

**BA English Literature and Theatre**  
**For students entering Part 1 in 2014/5**

**UCAS code: QW35**

Awarding Institution:	University of Reading
Teaching Institution:	University of Reading
Relevant QAA subject Benchmarking group(s):	English; Dance, Drama and Performance Studies
Faculty:	Arts, Humanities and Social Science Faculty
Programme length:	3 years
Date of specification:	18/Sep/2014
Programme Director:	Dr Stephen Thomson
Programme Advisor:	Dr Lisa Purse
Board of Studies:	English
Accreditation:	University of Reading

**Summary of programme aims**

This is a multi-disciplinary programme that aims to provide students with subject specific knowledge and more general skills, including knowledge of a variety of different kinds of literary, dramatic and performance texts, from a range of different periods. Students will become familiar with the variety of critical perspectives and analytical methods within and between the disciplines. The course aims to foster an independent approach to formulating problems and arguments, using the close reading and analytical skills that are fundamental to the disciplines of English Literature and Theatre.

The programme also incorporates the study of television which students can make a larger or smaller part of their studies according to the options pursued. The programme 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.

**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.

From their studies in English Literature and Theatre, students are expected to gain a range of transferable intellectual and personal skills including: the ability to communicate fluently and effectively; the ability to formulate and evaluate their own arguments and those of others, and to translate subject-specific knowledge and skills to new environments; the ability to work both independently and co-operatively with others; effective time-management; the ability to access and deploy relevant information resources, and to develop word-processing and IT skills. Opportunities will be provided to enhance skills in numeracy and career management.

**Programme content**

Part 1 of the joint degree programme introduces students to debates about approaches to the study of literature, theatre and performance, and to methodologies of critical analysis, through close study of selected texts. Parts 2 and 3 offer a greater element of choice, a more concentrated focus on individual historical periods, topics, and/or generic traditions, and an increasing opportunity for specialization and independent study.

Each Part of the degree programme comprises 120 credits. In Part 1, students take a minimum of 60 credits in the School of English Literature and a minimum of 40 credits in Theatre. In Parts 2 and 3 they must also normally take 60 credits each year in both English Literature and Theatre, but, in consultation with their programme adviser, they may choose to take up to 20 Intermediate (Part 2) credits from modules available elsewhere in the University.

**Part 1 (three terms)**

*Compulsory modules*

*Compulsory modules*

Code	Title	Credits	Level
EN1GC	Genre and Context	20	4
FT1ITH	Introduction to Theatre	20	4
EN1RC	Research and Criticism	20	4

EN1PE	Poetry in English	20	4
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*Optional modules:*

40 credits from the following:

Code	Title	Credits	Level
FT1MEM	Medium and Meaning	20	4
FT1UCT	Understanding Creative Processes: Theatre	20	4
FT1IFI	Introduction to FILM	20	4
FT1ITV	Introduction to Television	20	4
EN1TCL	Twentieth Century American Literature	20	4

*Medium and Meaning is a pre-requisite for students wishing to take Understanding Creative Processes: Film & Television.*

Students can select up to 20 credits' worth of level 4 modules from elsewhere in the University

## **Part 2 (three terms)**

*Compulsory modules*

*Compulsory Modules*

Code	Title	Credits	Level
FT2PAN	Performance and Nation	20	5

## **Optional modules:**

*In English Literature (60 Credits)*

Students normally take 60 credits consisting of optional modules of 20 credits each. At least one of these modules must be drawn from a list of pre-1800 options. A complete list of options is available from the Programme Director and in the Part 2 Module Supplement

## **In Theatre (60 Credits)**

Students normally take 60 credits consisting of optional modules of 20 or 10 credits each. A complete list of options is available in the Film, Theatre & Television Part 3 Module Supplement, but may include the following. Admission to optional modules will be at the discretion of the Department Director of Teaching and Learning.

Code	Title	Credits	Level
FT2ALT	Alternative Forms in Theatre	20	5
FT2PAN	Performance and Identity	20	5
FT2CTH	Critical Practice in Theatre	10	5
FT2CIC	Creative Industries Careers Skills	10	5
FT2FAU	Film Authorship	20	5
FT2FGR	Film Genre	20	5
FT2ALF	Alternative Forms in Film	20	5
FT2TVA	Popular Television Genres	20	5
FT2WBL	Work based learning	20	5
FT2RP	Research production	20	5

*Students can select up to 20 credits' worth of level 5 modules from elsewhere in the University*

### Part 3 (three terms)

#### Compulsory modules

#### Compulsory modules

Code	Title	Credits	Level
EN3DIS	Dissertation (English)	40	6
FT3DISS	Dissertation (Film & Theatre)	40	6
EN3JDX	Joint Dissertation	40	6

#### Optional modules:

##### In English

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

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 Advisor in English.

##### In Film & Theatre

Students choose two optional 20-credit modules, one in each term, to make a total of 40 credits. A complete list of options is available in the Film, Theatre & Television Part 3 Module Supplement. Admission to Critical Options will be at the discretion of the Department Director of Teaching and Learning.

Code	Title	Credits	Level
	<b>Critical Option</b>	<b>20</b>	<b>6</b>
<b>FT3WBL</b>	<b>Work based learning</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>6</b>
<b>FT3RP</b>	<b>Research production</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>6</b>

*Students can select up to 20 credits' worth of level 5 modules from elsewhere in the University*

#### Progression requirements

To gain a threshold performance at Part 1, a student shall normally be required to:

- i Obtain an overall average of 40% over 120 credits taken in Part 1, where all the credits are at level 4 or above; and
- ii Obtain a mark of at least 30% in individual modules amounting to not less than 100 credits taken in Part 1.
- iii Obtain a mark of at least 40% in each of the compulsory modules.

