

BA French and Sociology

Awarding Institution:

Teaching Institution:

Relevant QAA subject benchmarking group(s):

Faculty of Arts and Humanities Programme length:

For students entering Part 1 in 2003

Programme Director: Professor G.H.Tucker

Programme Adviser: Dr Andrew Knapp and Dr Anthea Leoussi

Board of Studies: French and Sociology

Accreditation: not applicable

UCAS code: LR31

The University of Reading

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Languages and Related Studies, Sociology

4 years

Date of specification: July 2003

Summary of programme aims

This is a multi-disciplinary programme in which students take modules in both departments alongside single subject students. It contains an inter-disciplinary element in the form of a compulsory joint dissertation in which students study a topic from the perspectives of both disciplines.

The French part of the programme aims to provide a thorough degree-level education in French language and culture. Its multi-disciplinary approach aims to produce graduates who are competent communicators in French, who have a sound critical understanding of French and francophone culture, history and politics, and who have acquired a range of skills to underpin their life-long development.

The programme in Sociology aims to give a thorough and broadly based training in modern sociology, covering the fundamental concepts, methods, and theories involved in sociological research, as well as introducing students to empirical data about social phenomena and different 'middle-range' theories of more specific sociological topics.

Transferable skills

The University's Strategy for Teaching and Learning has identified a number of generic transferable skills which 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 communication (both written and oral), information handling, problem-solving, team working, information technology (word-processing and use of web-based material) and career management. Students on this programme are also expected to have gained experience and show competence in the following transferable skills in addition to those prescribed by the University: use of library resources, self-reliance, cultural awareness.

Programme content

The programme which follows states which modules must be taken (the compulsory part), together with one or more lists of modules from which the student must make a selection (the optional modules). Not all modules will necessarily be available every year. Admission to modules will be at the discretion of the programme Director.

Students must choose such additional modules as they wish, in consultation with their programme adviser, to make 120 credits in each Part.

The number of credits in each module is shown in column after its title.

In French Part 1 includes the study of both language and an introduction to aspects of Contemporary French politics, culture, cinema and literature. In Part 2 students continue with the study of the French language and choose optional modules in French history and politics and/or French and francophone culture, cinema and literature. During the Year Abroad, the experience of living in a French-speaking country enables students to make great strides in their linguistic skills and further broaden their knowledge of French culture, and they engage in independent study for their dissertation. In Part 3 students must take

one module of further language study and are free to pursue their interests within French Studies by selecting from a range of specialised historical, cultural and literary options.

In Sociology, Part 1 introduces students to the fundamental forms and constitutive elements of human association and the ways in which human groups can be studied scientifically. Students are also introduced to the culture and organisational forms of modern European societies. In Part 2 students pursue the study of human association in greater depth focusing on three main areas: first, the norms of behaviour which arise out of the social conditions of human life; second, the actual design of a research project; and third, the central themes of sociological investigation. Part 3 allows students to choose from a variety of special subjects taught in the department and illustrating the richness, variety, creativity and shortcomings of collective human endeavour.

Part 1 (three terms)

Students must take a minimum of 40 credits in French and 40 credits in Sociology. A further 20-credit optional module in French may be taken if desired. Additional modules, to a total of 120, should be chosen from those offered in the Part 1 Handbook.

In French:

Either:

Advanced French

Compulsory modules		Credits	Level
FR101	<i>Advanced French Language</i>	20	C
and either			
FR103	<i>Contemporary France: History, Politics, Literature</i>	20	C
or			
FR104	<i>French Cinema: Society, Culture and History</i>	20	C
<i>Optional Module</i>			
either			
FR103	<i>Contemporary France: History, Politics, Literature</i>	20	C
or			
FR104	<i>French Cinema: Society, Culture and History</i>	20	C

Or:

