

**BA Television and Film & Theatre
For students entering Part 1 in 2006**

UCAS code: WW64

Awarding Institution:	The University of Reading
Teaching Institution:	The University of Reading
Relevant QAA subject benchmarking group(s):	Dance, Drama and Performance Studies; Communications, Media, Film and Cultural Studies
Faculty of Arts and Humanities	Programme length: 3 years
Date of specification:	April 2008
Programme Director:	Dr Simone Knox
Programme Adviser:	Dr John Gibbs
Board of Studies:	Film, Theatre & Television
Accreditation:	not applicable

Summary of programme aims and learning outcomes

The central aim of this multi-disciplinary programme is to enable students to gain an understanding of major areas of cinema, of theatre since the late nineteenth century and of British and other English language television drama and documentary. Students will experience some of the varied achievements of filmmakers, writers (for both the stage and television), directors, producers and theatre practitioners, and become familiar with a range of perspectives which can inform analysis of film, drama and television texts.

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.

On completion of this degree programme, students are expected to have developed a range of transferable skills including: fluency in writing and oral communication, 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 wordprocessing, information retrieval and IT skills; the ability to work co-operatively with others. Along with a practical component in television, students will have ample opportunity to participate in practical work generated by Single Honours students in Film & Theatre in the Department of Film, Theatre & 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 of the Television and Film & Theatre degree, students will take 80 credits worth of modules in the Department of Film, Theatre & Television. They will be

free to acquire their remaining 40 credits from modules elsewhere in the University. In Parts 2 and 3 they must normally take 60 credits in Film & Theatre and 60 credits in Television in each Part. However, in consultation with their programme adviser, students may substitute up to 20 credits from modules available elsewhere in the University.

Part 1 (three terms) Certificate level

Compulsory modules	<i>Credits</i>	<i>Level</i>
FT1CHA <i>Introduction to Film and Theatre</i>	40	C
FT1TFC <i>Introduction to Television Studies</i>	20	C

Part 2 (three terms) Intermediate level

Compulsory modules	<i>Credits</i>	<i>Level</i>
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Designated Film & Theatre Modules

Students will normally take the following modules:

FT2USIA+B <i>Studies in US Cinema I</i>	20 + 10	I
FT2BTA+B <i>Studies in British Theatre</i>	20 + 10	I
Optional Module		
FT2BP <i>Bulmershe Production</i>	10	I

Note

Students taking the Bulmershe Production optional module will substitute this for 10 credits in any Part 2 module.

Designated Television modules

Students will normally take the following modules:

FT2TVA+B <i>Television Drama 1: History and Forms</i>	20+10	I
FT2DA+B <i>Documentary Film and Television</i>	20+10	I

Students may choose to replace one 20-credit Intermediate module in Film & Theatre or in Television either with a module or modules totalling 20 credits from outside the programme.

Notes:

10 credit modules **MUST** be taken together with the relevant 20 credit module, making the module worth 30 credits.

The following component is compulsory. Its credits are distributed through Part 2 of the degree:

<i>Careers Management Skills</i>	5	I
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Part 3 (three terms) Honours Level

Compulsory module	Credits	Level
FT3TVD <i>Dissertation</i>	40	H

Designated Film & Theatre modules

Students take one Critical Option, comprising two linked 20 credit modules with the suffixes A and B, which must be taken together. A complete list of Critical Options is available from the Director of Teaching and Learning in Film Theatre & Television. Admission to optional modules will be at the discretion of the Director of Teaching and Learning.

Optional Module

FT3BP <i>Bulmershe Production</i>	10	H
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Note

Students taking the Bulmershe Production optional module will substitute this for 10 credits of assessment in any Part 3 module.

Designated Television Modules

Students will normally take one Critical Option, comprising two linked modules with the suffixes A and B, which must be taken together, selected from:

FT3CTA+B <i>Contemporary Television Drama</i>	20+20	H
FT3CDA+B <i>Contemporary Documentary</i>	20+20	H

Progression requirements

In order to progress from Part 1 to Part 2, a student shall normally be required to:

- achieve an overall average of 40% in 120 credits taken in Part 1; and
- achieve not less than 30% in any module taken in Part 1, except that marks of less than 30% in a total of 20 credits will 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 reasonable cause.

In order to progress from Part 2 to Part 3, a student shall normally be required to:

- achieve an overall average of 40% in 120 credits taken in Part 2; and
- achieve not less than 30% in any module taken in Part 2, except that marks of less than 30% in a total of 20 credits will 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 reasonable cause.

Summary of teaching and assessment

Teaching is through seminars, lectures and essay tutorials. Selected modules, including all Television modules, involve practical production exercises designed to test critical ideas. In addition the Dissertation module is supported by workshops and individual supervisions. Teaching styles are varied to encourage active engagement by students. Film and television viewing and theatre visits are central to the teaching of the degree.

Over the programme as a whole, assessment will be conducted through a mixture of assessed essays and other assessed assignments plus informal and formal examination.

The weighting between Part 2 and Part 3 for classification purposes is 33% and 67%.

Assessment criteria for each of the Levels are given in the appropriate Departmental Handbook.

