

**BA in Ancient History**  
**For students entering Part 1 in 2006**

**UCAS code: V110**

Awarding Institution:  
Teaching Institution:  
Relevant QAA subject benchmarking group(s):  
Faculty of Arts and Humanities  
Date of specification: August 2006  
Programme Director: Tim Duff  
Programme Adviser: Stephen Oakley  
Board of Studies: Classics  
Accreditation: University of Reading

The University of Reading  
The University of Reading  
Classics and Ancient History  
Programme length: 3 years

**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 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 Greece and Rome on Film. Part 2 develops the student's knowledge of the chronological changes within the period of study via compulsory core units which also develop their historical skills. In addition, students choose three 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.

In Parts 2 and 3, up to 20 credits can be taken from modules available elsewhere in the University.

**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 modules:*

Mod Code	Module Title	Credits	Level
CL1GM	Greek Myths	20	C

CL1G1	Ancient Greek 1	20	C
or			
CL2G2	Ancient Greek 2	20	I
or			
CL2G3	Ancient Greek 3	20	I
CL1L1	Latin 1	20	C
or			
CL2L2	Latin 2	20	I
Or			
CL2L3	Latin 3	20	I

## Part 2 (three terms)

*Credits Level*

### Compulsory modules

Mod Code	Module Title	Credits	Level
CL2GH	Greek History	20	I
CL2RR	Roman Republic	20	I
CL2RE	Roman Empire	20	I

*Optional modules: A complete list of options is available from the BA Programme Coordinator, and a list of current options can be found in the BA Programme Handbook. Part 2 modules normally include options in classical Literature, History, Art, Culture and Reception.*

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

Career Management Skills (delivered in module CL2CMS) contributes 5 credits' worth of marks to the average for Part 2.

## Part 3 (three terms)

*Credits Level*

### Compulsory modules

Mod Code	Module Title	Credits	Level
CL3DS	Dissertation	40	H

*Optional modules: A complete list of optional modules is available from the BA Programme Coordinator, and a list of current options can be found in the BA Programme Handbook. Part 3 modules normally include a range of cross-disciplinary options..*

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.

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.

## 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: Stephen Oakley

**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**

In Year 2, two students can study for the Fall Semester at the University of Calgary’s Department of Greek and Roman Studies. Applications to take part in the exchange need to be made in the Spring term of Year 1. The Department also has an ERASMUS link with the University of Crete. Students are also encouraged to apply to the British School in Athens and the British School in Rome.

**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>          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>          Most knowledge is tested through a combination of coursework and formal examination. The Dissertation and oral presentations also contribute.</p>
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### *Skills and other attributes*

<p><b>B. Intellectual skills</b> – able to:</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> Skills will be introduced in lectures, developed through reading, writing of essays, dissertation and examination</p> <p><i>Assessment</i> Coursework and examinations, as well as in the dissertation</p>
<p><b>C. Practical skills</b> – able to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>➤ gather, organise and deploy evidence and information, and to show awareness of the consequences of the unavailability of evidence,</li><li>➤ develop the capacity for critical judgement in the light of evidence and argument,</li><li>➤ select and apply appropriate methodologies in assessing the meaning and significance of evidence or data,</li><li>➤ have effective bibliographical and library research skills.</li></ul>	<p><b>Teaching/learning methods and strategies</b> These are developed through the deployment of seminar classes and essay assignments. Oral presentation also constitutes a percentage of the assessment of the dissertation</p> <p><i>Assessment</i> Coursework and examinations, as well as in the dissertation</p>
<p><b>D. Transferable skills</b> – able to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>➤ deploy a range of IT resources effectively,</li><li>➤ present material orally in a clear and effective manner,</li><li>➤ present material in a written form, with discrimination and lucidity in the use of language, professional referencing, and clear layout,</li><li>➤ work creatively, flexibly and adaptably with others,</li><li>➤ to write and think under pressure and to meet deadlines.</li></ul>	<p><b>Teaching/learning methods and strategies</b> In lectures and seminars and applied in self-study and writing of assignments</p> <p><i>Assessment</i> Coursework and examinations, as well as in the dissertation</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 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 processes or external sources, such as professional bodies, requires a change to be made. In such circumstances, a revised specification will be issued.**