Intermediate French

Compulsory modules		Credits	Level
FR102	<i>Intermediate French Language</i>	20	C
and either			
FR103	<i>Contemporary France: History, Politics, Literature</i>	20	C
or			
FR104	<i>French Cinema: Society, Culture and History</i>	20	C
<i>Optional Module</i>			
either			
FR103	<i>Contemporary France: History, Politics, Literature</i>	20	C
or			
FR104	<i>French Cinema: Society, Culture and History</i>	20	C

In Sociology

Compulsory modules

SO1INT	<i>Introduction to Sociology</i>	20	C
SO1MET	<i>Methods 1: Main Methodological Approaches in Sociology</i>	20	C

Optional modules

SO1CES	<i>Contemporary European Society</i>	10	C
SO1CSI	<i>Contemporary Social Issues</i>	10	C

Part 2 (three terms)

Students must take 60 credits in French and 60 credits in Sociology. Of the 120 credits in Part 2, 5 are taken up by Careers Management Skills (level I) and will be delivered in the Department of French Studies.

Credits Level

In French:

Compulsory module

FR201	French Language 2	20	I
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Optional modules

Students must choose two 20-credit additional modules from the list below. Students may replace 20 of these credits with modules from other programmes. **Note:** the following modules are subject to the availability of academic staff in any one year. Students should consult the relevant Departmental handbook for up-to-date information.

FR2MAN	Language: French for Managers 2	20	I
FR202	Middle Ages/Medieval: The Crusades	20	I
FR203	Middle Ages/Medieval: <i>Introduction to Medieval Literature</i>	20	I
FR204	16th & 19th Centuries: <i>The poet's art: French poetry and prose poetry of the sixteenth and nineteenth centuries</i>	20	I
FR205	17th & 18th Centuries: <i>The Ingénue's Progress (Seventeenth and Eighteenth Centuries): L'Ecole des Femmes, La Princesse de Clèves, Les Liaisons Dangereuses</i>	20	I
FR206	18th Century: <i>La littérature au siècle des Lumières: Montesquieu, Voltaire, Diderot</i>	20	I
FR207	18th & 19th Centuries: <i>France in the Age of Revolutions, 1750-1870</i>	20	I
FR208	19th & 20th Centuries: <i>Realism and desire in four French novels, 1846-1926: Balzac, Flaubert, Proust, Gide</i>	20	I
FR209	19th & 20th Centuries: <i>Five Wars and Three Republics: France 1870-1962</i>	20	I
FR211	20th Century: <i>Introduction to the Francophone Literature of the Maghreb</i>	20	I
FR213	20th Century: <i>Le quatrième pouvoir : la presse et les médias en France</i>	20	I

Sociology

Compulsory Modules

SO2THE	<i>Theory I: The Classical Tradition</i>	20	I
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Plus two of the following core modules:

SO2CUL	<i>Sociology of Culture</i>	20	I
SO2POL	<i>Political Sociology</i>	20	I

SO2STR	<i>Economic Sociology</i>	20	I
SO2POL	<i>Social Stratification</i>	20	I

Year abroad (three terms in a French-speaking country)

		<i>Credits</i>	<i>Level</i>
<i>Compulsory modules</i>			
FR301	<i>Dissertation</i>	40	H
FR302	<i>French Oral</i>	40	H
<i>Optional module</i>			
either			
FR231	<i>University study abroad</i>	40	I
or			
FR232	<i>Assistantship abroad</i>	40	I
or			
FR233	<i>Work placement abroad</i>	40	I

Part 3 (three terms)		<i>Credits</i>	<i>Level</i>
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Students must take 60 credits in French and 60 credits in Sociology

French Studies

Compulsory module

FR303	<i>Advanced Language Skills</i>	20	H
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Optional modules

Students must take two modules from the list below:

