

BA English Literature and International Relations
For students entering Part 1 in 2011/2

UCAS code: LQF3

Awarding Institution:	University of Reading
Teaching Institution:	University of Reading
Relevant QAA subject Benchmarking group(s):	Politics and International Relations and English
Faculty:	Arts, Humanities and Social Science Faculty
Programme length:	3 years
Date of specification:	09/May/2013
Programme Director:	Dr Stephen Thomson
Programme Advisor:	Dr Oisín Tansey
Board of Studies:	English
Accreditation:	

Summary of programme aims

This is a cross-disciplinary programme which aims to provide students with subject-specific knowledge of both International Relations and English Literature. The joint degree seeks to impart knowledge of a variety of different kinds of literary texts, thereby providing a perspective on different methods of critical analysis. In International Relations, the programme aims to give students an appreciation of the normative, methodological and institutional issues involved in the study of this subfield of Politics and International Relations. The course also aims to foster an independent approach to formulating problems and arguments, using the systematic research, close reading and analytical skills that are fundamental to both disciplines.

Transferable skills

During the course of their studies at Reading, all students will be expected to enhance their academic and personal transferable skills. In following this programme, students will have had the opportunity to develop such skills, in particular relating to communication, interpersonal skills, learning skills, numeracy, self-management, use of IT and problem-solving and will have been encouraged to further develop and enhance the full set of skills through a variety of opportunities available outside their curriculum.

International Relations and English Literature are disciplines that lend themselves to critical judgement and problem-solving, both through personal engagement with issues and through dialogue and groups discussion. Students are encouraged to defend and to challenge established positions through the collection, collation and analysis of substantial quantities of material, the rigour of argument, and effective communication and presentation. The disciplines also prompt an awareness of numeracy through chronology, periodisation, and basic quantification. The programme develops students' familiarity with information technology in the production and presentation of their work and develops their skills in using computers for the location and retrieval of bibliographic and source material, accessing sophisticated databases and exploiting the internet. In addition, students will develop a range of intellectual skills including the ability to synthesise, analyse and evaluate information and ideas; the ability to formulate independent arguments and to appraise and improve their own performance; and the ability to translate subject-specific knowledge and skills to new environments.

Programme content

Each Part of the degree programme comprises 120 credits. At Part 1, students are required to take 60 credits in English Literature, and 60 credits in International Relations. In Part 2, students must normally take 60 credits in both International Relations and English Literature. In Part 3, students take 40 credits in each subject plus a compulsory 40-credit Joint Dissertation in English Literature and International Relations. However, in consultation with their programme adviser, Part 2 and Part 3 students may choose to take up to 20 credits each year from modules elsewhere in the University.

Part 1 (three terms)

Compulsory modules

<i>Mod Code</i>	<i>Module Title</i>	<i>Credits</i>	<i>Level</i>
EN1WKT	What Kind of Text is This?	20	4
PO1IRS	Politics: International Relations and Strategic Studies	20	4
PO1IPI	Introduction to Political Ideas	20	4
PO1MOG	Modern Government	20	4
EN1REE	Researching the English Essay	20	4
EN1ILL	Languages of Literature	20	4

Part 2 (three terms)

Compulsory modules

<i>Mod Code</i>	<i>Module Title</i>	<i>Credits</i>	<i>Level</i>
PO2SOP	The Study of Politics	20	5
PO2MIR	Modern International Relations	20	5

In English Literature (60 Credits)

Students choose three optional modules of 20 credits each. At least one option must be drawn from a list of pre-1800 modules. A complete list of options is available from the Programme Director and in the Part 2 Module Supplement.

In Politics and International Relations (60 Credits)

Optional modules (one of):

PO2AMG	American Government and Politics	20	5
PO2BGP	British Government and Politics	20	5
PO2EPI	European Political Integration	20	5
PO2RGP	Russian Government and Politics	20	5
PO2THI	Political Thinking	20	5
PO2MUN	Model United Nations	20	5
PO2WPP	Work Placement and Project	20	5

Students may choose to replace one 20-credit English module from Groups B or C with a module or modules totalling 20 credits from outside the programme.

Part 3 (three terms)

Dissertation (40 credits)

Students choose ONE of the following:

EN3DIS	Dissertation in English	40	6
PO3DIS	Dissertation in Politics	40	6
EN3DII	Joint Dissertation	40	6

In English (40 Credits)

Students choose two optional 20-credit modules, one in each term, to make a total of 40 credits.

Optional modules: A complete list of options is available in the English Part 3 Module Supplement. Admission to optional modules will be at the discretion of the Programme Director.

