specific knowledge and more general skills, including knowledge of a variety of different kinds of literary texts from a range of different periods and British and other English language television (primarily drama and documentary). Students will become familiar with the variety of critical perspectives and analytical methods within and between the disciplines. The course aims to foster an independent approach to formulating problems and arguments, using the close reading and analytical skills that are fundamental to the disciplines of both English and Television Studies.

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 develop their skills relating to career management, communication (both written and oral), information handling, problem-solving, team working and use of information technology.

Students following the degree programme in English and Television Studies are also expected to develop the ability to formulate and evaluate their own arguments and those of others, to translate subject-specific knowledge and skills to new environments, the ability to find and use relevant information resources, to manage their time effectively, and use basic word-processing and IT skills; the ability to work co-operatively with others. Although there is no practical component in the degree, students will have ample opportunity to participate in practical work generated by Single Honours students in the Department of Film, Theatre and Television.

Programme content

In each Part of the degree programme students must take modules to make up a total of 120 credits. In Part 1, 60 credits must be taken in the School of English, and another 60 credits in the Department of Film, Theatre & Television. In Parts 2 and 3 they must also normally take a minimum of 60 credits in both English and designated Television Studies in each Part. However, in consultation with their programme adviser, they may choose to take up to 20 credits from modules available elsewhere in the University.

Part 1 (three terms) Certificate level

Credits Level

In English (60 credits)

Compulsory modules

EN1RS	<i>Revisioning Shakespeare</i>	20	C
EN1LL	<i>Languages of Literature</i>	20	C
EN1WKT	<i>What Kind of Text is This?</i>	20	C

In Film, Theatre & Television (60 credits)

Compulsory modules

FD1HA	<i>Historical Approaches to Film and Drama</i>	20	C
FD1CA	<i>Critical Approaches to Film & Drama</i>	20	C
FD1TFC	<i>Introduction to Television Studies</i>	20	C

Part 2 (three terms) Intermediate level

Credits Level

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

EN2CMN	<i>Chaucer and Medieval Narrative</i>	20	I
EN2 RTC	<i>Renaissance Texts & Cultures</i>	20	I
EN2RR	<i>Restoration to Romantics</i>	20	I

Group B

EN2WW1	<i>Women's Writing and Feminist Theory 1</i>	20	I
EN2MC1	<i>Modernity and Cultural Crisis 1</i>	20	I
EN2WAI	<i>Writing America 1</i>	20	I

Group C

EN2SH1	<i>Shakespeare A</i>	20	I
EN2NCN	<i>Nineteenth Century Novel</i>	20	I
EN2LCT	<i>Literary Criticism & Theory</i>	20	I

Spring Term

Group A

EN2LV	<i>Lyric Voices 1340 - 1650</i>	20	I
EN2ERE	<i>English Renaissance Epic</i>	20	I
EN2SH2	<i>Shakespeare B</i>	20	I

Group B

EN2RD	<i>Romantics to Decadents</i>	20	I
EN2MC2	<i>Modernity and Cultural Crisis 2</i>	20	I
EN2MDR	<i>Modern Drama</i>	20	I

Group C

EN2WW2	<i>Women's Writing and Feminist Theory 2</i>	20	I
EN2WA2	<i>Writing America 2</i>	20	I
EN2FN	<i>Film Narrative</i>	20	I

In Film, Theatre & Television (60 credits)

Either: *Students take three designated modules in Television Studies, at 20 credits apiece:*

TVS2TD1	<i>Television Drama 1: History and Forms</i>	20	I
TVS2ADD	<i>Authorship in Television Drama and Documentary</i>	20	I
FD2DFT/A	<i>Documentary Film and Television</i>	20	I

Or: *Students take two Television Studies modules at 20 + 10 credits:*

TVS2TD1/B	<i>Television Drama 1: History and Forms</i>	20+10	I
FD2DFT/B	<i>Documentary Film and Television</i>	20+10	I

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

<i>Careers Management Skills</i>	5	I
----------------------------------	---	---

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	<i>Communications at Work</i>	20	I
Part 3 (three terms) Honours level		<i>Credits</i>	<i>Level</i>

Compulsory module

EN3JDT	<i>Dissertation</i>	40	H
--------	---------------------	----	---

In English (40 credits)

Students choose two 20-credit modules, one in each term, from an approved list. (NB. Not all these options will necessarily be available every year; admission to optional modules is at the discretion of the Programme Director.)

