

BA in Ancient History and History of Art **For students entering Part 1 in 2006**

UCAS code: VV1H

Awarding Institution:
Teaching Institution:
Relevant QAA subject benchmarking group(s):

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

Faculty of Arts and Humanities
Date of specification: August 2007
Programme Director:
Programme Adviser:
Board of Studies:
Accreditation: Not appropriate

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Classics and History of Art

Summary of programme aims and learning outcomes

The programme aims to provide a through degree level education in Ancient History and History of Art. In Classics it aims to produce graduates who have experience of literary, thematic and genre-based approaches to the cultures of antiquity. The History of Art element gives students a broad perspective on Western art and architecture since the Middle Ages, as well the ability to acquire specialist knowledge of chosen periods. The programme will provide a basis for interpreting primary and secondary sources of evidence, understanding methods of analysis, and appreciating the changing nature of each discipline's priorities and approaches. In History of Art it will promote a critical understanding of the relationship between contemporary conceptions of art and architecture and those of the past. All this will be achieved through structured progression from Parts 1 to 3.

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, numeracy, problem-solving, team working and use of information technology.

Ancient History and History of Art are disciplines which lend themselves to critical judgement and problem-solving, both through personal engagement with issues and through dialogue and group discussion. Also integral is the collection, collation and analysis of substantial quantities of material and its communication and presentation. Students will be skilled at visual analysis, learning how to describe evidence from visual sources in oral and written forms. Both fields of study also prompt an awareness of numeracy through chronology, periodisation, and basic quantification. In addition, the development of powerful tools of research, analysis and presentation associated with information technology is reflected in several ways, such as in the location and retrieval of bibliographic and source material, the production and presentation of student work, and, where appropriate, the use of more sophisticated databases and exploitation of the Internet.

Programme content

Each Part comprises 120 credits. Students must normally take a minimum of 40 credits in each of the Classics and History of Art units in Part One. In Part One the remaining credits can be made up from any optional modules and/or from modules elsewhere in the University. In Part Two they must normally take a minimum of 60 credits in each subject and a distinctive feature of the degree is the opportunity to study abroad via History of Art's study trip, during which works of art and architecture are studied at first hand. In Part Three, 40 credits are taken in each subject, plus the dissertation of 40 credits in one subject or jointly held between the two.

Part One introduces students to the disciplines; Part Two develops skills through the study of broad, contrasting genres and periods, and Part Three contains a more detailed focus and specific research work.

Admission to optional modules will be at the discretion of the Programme Director.

Part 1 (three terms) *Credits* *Level*

In Classics:

Compulsory modules (40 credits)

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

CL1GM	Greek Myths	20	C
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In the Department of History of Art:

Compulsory module (20 credits)

HA1AB	<i>History of Art and Architecture Workshop</i>	20	C
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Optional Modules

At least 20 credits to be made up from the following:

HA1AA	<i>Art's Histories: a survey</i>	20	C
HA1AC	<i>Makers and making: artist, architects and their practices</i>	20	C

Part 2 (three terms) *Credits* *Level*

In the Department of Classics [60 credits]

Students will take at least two core modules (40 credits) and a further 20 credits from among **either** core **or** optional modules.

Core Modules

Mod Code	Module Title		
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 also take MCIAM, MC20A, MC30A, MC3MT, and PP2PA, which are cross-listed modules.

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.

Compulsory module **40 credits**

HA2ST	Study Trip abroad	20	I
HA2DD	Distance and difference: perspectives on art, architecture and visual culture	20	I

Optional modules: **20 credits**

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 3 (three terms)		<i>Credits</i>	<i>Level</i>
<i>Compulsory Jointly held Module</i>			
Mod Code	<i>Module Title</i>		
HA3DI	Dissertation (History of Art)	40	H
or			
CL3DS	Dissertation (Classics)		

In Classics:

40 credits taken from the Optional modules.

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 also take MC20A, MC30A, MC3MT, and PP2PA, which are cross-listed modules.

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

In the Department of History of Art and Architecture

Optional modules:

40 credits

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.

Progression requirements

- To proceed from Part 1 to Part 2 students should achieve an overall average of 40% in 120 credits taken in the examination, and at least 40% average over both Classical Studies modules and 40% in each compulsory History of Art module.
- To proceed from Part 2 to Part 3 students should achieve an overall average of 40% in 120 credits taken in the examination.
- In both cases they should 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 through seminars, lectures and essay tutorials. Over the programme as a whole, assessment will be conducted through a mixture of assessed coursework and formal examination. The Dissertation module is supported by workshops and individual supervision. The Dissertation is assessed both as coursework and through oral presentation.

The conventions for 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%.

Admission requirements

No previous experience of Ancient History or History of Art is required for admission. Entrants should have achieved:

UCAS Tariff: 280 points from 3 A2 and 1 A/S; or 260 points from 3 A2 levels.

GNVQ (Adv): B in A level plus distinction in GNVQ (Adv) – 12 modules of GNVQ (Adv) + pass 4 additional modules

International Baccalaureate: 30 points

Irish Leaving Certificate: BBBBC

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. 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. If you are not offering A levels we advise you to contact either the EU or the international admissions tutor before applying in order to discuss the acceptability of your qualifications. IELTS Band 7 (or equivalent) will be required for those whose education has not been undertaken in English.