(In Politics and International Relations)

Students choose two 20 credit optional modules from:

PO3CSS	Introduction to Critical Security Studies	20	6
PO3DPP	Democracy and Democracy Promotion	20	6
PO3EUS	European Security	20	6
PO3INT	Intelligence, War and International Relations	20	6
PO3ITE	International Terrorism	20	6
PO3MEA	Politics and International Relations of the Middle East	20	6
PO3PIE	Politics of the International Economy	20	6
PO3STH	Strategic Theory	20	6
PO3SWW	Strategy in the Two World Wars	20	6
PO3UNI	UN and International Order	20	6
PO3WPE	War, Peace and International Ethics	20	6
PO3GST	Grand Strategy from Classical Rome to Modern China	20	6

Progression requirements

To proceed from Part 1 to Part 2, a Joint Honours student must obtain (i) an overall average of 40% over 120 credits taken in Part 1, where all the credits are at C level or above; (ii) a mark of at least 40% in each English

Literature module; (iii) a mark of at least 30% in individual modules amounting to not less than 100 credits taken in Part 1.

To proceed from Part 1 to Part 2, a Joint Honours student must obtain 1. an overall average of 40% over 120 credits taken in Part 1, where all the credits are at level 4 or above; 2. a mark of at least 40% in each English Literature module; 3. a mark of at least 30% in individual modules amounting to not less to not less than 100 credits taken in Part 1. And a mark of at least 40% in PO1IRS PO1IPI PO1MOG

To progress from Part 2 to Part 3, students must:
achieve an overall average of 40% over 120 credits taken in Part 2 and achieve a mark of at least 30% in individual modules representing a total of at least 100 credits.

Assessment and classification

The University's honours classification scheme is:

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

For the University-wide framework for classification, which includes details of the classification method, please see: <http://www.reading.ac.uk/internal/exams/Policies/exa-class.aspx>.

The weighting of the Parts/Years in the calculation of the degree classification is

Three-year programmes

Part 2 one-third

Part 3 two-thirds

In English Literature, teaching is through seminars, lectures and essay tutorials. In Politics and International Relations, Part One modules and the compulsory Part Two modules involve both lectures and seminars. Part Two and Three optional modules typically place greater emphasis on seminars. In addition, the Joint Dissertation module is supported by workshops and individual supervisions in both departments. In International Relations, Part 1 modules are assessed by a mixture of coursework (40%) and examination (60%). All Part 2 and Part 3 modules other than the Study of Politics and the Joint Dissertation are assessed by a mixture of coursework (25%) and examination (75%). Over the programme as a whole, assessment will be conducted through a mixture of assessed essays and formal examination. Conventions for degree 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

A previous qualification in Politics is not required. Entrants to the Joint Degree programme are normally required to have obtained:

UCAS Tariff: either 320 points from three A2s, including 100 points (grade B) in English Literature or English Language and Literature; or 340 points from 3 A2s + up to two AS, including 100 points (grade B) in English Literature or English Language and Literature

Scottish Highers ABBBBB or above (A in English Literature)

Irish Highers 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 be usually be expected to have a B (100 points) at A level English, or equivalent qualification, but consideration is also given to applicants with other qualifications and experience.

Admissions Tutor: Mrs C Lyle

Support for students and their learning

University support for students and their learning falls into two categories. Learning support is provided by a wide array of services across the University, including: the University Library, the Careers, Placement and Experience Centre (CPEC), In-session English Support Programme, the Study Advice and Mathematics Support Centre teams, IT Services and 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, School Senior Tutors, the Students' Union, the Medical Practice and advisers in the Student Services Centre. The Student Services Centre is housed in the Carrington Building and offers advice on accommodation, careers, disability, finance, and wellbeing, academic issues (eg problems with module selection) and exam related queries. Students can get key information and guidance from the team of Helpdesk Advisers, or make an appointment with a specialist adviser; Student Services also offer drop-in sessions and runs workshops and seminars on a range of topics. For more information see www.reading.ac.uk/student

Students of both English and Politics and International Relations receive Handbooks 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 specialised help within the University, such as the Study Skills Advisor and the Counselling Service. The English programme is designed to give students extensive teaching support in Part 1 leading to more independent work in Part 3. The Politics and International Relations programme lays increasing emphasis on options and course work over the three years. Academic feedback and guidance is given through one-to-one meetings, and academic and personal support is provided through the tutor system and the University's Personal and Academic Record (PAR) Scheme. Dissertation workshops prepare students for the Part 3 dissertation which is individually supervised. The Geoffrey Matthews Collection, housed in the Department of English Language & Literature, provides books, photocopied materials, cassettes and an extensive collection of videos for loan to students. A video-viewing suite is available within the Faculty. The Library is well stocked with printed materials as well as electronic databases, such as the OED, the MLA Bibliography, and JSTOR. Specialist subject librarians are available to give students advice and guidance to library resources. The Department of English Language & Literature also offers students specific help to improve and develop their essay writing skills through the Royal Literary Fund Fellowship scheme, which provides a resident professional writer whose role is to advise students individually, from first-year to postgraduate level, on raising the level of their academic writing. The School of Politics and International Relations provides additional support in the Study of International Relations module in Part Two. There is also written feedback on essay work. In addition, Politics and International Relations students have access to a departmental Library, and a photocopier.