FR3MAN	<i>French for Managers</i>	20	H
FR304	<i>Provençal</i>	20	H
FR305	<i>The Legend of Tristan and Iseut</i>	20	H
FR306	<i>Warriors and Heroes : the Medieval French Epic</i>	20	H
FR307	<i>Between Rome and France: exile and displacement in French Renaissance poetry and prose</i>	20	H
FR308	<i>Seventeenth-century French tragedy</i>	20	H
FR309	<i>Aspects of the Eighteenth-Century French Novel</i>	20	H
FR310	<i>Women & men in the French récit</i>	20	H
FR313	<i>French-Canadian Novel</i>	20	H
FR314	<i>The Algerian Novel of French Expression</i>	20	H
FR315	<i>French Cinema</i>	20	H
FR316	<i>The French Right since 1940</i>	20	H
FR317	<i>André Gide 1869-1951</i>	20	H
FR319	<i>Political Leaders and Groups in the French Revolution</i>	20	H
FR320	<i>French-Canadian Cinema</i>	20	H
FR321	<i>France and Europe since 1945</i>	20	H
FR322	<i>Les droits de l'homme en question</i>	20	H
FR323	<i>Translation into French</i>	20	H
FR326	<i>Creative Writing in French</i>	20	H

Sociology

Modules summing to a total of 60 credits must be taken in the **clusters for which they took the core courses in Part 2**. Four of these modules will consist of regular 10-credit options from a list to be provided by the department; the third will be a 20 credit advanced seminar. The topic of the advanced seminar will be selected from the list as well; taught as a seminar, it will be worth 20 credits instead of 10.

Progression requirements

To proceed from Part 1 to Part 2, or from Part 2 to the Year Abroad, students must have obtained an overall average of 40 % in the 120 credits in the Examination as a whole, and achieved not less than 30% in any module except that marks of less than 30% in a total of 20 credits may be combined, provided that the candidate has pursued the course for the modules with reasonable diligence and has not been absent from the examination without reasonable cause.

In addition, in Parts 1 and 2, students must have obtained a mark of at least 40% in each of their compulsory modules in French and 40% average over the compulsory modules

To proceed from Year Abroad to Part 3, students must satisfy the examiners that they have completed an approved programme of study or employment in a French-speaking country.

Summary of teaching and assessment

In Part 1, FR103 is taught by lecture to the entire year group accompanied by small-group teaching in seminars. FR104 is taught by lecture with integrated group and pair work. The structure of the content modules in Parts 2 and 3 allows for classes normally of no more than 12 students. These classes will normally be conducted through a combination of lecture and seminar discussions. All language teaching is based on work in groups of no more than 15 students except for the grammar component of FR201 which is taught by a mix of lecture to the entire year group and supplementary internet material for student self-access.

Part 1, Part 2 and Part 3 modules are assessed by coursework and/or formal examination. The Year Abroad French Oral is examined in the Autumn Term of Part 3.

In Sociology teaching styles change from large lectures (Part 1) to lectures and/or seminars (Part 2), and predominantly seminars in Part 3.

Weighting

The conventions for assessment and classification are included in the Programme Handbook, but it should be noted that Part 2 modules and Year Abroad I-level modules will count for 33% of final assessment, and Year abroad H-level modules and Part 3 modules will count for 67% of final assessment.

Admission requirements

Entrants to this programme are normally required to have obtained 280 points from 4 subjects ('A' or 'A/S' levels), including 3 full 'A' levels. Candidates must normally have either 100 points (Grade B) from GCE 'A' level French to take FR101 (Advanced French Language) in Part 1, or 50 points at 'A/S' French or an A* at GCSE French to take FR102 (Intermediate French Language) in Part 1. Equivalent international qualifications will be accepted.

All applicants are considered on their individual merits and the Department may vary these requirements if it sees fit.

Mature applicants. Applications from mature candidates are welcomed. While such candidates will normally be expected to have either 100 points (Grade B) from GCE 'A' level French to take FR101 (Advanced French Language) in Part 1, or 50 points at 'A/S' French or an A* at GCSE French to take FR102 (Intermediate French Language) in Part 1, consideration is also given to other qualifications and experience. A mature applicant is more likely to receive an offer of a place if he or she has undertaken recent study, for example two

or more A levels or an Access course, but each case is assessed on its individual merits. We recommend that you contact an admissions tutor as soon as possible to discuss your individual circumstances.