Applicants wishing to make any inquiries should contact the Admissions Secretary or the Admissions Tutor. The current Admissions Secretary is Rhianedd Smith who can be contacted by:

Telephone – 0118 931 6999

Email – admissions-classics@rdg.ac.uk

Fax – 0118 931 6661

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 modern-language degree and for those taking modules offered by the Institution-wide Language Programme. Student guidance and welfare support is provided by the Careers Advisory Service, the University's Special Needs Advisor, Study Advisors, Hall Wardens and the Students' Union. Support for students in their studies is provided through the University's Personal Academic Record (PAR) Scheme, in which students meet their personal tutors regularly to review progress.

Departmental Handbooks are provided to students in the first year. They are also available on the Internet. The Departmental Libraries contain a range of reference works which can be used by students and offer congenial study spaces. There is also full written feedback on essay work. Each module teacher gives personal guidance and feedback and sends termly reports on progress to Personal Tutors for discussion with students. The Department of History of Art has an extensive slide library (84,000 slides) and the Department of Classics is the curator of the Ure Museum of Greek Archaeology.

Career prospects

In recent years students who have gained degrees in Ancient History and History of Art have gone into a wide variety of jobs, including teaching, publishing, journalism, the media, management, administration, and public relations. The visual skills developed in the degree make graduates attractive to the advertising industry. A number of graduates each year go on to further academic study and research.

Opportunities for study abroad

The Departments of Classics and History of Art have various links under the Socrates exchange programme through which students can spend a period of study abroad (normally during Part 2) or in the Fall Semester at the University of Calgary's Department of Greek and Latin (applications need to be made to the Classics Department in the Spring term of Year 1). Students are also encouraged to apply to the British School at Athens, where they can take a module for credit, and the British School at Rome.

Educational aims of the programme

This is a multi-disciplinary programme which aims to provide students with subject-specific knowledge and more general skills, including knowledge of a variety of Classical history, art, literature and their reception in modern culture, as well as perspectives on different methods of critical analysis, and a critical understanding of visual art, artistic and architectural practices, and aesthetic traditions of Western society. It will relate the production and reception of works of art and other material to specific aspects of the culture and society in which they were produced. It will foster a critical understanding of the relationship between contemporary conceptions of art and architecture and those of the past. The course aims to foster an independent approach to formulating problems and arguments, using the close reading and analytical skills that are fundamental to both disciplines. The programme also provides for the development of the specific interests of students through independent study for the dissertation, in which a topic is approached from the perspectives of both disciplines.

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>A. Knowledge and understanding of:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">➤ the history of antiquity➤ a diverse range of primary materials➤ a range of problems of interpretation and evaluation of primary materials➤ a range of techniques and methodologies➤ the reception of Graeco-Roman culture in the West➤ a broad range of Western art and architecture from the Middle Ages to the present day;➤ specialist information about certain chosen periods of art history;➤ key issues and current priorities in art and architectural history including conflicting interpretations and specific methods of analysis germane to history of art and architecture;➤ advanced abilities to interpret visual artefacts, their function and meaning;➤ technical language of the subjects.	<p>Teaching/learning methods and strategies 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 an oral presentation also contribute.</p>
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Skills and other attributes

<p>B. Intellectual skills – able to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">➤ 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➤ negotiate both primary and secondary sources in classical and medieval studies, and demonstrate how they inter-relate➤ develop creative intelligence in independent research and interpretation.➤ analyse and interpret visual artefacts;➤ transfer appropriate skills and methods from one topic within the subject to another;➤ recognise and critically evaluate past and current theoretical approaches and competing interpretations;➤ think comparatively and cross-culturally;➤ think critically and independently;➤ locate, extract and assemble data and information;➤ synthesise and integrate evidence from multiple and diverse sources, including visual resources, and articulate an argument effectively.	<p>Teaching/learning methods and strategies Skills will be introduced in lectures, developed through reading, writing of essays, dissertation and examination. Through specific focus on topics, issues and texts in seminars, workshops and personal study, students are enabled to develop critical modes of enquiry about the selection and treatment of material. Through essay and dissertation preparation, the research and analytical skills are reinforced which are necessary to form and to validate arguments and judgements. The Dissertation requires students to engage creatively and critically with primary sources and/or historical interpretative works.</p> <p><i>Assessment</i> These skills are assessed in all Parts of the programme by a combination of coursework, essays, oral presentations, dissertation and unseen examinations. Examinations in History of Art also include compulsory questions analysing visual artefacts.</p>
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C. Practical skills – able to:

- gather, organise and deploy evidence and information, including visual sources 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
- memorise and be able to recall key features of different visual resources;
- use bibliographical, internet and library research tools effectively;
- plan and carry out a primary research project, working independently

Teaching/learning methods and strategies

These are developed through the deployment of seminar classes and essay assignments.

Assessment

These skills are assessed through coursework and examinations, as well as in the dissertation

Oral presentation also constitutes a percentage of the assessment of the dissertation

D. Transferable skills – able to:

- locate information and use a range of information technology 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
- write and think under pressure and to meet deadlines
- deal effectively with a variety of visual material and numerical data;
- evaluate evidence and use reasoned arguments
- identify and devise strategies for solving problems;
- work effectively in a team;
- make informed career plans.

Teaching/learning methods and strategies

In lectures and seminars and applied in self-study and writing of assignments. The use of IT is embedded throughout the programme.

Time management is essential for the effective completion of the programme. Career management is taught through a distinct Part 2 module

Assessment

These skills are assessed through 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 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.