Career prospects

A Reading degree in English Literature and International Relations provides graduates with a range of communication and analytical skills that stand them in good stead in the market place. In recent years graduates with qualifications in these subjects have gone into a wide variety of jobs, including teaching, publishing, journalism, the media, management, administration, and public relations. A sizeable minority follow careers in accountancy, banking or commerce, and the civil service; others have pursued interests in law. A number of graduates each year go on to further academic study and research. International Relations students also go into careers involving overseas appointments such as government organisations, including the armed forces, and in non-governmental organisations such as development charities and international businesses. A number of graduates each year go on to further academic study and research.

During their time at Reading students have the opportunity to develop non-vocational skills, gain new work experiences, and further boost their employability through a diverse range of other placement opportunities. Careers Learning is embedded in compulsory modules throughout the programme. Students also have the opportunity to partake in an academic placement as part of the overall assessment of any Part 2 or Part 3 English Literature module, which encourages engagement with forward-thinking career planning.

The University's Careers Advisory Service (CAS) provides all Reading students with information about a wide range of placement opportunities (<http://www.reading.ac.uk/careers/placements>), including the Summer Enterprise Experience & Discovery internship scheme (<http://www.reading.ac.uk/careers/placements/seed/>), the Community Service Volunteering scheme (tutoring in local schools; <http://www.reading.ac.uk/studentrecruitment/StudentTutoring/sr-studenttutoringinschools.aspx>), the Student Associates Scheme (work experience in local schools; http://www.reading.ac.uk/internal/urop/urop_home.aspx), and the Undergraduate Research Opportunities Programme (UROP; http://www.reading.ac.uk/internal/urop/urop_home.aspx). The Department of English Language and Literature

also has a Careers Tutor available to advise students in English Literature on researching and planning their career choices.

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Opportunities for study abroad or for placements

Students also have the opportunity to partake in an academic placement as part of the overall assessment of any Part 2 or Part 3 English Literature module, which encourages engagement with forward-thinking career planning.

The Part 2 optional module British Government and Politics includes an academic placement, taking place over two weeks during the Easter vacation, through which students will be able to explore some aspect of British government and politics in detail. In addition to this, there is an optional module for work placement and project work (PO2WPP) which allows students to do a longer placement and obtain the full 20 credits for this.

Students have the opportunity to study abroad for a term (normally in Part 2). They will require the consent of both departmental study abroad coordinators in order to participate. Full details of potential destinations can be found on both the Erasmus & Study Abroad websites.

Programme Outcomes

Knowledge and Understanding

A. Knowledge and understanding of:

In English Literature:

Literary texts in English Literature from selected periods between the Middle Ages and the present day

A range of kinds of texts including fiction, poetry and drama

Methods of critical textual analysis

Ways in which social, cultural and historical issues relate to texts

A range of approaches in English studies

Selected special fields of English Literature.

In Politics and International Relations:

The fundamental concepts of Political Theory and major texts from the Greeks to the present time;

The comparative analysis of government institutions, political movement and the social bases of politics;

The various approaches to the study of Modern International Relations;

A range of selected specialised subjects within the fields of Political Theory, Comparative Government and International Relations.

Teaching/learning methods and strategies

In English Literature, knowledge and understanding are gained through formal teaching (lectures, seminar discussions, and individual essay feedback), prescribed and recommended reading, and the writing of essays and a dissertation. Part 1 modules offer a broad introduction to items 1-5. In Part 2, the understanding and skills acquired at Part 1 are developed with particular emphasis on 1, 2 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 Joint Dissertation.

Assessment

At Parts 1 and 2, knowledge and understanding of 1 - 5 are tested through a combination of essays and unseen written examinations. At Part 3, assessment is through a mixture of methods, such as extended essays, essays plus unseen exams, and the dissertation.

In Politics and International Relations, knowledge and understanding are gained through formal teaching (lectures, seminar discussions, and individual essay feedback), prescribed and recommended reading, and the writing of essays and the Joint Dissertation. In Part 1 and Part 2 students attend both lectures and seminars and in Part 3 most teaching is through seminars.

Assessment

Most knowledge is tested through a combination of coursework and formal examination. Dissertations and oral presentations also contribute.