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

EN3VSP	<i>Victorian Sensation and Popular Fiction</i>	20	H
EN3TH	<i>Thomas Hardy</i>	20	H
EN3TTC	<i>From Troy to Camelot: Medieval Romance</i>	20	H
EN3WOR	<i>Wordsworth</i>	20	H
EN3WP	<i>War Poetry: from the Crimean to World War 2</i>	20	H
EN3YJ	<i>Yeats and Joyce</i>	20	H

In Film, Theatre & Television (40 credits)

Students will normally take the following designated modules in Television Studies:

TVS3TD2	<i>Television Drama 2: Forms and Genres</i>	20	H
TVS3TAD/A	<i>Television and Documentary</i>	20	H

Progression requirements

To proceed from Part 1 to Part 2 a Joint Honours student must obtain a minimum of 40% in each of the modules taken in the Part 1 examinations. 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 the 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. Teaching styles are varied to encourage active engagement by students. Television and film viewing is central to the degree. Over the programme as a whole, assessment will be conducted through a mixture of assessed essays plus informal and formal examination.

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

The University's honours classification scheme is as follows:–

<u>Mark</u>	<u>Interpretation</u>
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

Entrants to the Joint Degree programme are normally required to have obtained:

UCAS Tariff: *either* 280 points from three A levels (to include 100 pts [grade B] in one of English Literature, English Literature and Language, Drama, Theatre Studies, Film Studies, Communication Studies, Media Studies), *or* 320 points from 3 A levels + up to 2 AS (including 100 pts in English Literature, English Literature and Language, Drama, Theatre Studies, Film Studies, Communication Studies, or Media Studies.)

AS: two good AS grades are accepted as one supporting A level

Scottish Highers ABBBBB or above (A in English Literature)

Irish Leaving Certificate at least ABBBBB (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 usually be expected to have a B (100 points) in a relevant A level subject, but consideration is also given to other qualifications and experience.

Admissions tutors: Carolyn Lyle (English), Alison Butler (Film, Theatre & Television)

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 for students wishing to take 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 receive Handbooks from both Departments, 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 specialized help within the University, such as the Study Skills Advisor and the Counselling Service. Liaison Officers ensure co-ordination of the programme and assessment across the disciplines, and attend to individual student needs and problems. The programme is designed to give students extensive teaching support in Part 1 leading to more independent work in Part 3. Academic feedback and guidance is given through one-to-one essay tutorials (in English) and detailed written comments (Television Studies), and academic and personal support is provided through the personal tutor system and the university's Personal and Academic Record scheme (PAR). Dissertation workshops prepare students for the Part 3 dissertation, which is individually supervised. The Geoffrey Matthews Collection, housed in the School of English, holds a range of books, xeroxed materials, cassettes and a growing library of videos for loan to students. A video-viewing suite is available within the Faculty (on the Whiteknights campus). The Department of Film, Theatre & Television also has an extensive collection of films and television programmes (currently some 6,000), to which students may have access, and a wide range of viewing facilities. The Library, which has buildings on both the Whiteknights and Bulmershe campuses, is well-stocked with printed materials as well as essential electronic databases such as the OED, the MLA Bibliography, and the DNB on CD ROM, and such on-line resources as JSTOR and First Search. Specialist subject librarians are available to give students advice and guidance to library resources.

Career prospects

Since English and Television Studies is not a specifically vocational programme, career possibilities are very wide ranging. Graduates find that the transferable skills developed by the programme enable them to enter many fields of work including education, publishing, journalism, the media, management, administration, public relations, advertising and the performance industries. Although the English and Television Studies degree contains no practical components, opportunities for extra-curricular participation in practical work are generated elsewhere in the Department of Film, Theatre & Television. The joint programme provides graduates with a range of communication and analytical skills that will serve them well in the world of work. The compulsory module in Careers Management Skills, distributed across Part 2 of the degree, involves assignments designed to address the development of career opportunities. Students may also go on to post-graduate study at MA and PhD levels, at Reading and elsewhere.

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 Year 3. 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.

There may also be opportunities to study for one term in the United States under the American Studies exchange programme.

Educational aims of the programme .