International applicants. Applications from international candidates are welcomed. International candidates are advised to contact either the EU or the international admissions tutor first, to discuss the suitability of their qualifications.

Admissions Tutors (Dr Wendy Gibson in French, Dr Athena Leoussi in Sociology)

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.

Within both departments students receive a Handbook which gives details of course content, guidance on study skills such as note-taking and essay writing, and information about staff, facilities, and sources of specialized help within the University. The Access Point for Individual Language Learning (APILL) contains a range of audio and audio-visual materials to promote self-study in languages, together with facilities for watching French television by satellite. A video-viewing suite is available within the Faculty to support cinema studies.

The Department of French Studies has a departmental library containing a wide range of essential and secondary texts, and videos of French films and documentaries. The departmental newspaper room contains daily newspapers and weekly or monthly magazines. There is also a satellite TV enabling students to watch French programmes. The Department has a comprehensive website at: <http://www.rdg.ac.uk/french> containing information and learning material. The website is regularly updated. The grammar strand at Part 2 has all the Powerpoint information and supplementary grammar exercises available online in pdf format. French Career Management Skills at Part 2 has its own Blackboard site, containing computer-assessed learning activities.

Career prospects

A degree involving French, like degrees in other Humanities subjects, leads to careers in such areas as administration, management or marketing, or be a prelude to study in law or accountancy; many students find positions in the business world, including the travel industry, where their knowledge of French can be a distinct asset.

Graduates whose degree includes Sociology can find employment in the Civil Service, in local government and health authorities, and in commerce, education and industry. Joint degree graduates may proceed to careers in either of their subject areas.

Opportunities for study abroad or for placements

Subject to arrangements made in exceptional cases only, all students on this programme spend a year abroad either as an assistant teacher, on work placement or at an institute of higher education with which the University of Reading has a Socrates agreement.

Educational aims of the programme

The French programme aims to equip students with the ability to seek and identify sources of information; make articulate written and oral presentations; conduct lucid arguments in support of a case, using evidence appropriately; analyse the form and content of written and audio-visual communication;

appreciate the mentality and outlook of people from another culture or age; articulate in rational discourse the expression of emotion; and develop sound work discipline, including commitment to deadlines and time management.

By the end of the Economics programme students are expected to have acquired a thorough knowledge of basic economic analysis and its relevant application. They are expected to be competent to apply economic analysis to practical problems and, with further training at postgraduate level (if suitably qualified) to be able to work as professional economists in government, academics, or private sector, especially in contexts relevant to the other part of their degree. Students are expected to have acquired an ability to think analytically, to develop frameworks for considering and resolving complex problems, and to discriminate between good and bad arguments. Students are expected to have developed the ability to express themselves clearly and concisely in both written and spoken contexts.

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

A. Knowledge and understanding of: In French

1. The French language;
2. French and francophone history, politics and/or literature and culture;
3. Key approaches and methods of historical and political and/or literary and cultural analysis.

In Sociology

1. Certain facts about the nature of social life and their application in understanding particular forms of social life
2. Certain facts about a variety of human societies, past and present, European and non-European
3. Core aspects of modern societies
4. The use of historical and comparative methods in understanding human societies
5. The use of statistical methods in the study of patterns of human behaviour

Teaching/learning methods and strategies In French

1. Development of the skills of reading, writing, listening and speaking French is by small-group learning and regular non-assessed coursework. At Part 1, French grammar is learnt in small groups with regular non-assessed coursework. At Part 2 it is taught by Powerpoint lectures, supplemented by access on the internet to the lectures and other self-access material. The Year Abroad in a francophone country offers immersion in French language and culture.

2,3. Acquisition of aspects 2 and 3 is by lecture and seminar or tutorial and/or interrupted lecture. Students are expected to undertake independent reading and research from sources indicated in module bibliographies (library, internet), in order to gain fuller understanding of the topic and its context.