Skills and other attributes

B. Intellectual skills - able to:

Demonstrate the capacity for independent analysis and research
Identify problems and issues
Read closely and critically
Reflect on one's own positions
5. Analyse and critically deconstruct claims and arguments
6. Critically read, comprehend and evaluate a large range of texts
7. Negotiate both primary and secondary sources and be able to demonstrate how they inter-relate
8. Synthesise information from a range of sources, providing a coherent overview of positions in logical space
9. Analyse the logical construction of arguments
10. Produce and defend positions in response to critical pressure
11. Develop creative intelligence in independent research and interpretation
12. Think logically on political matters
13. Analyse issues of political life
14. Understand the evolving state of knowledge in the rapidly developing discipline of Politics and International Relations
15. Transfer appropriate knowledge from one area within the disciplines to another.

C. Practical skills - able to:

Criticize and formulate interpretations of texts
Engage in critical argument using relevant theoretical approaches
Recognise the rhetorical resources of the English language
Exercise bibliographical and research skills
Deploy appropriate conventions in the presentation of written work
Relate the study of English to cultural and social issues
Develop and carry out individual research programmes and strategies
Gather, organise, and deploy evidence, data and information from a variety of primary and secondary sources
Locate and synthesise large quantities of material
Present a coherent talk delivered from notes
Produce concise and accurate written reports
Critically discuss particular issues and arguments, and engage in discussion of each other's responses as well as articulate their own
Utilise problem-solving skills
Manage their own learning self-critically, reflect upon it, and seek and make use of feedback.

Teaching/learning methods and strategies

Intellectual skills in English Literature are acquired through independent reading (1), seminar preparation and discussion, and essay writing (1, 2, 3) and essay feedback through tutorials (2, 3 and 4). In Politics, the methods and strategies in the previous section are used, plus the facilitation of self-directed learning through the use of research-based teaching materials and methods, and logical exercises. Essay, portfolio, and dissertation preparation reinforce the research and analytical skills necessary to form and to validate arguments and judgements. The ability to think logically is essential to the understanding and analysis of the discipline. Analysis requires an appreciation of the issues and results in organisation of written work and oral presentations. Students are encouraged to link core and optional modules and also to use experience from modules in the Joint Dissertation.

Assessment

In English Literature, 1 - 5 are assessed both formatively (in seminar discussion, coursework essays, essay feedback and tutorials) and summatively, in essays, unseen exams and the Joint Dissertation.

In Politics and International Relations, assessment of 6 - 15 is carried on through coursework, written unseen examinations, seminar presentations, and discussion in supervisor-led small groups and seminars.

Teaching/learning methods and strategies

1 - 3 and 6 are developed in English seminars, essays and essay tutorials. 4 and 5 are developed through essays, essay feedback and dissertation guidance and supervision. In Politics and International Relations, these skills are developed through lectures, supervised small group discussions, seminar groups with a facilitator, oral presentations and, especially in Part Three, independent learning. Feedback on an individual basis combined with the University's personal tutor system encourages constructive self-criticism.

Assessment

In English Literature, all the subject-specific practical skills are assessed through formative and summative essays. 1 - 3 and 6 are also tested in unseen examinations. In Politics and International Relations, assessment of 7-14 is carried on through coursework, written unseen examinations and seminar presentations.

D. Transferable skills - able to:

Communicate fluently and effectively with a wide range of individuals using a wide range of means, including written and oral communication
Formulate and present arguments
Assess the merits of competing approaches
Translate subject-specific knowledge and skills into other environments
Find and use relevant information resources
Demonstrate time-management skills and prioritise workloads
Work independently, demonstrating initiative and self-organisation
Develop a creative approach to problem-solving in a variety of theoretical and more practical situations
Self-evaluate and self-reflect, with recognition of the steps required for improvement
Use information technology, especially word-processing, e-mail and the internet for the retrieval and presentation of information, including statistical or numerical data;
11. Analyse data
12. Exercise group and interpersonal skills
13. Develop vocational awareness with a view to planning a career.

Teaching/learning methods and strategies

The skills are developed through seminar discussions, seminar presentations, essay writing, tutorial feedback and unseen examinations. 4 and 7 particularly are developed through requiring students to draw on acquired knowledge and skills when analysing new material in essays 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 joint dissertation.
Most of these skills are embedded in all Politics and International Relations modules. The development of IT skills occurs throughout the programme and is especially apparent in modules where there is a research component. Independent learning is also developed throughout but becomes particularly important in Part Three of the programme.
Vocational awareness is promoted especially by the CMS module.

Assessment

All the itemized skills are formatively assessed through coursework essays and seminar presentations, and summatively assessed through essays, unseen examinations, portfolios of work and the Joint 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 process or external sources, such as professional bodies, requires a change to be made. In such circumstances, a revised specification will be issued.