The University's honours classification scheme is as follows:

Mark	Interpretation
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 3 A2s, to include 100 pts [grade B] in at least one of the following: English Literature, English Literature and Language, Theatre Studies, Dance, Film Studies, Media Studies, History, Philosophy, Sociology, Classics or Psychology;

or 320 points from 3 A2s + up to 2 AS, to include 100 pts [Grade B] in at least one of the following: English Literature, English Literature and Language, Theatre Studies, Dance, Film Studies, Media Studies, History, Philosophy, Sociology, Classics or Psychology.

AS: 2 good AS grades are accepted as one supporting A level

Scottish Highers ABBBB or above (A in English Literature)

Irish Leaving Certificate at least ABBBB (A in English Literature)

International Baccalaureate 31 points with 6 or 7 for Higher level English Literature

GCSE/O 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) at A level in at least one of the following: English Literature, English Literature and Language, Theatre Studies, Dance, Film Studies, Media Studies, History, Philosophy, Sociology, Classics or Psychology or equivalent qualification. In other respects, concessions may be made to reflect the value of other qualifications and experience.

Admissions Tutors: Dr Ashley Thorpe, Dr Tom Brown, Professor John Bull

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.

Students in the Department of Film, Theatre & Television receive a Handbook, which gives details of the Programme, guidance on study skills such as note-taking and essay writing, and information about staff, facilities, and sources of specialised help within the University, such as the Study Skills Advisor and the Counselling Service. Academic feedback and guidance is given through detailed written comments. Academic and personal support for students in their studies is also provided through the University's Personal Academic Record (PAR) scheme, in which students meet their personal tutors regularly to review their progress. From a highly structured introduction in Part 1, in Parts 2 and 3 students take increasing responsibility for their learning and module choice. The Department has a range of film/video viewing rooms and extensive technical facilities for small scale production in theatre and digital video. It also houses an extensive collection of films and television programmes. The Library, which has buildings on both the Whiteknights and Bulmershe campuses, has an extensive collection of printed materials as well as electronic databases. The Bulmershe Library holds one of the country's leading academic collections of film and modern theatre material. Specialist subject librarians are available to give students advice and guidance to library resources.

Career prospects

Career possibilities for Reading graduates in Television and Film & Theatre are very wide ranging. Graduates find that the specific as well as the transferable skills developed by the programme enable them to enter many fields of work including education, publishing, journalism, management, administration, public relations, advertising and the media and performance industries. A Reading Television and Film & Theatre degree provides graduates with a range of communication, analytical, practical and social skills that will serve them in good stead in the world of work. A number of graduates each year go on to further professional training, academic study and research.

Educational aims of the programme

The programme in Television and Film & Theatre aims to develop students' intellectual potential, enabling them to progress to a wide range of careers or to postgraduate study, while also promoting a lifelong love of learning.

The central aim of the Film & Theatre combined subject programme is to enable students to gain a confident grasp of critical methods appropriate to the study of Film and theatre and an understanding of major areas of cinema and of theatre since the late nineteenth century. Students will experience some of the varied achievements of film-makers, writers and theatre practitioners and become familiar with a range of perspectives which can inform analysis of film and drama texts. The emphasis is on the close study of plays and films and on critical debates and competing theories that have influenced discussion of theatre and cinema.

Drawing on the critical methodologies developed in film and theatre studies, the Television combined subject programme aims to provide a solid framework for exploring the changing nature of British and other English language television, especially (though not exclusively) television drama and documentary. The programme aims to develop

critical understanding partly by means of group practical exercises in television production. It aims to promote a critical understanding of television in its historical and contemporary forms, and to enable students to relate individual texts to relevant television genres, formats and programme categories, to developing historical, cultural and institutional contexts and to parallel experiences in other (non-UK) national cultures.

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> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. A selection of film and theatre texts from a range of national and cultural contexts from the late nineteenth century until the present day; a selection of television texts (primarily British television drama and documentary). 2. A variety of approaches to filmmaking, and television and theatre production 3. Methods of critical, dramatic, filmic and televisual analysis 4. Ways in which theatre, film and television have informed each other historically 5. Ways in which social, cultural and historical contexts inform theatre, film and television texts 6. A range of approaches in Television, Film and Theatre studies 7. Selected special fields of Television, Film and Theatre studies 	<p><i>Teaching/learning methods and strategies</i></p> <p>Knowledge and understanding are gained through formal teaching (lectures, seminar discussions, workshops and practical exercises, 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, 4 and 5 through seminars, lectures, practical exercises and individual feedback. Part 3 introduces more specialized study, particularly in relation to 3, 5, 6 and 7 through a choice of seminar-based modules incorporating practical exercises, 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, 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>
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Skills and other attributes

<p>B. Intellectual skills:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Capacity for independent analysis and research 2. Identification of problems and issues 3. The ability to read, watch and interpret closely and critically 4. An ability to reflect on one's own opinions and those of others 5. 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), preparation and discussion in seminars and practical exercises and workshops, essay writing (1, 2, 3 and 5) and essay feedback through tutorials (2, 3, 4 and 5).</p> <p>Assessment</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>
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<p>C. Practical skills:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. The ability to criticize and formulate interpretations of television, drama and film texts (including theatre performances) 2. An ability to engage in critical argument using relevant theoretical approaches and by testing ideas in group television production exercises. 3. An awareness of the rhetorical resources of the English language 4. Bibliographical and research skills 5. A knowledge of appropriate conventions in the presentation of written work 6. An ability to relate the study of Film and Theatre and 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 and practical exercises, 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>
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<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 and practical exercises (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>
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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.