In Sociology

Students are taught by means of a combination of formal lectures, seminars, group work.

Assessment

Staff assess students' learning by means of a wide range of methods, including, multiple choice questions, essays, group projects, essay tests, "memos", individual class presentations, continuous assessment and final examinations.

Skills and other attributes

B. Intellectual skills – able to:

In French

1. critically apply literary and historical concepts;
2. identify and solve problems;
3. analyse and interpret;
4. demonstrate and exercise independence of thought and sensitivity to cultural difference;

In Sociology

1. Evaluate alternative critical views
2. Transfer appropriate knowledge and methods from one discipline within the subject to another
3. Use evidence-based reasoning to argue or evaluate a claim
4. Apply multiple perspectives and levels of explanation to understand behaviour
5. Analyse linguistic performance and phenomena
6. Plan and conduct an extended analysis of a chosen topic

Teaching/learning methods and strategies

Intellectual skills are developed through the teaching and learning programme outlined above. Each course involves discussion of the key issues, practice in applying key concepts both orally and in writing, analysis and interpretation of material and, where appropriate, individual feedback sessions on work produced.

Assessment

The variety of assessment methods employed places great emphasis on the learner's ability to demonstrate skills through the production of coherent written and oral responses to the tasks set.

C. Practical skills – able to:

In French

1. speak, write, read and understand French at high or a near-native level of proficiency;
2. apply key methods and concepts of linguistic and literary and/or historical analysis;
3. retrieve, sift and select information from a variety of sources;
4. plan and undertake different forms of research based on bibliographies and/or evidence;

In Sociology

1. Present arguments orally and in writing in a coherent and structured way
2. Locate, sift and select material from a variety of sources
3. Report in writing on the results of an extended piece of independent work
4. Technical skills: use of Information Technology (IT) and a familiarity with statistical methods of enquiry

Teaching/learning methods and strategies

All students receive initial guidance on how to identify, locate and use material available in the university and departmental libraries and elsewhere. Comprehensive bibliographies are provided at the outset of each course. Classes and tutorials are given to all students on the production of essays and literary, historical or linguistic concepts. Language classes are compulsory in every year, and much primary and secondary reading material is in French. The year abroad further promotes the active learning of French to a high level.

Assessment

Skill 1 is assessed by orals and unseen written examinations. There is regular unassessed coursework. Skills 2-4 are assessed through a pattern of coursework essays, unseen written examination and dissertation

Sociology - staff assess students' learning by means of a wide range of methods, including, multiple choice questions, essays, group projects, essay tests, 'memos', individual class presentations, continuous assessment and final examinations.

D. Transferable skills – able to:

1. structure ideas and communicate them effectively orally and in writing;
2. manage time and work to deadlines;
3. participate effectively in groups;
4. work independently;
5. find information and use information technology;
6. be responsible and self-reliant;
7. assess the relevance and importance of the ideas of others.
8. Careers Management

Teaching/learning methods and strategies

All courses require regular written and oral work, enabling the student to develop understanding and the need for effective and coherent expression (skill 1). Skill 2 is learnt through the management of different deadlines for different courses within the programme and is a focus of initial one-to-one session under the PARS student development scheme. Skills 3 to 7 are developed from the outset in seminars or interrupted lecture. Skill 6 is a particular focus of the year abroad, its importance being taught during preparatory session in year 2. IT skills are encouraged and developed by being an integral part of much teaching from year 1 onwards. Careers Management Skill development is an integral part of Part 2 and the year abroad with students undertaking appropriate activities.

Assessment

Effective communication of ideas is a major criterion for the assessment of student's work, including organisation of material, problem-solving skills, justified reasoning and logical arguments and fluency – clear introduction, clear presentation of argument and full conclusions. It will be assessed by essay and dissertation. Clearly notified penalties are imposed on students not adhering to deadlines or who plagiarise. Students are encouraged to use word-processing and technology-enhanced language learning. These skills are not formally assessed.

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.