The programme seeks to develop students' knowledge and understanding of a wide range of literary and television texts, and to promote an informed and self-reflective awareness of procedures of critical and cultural analysis. The overall aims are to enable students to achieve their full intellectual potential, and to equip them with broadly transferable skills of potential value to future employers.

Knowledge and understanding

<p>A. Knowledge and understanding of:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Literary texts in English from selected periods between the Middle Ages and the present day, and a selection of television texts (primarily English language drama and documentary).2. A range of kinds of texts including fiction, poetry and drama, and a variety of approaches to television production of selected forms, genres and formats.3. Methods of critical and televisual analysis.4. Ways in which social, cultural and historical contexts inform literary and television texts5. A range of critical approaches in English and Television Studies.6. Selected special fields of English and Television	<p><i>Teaching/learning methods and strategies</i></p> <p>Knowledge and understanding are gained through formal teaching (lectures, seminar discussions, workshops, and individual essay feedback), prescribed and recommended reading and viewing, and the writing of essays and a dissertation. Part 1 offers a broad introduction to 1, 2, 3, 4 and 5. In Part 2 the understanding and skills acquired in Part 1 are developed with particular emphasis on 1, 2, 3 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 dissertation.</p> <p><i>Assessment</i></p> <p>In Parts 1 and 2, knowledge and understanding of 1 – 5 are tested through a combination of essays, seminar presentations, seen and unseen written examinations. In Part 3, assessment is through a mixture of methods, such as extended essays, essays plus seen and unseen exams, and the dissertation.</p>
---	---

Skills and other attributes

<p>B. Intellectual skills :</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Capacity for independent analysis and research2. Identification of problems and issues3. The ability to read, watch and interpret closely and critically4. An ability to reflect on one's own opinions and those of others5. Apply conceptual frameworks and methods of analysis to new contexts and material	<p><i>Teaching/learning methods and strategies</i></p> <p>Intellectual skills are acquired through independent reading and viewing (1 and 2), preparation and discussion in seminars and workshops, essay writing (1, 2, 3 and 5) and essay feedback through tutorials (2, 3 and 4).</p> <p><i>Assessment</i></p> <p>1 – 5 are assessed both formatively in coursework essays, and summatively in essays, seen and unseen exams. They are also assessed formatively through seminar discussion, seminar presentations and essay feedback and tutorials</p>
<p>C. Practical skills:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none">1. The ability to criticize and formulate interpretations of literary and televisual texts.2. An ability to engage in critical argument using relevant theoretical approaches3. An awareness of the rhetorical resources of the English language4. Bibliographical and research skills5. A knowledge of appropriate conventions in the presentation of written work6. An ability to relate the study of English and of television to cultural and social issues	<p><i>Teaching/learning methods and strategies</i></p> <p>1 – 3 and 6 are developed in seminars, workshops, seminar presentations, essays and essay tutorials. 4 and 5 are developed through essays, essay feedback and dissertation guidance and supervision.</p> <p><i>Assessment</i></p> <p>All the subject-specific practical skills are assessed through formative and summative essays. 1 – 3 and 6 are also tested in seen and unseen examinations.</p>

<p>D. Transferable skills:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 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 subject-specific knowledge and skills into other environments 5. The ability to find and use relevant information resources 6. Time-management skills and the ability to manage personal workloads. 7. A creative approach to problem-solving 8. Group and interpersonal skills 9. An ability to self-evaluate and self-reflect 10. Use of information technology, especially word-processing 11. Career management skills 	<p><i>Teaching/learning methods and strategies</i></p> <p>Transferable skills are developed through seminar and workshop discussions (1, 2, 3, 4, 7 and 9), through seminar presentations, essay writing, tutorial feedback, seen and unseen examinations (1 – 9), and through sessions and assignments associated with the module on Careers Management Skills (11). 4 and 7 particularly are developed through requiring students to draw on acquired knowledge and skills when analyzing new material in essays, seen 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 dissertation. We require that all summatively assessed essays are word-processed (10).</p> <p><i>Assessment</i></p> <p>1 – 7 and 9 are formatively assessed through coursework essays and seminar presentations, and summatively assessed through essays, seen and unseen examinations, and the dissertation. 9 is encouraged through essay feedback and essay tutorials. 8 is encouraged through seminars and in tutorials.</p>
---	--

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.