To gain a threshold performance at Part 2, a student shall normally be required to:

- i obtain a weighted average of 40% over 120 credits taken at Part 2;
- ii marks of at least 40% in individual modules amounting to not less than 80 credits; and
- iii marks of at least 30% in individual modules amounting to not less than 120 credits.

In order to progress from Part 2 to Part 3, a student must achieve a threshold performance.

#### 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 weightings of the Parts/ Years in the calculation of the degree classification is:

Part 2 one-third

Part 3 two-thirds

Teaching is through seminars, lectures and essay tutorials. The Dissertation module is supported by individual supervision in both English Literature and Theatre, and by dissertation workshops in the Department of English Language & Literature.

Teaching styles are varied to encourage active engagement by students. Theatre viewings and visits are a central component in the teaching and study of Theatre. Over the programme as a whole, assessment will be conducted through a mixture of assessed essays plus informal 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**

Entrants to the English Literature and Theatre programme are normally required to have obtained:

ABB from 3 A level subjects including a grade B in English Literature or a related subject

Scottish Highers: ABBBB (A in English Literature)

Irish Leaving Certificate: ABBBB (A in English Literature)

International Baccalaureat: 31 points with at least 6 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 qualifications, but consideration is also given to applicants with other qualifications and experience.

**Admissions Tutor:** Dr Mary Morrissey (English), Professor Lucia Nagib and Dr Faye Woods (Film, Theatre & Television)

### **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](http://www.reading.ac.uk/student)

Students 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 specialized help within the University, such as the Study Skills Advisor and the Counselling Service. The programme is designed to give students extensive teaching support in Part 1 leading to more independent work in Part 3. Academic feedback and guidance is given through one-to-one essay tutorials, 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 a growing library of videos for loan to students. A video-viewing suite is available on the Whiteknights campus. The Department of Film, Theatre & Television has an extensive collection of film and television programmes and theatre performance recordings, to which students may have access. The Library is well stocked with printed materials as well as essential electronic databases on-line and on CD ROM, such as the OED, the MLA Bibliography, and JSTOR. Specialist subject librarians are available to give students advice and guidance to library resources.

### **Career learning**

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](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](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.

### **Career prospects**

Since the English Literature and Theatre degree is not a directly vocational programme, career possibilities 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, the media, management, administration, public relations, advertising and the performance industries. A Reading degree in English Literature and Theatre provides graduates with a range of communication and analytical skills that will serve them in good stead in the world of work. 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. Graduates find that the specific as well as the transferable skills developed by the programme enable them to enter many professions both across the cultural field and outside it including education, commerce and industry, arts administration, advertising, marketing, translation, the performance industries and the media generally. The degree may also be a prelude to study in law or accountancy. The programme is also an excellent preparation for further study at postgraduate level in both subject areas and areas such as teacher training. 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](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](http://www.reading.ac.uk/internal/urop/urop_home.aspx)).

### **Opportunities for study abroad**

Students have the opportunity to study abroad for a term either within Europe via the ERASMUS programme or at one of the University of Reading's non-European partner institutions. They will require the consent of both departmental study abroad coordinators and the Programme Director in order to participate. Full details of potential destinations can be found on both the departmental and Erasmus & Study Abroad websites.

### **Placement opportunities**

Students 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. In addition, there are opportunities to undertake negotiated placements for credit within the optional Work Based Learning module.

### **Programme Outcomes**

#### **Knowledge and Understanding**

##### **A. Knowledge and understanding of:**

1. Literary texts in English Literature from selected periods between the Middle Ages and the present day. A selection of theatre texts from a range of national and cultural contexts from the late nineteenth century until the present day.

##### **Teaching/learning methods and strategies**

Knowledge and understanding are gained through formal teaching (lectures, seminar discussions, workshops, and individual essay feedback), prescribed and recommended reading and viewing, and the writing of essays and a dissertation. Part 1

2. A range of kinds of texts including fiction, poetry and drama and a variety of approaches to theatre and theatre making.
3. Methods of critical, dramatic, filmic and televisual analysis
4. Ways in which social, cultural and historical issues relate to literary, drama and theatre performance texts
5. A range of approaches in English Literature and Theatre
6. Selected special fields of English Literature and Theatre
7. Teaching/learning methods and strategies

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 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 dissertation.

#### *Assessment*

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.

### **Skills and other attributes**

#### **B. Intellectual skills -able to:**

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 positions

#### **Teaching/learning methods and strategies**

Teaching/learning methods and strategies  
Intellectual skills are acquired through independent reading and viewing (1), preparation and discussion in seminars and workshops, essay writing (1, 2, 3) and essay feedback through tutorials (2, 3 and 4).

#### *Assessment*

1 - 3 are assessed both formatively (in coursework essays) and summatively (in essays, seen/unseen exams, and the Dissertation). 1- 4 are assessed formatively through seminar discussion and essay feedback and tutorials

#### **C. Practical skills -able to:**

1. The ability to criticize and formulate interpretations of literary, theatrical, and performance texts
2. An ability to engage in critical argument using relevant theoretical approaches
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 English Literature and Theatre to cultural and social issues

#### **Teaching/learning methods and strategies**

Teaching/learning methods and strategies 1 - 3 and 6 are developed in seminars, workshops, essays and essay tutorials. 4 and 5 are developed through essays, essay feedback and dissertation guidance and supervision

#### *Assessment*

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

#### **D. Transferable skills -able to:**

Fluency in written and oral communication  
The ability to formulate and present arguments  
Assessing the merits of competing approaches  
The ability to translate subject-specific knowledge and skills into other environments  
The ability to find and use relevant information resources  
Time-management skills and the ability to manage

#### **Teaching/learning methods and strategies**

Teaching/learning methods and strategies  
Transferable skills are developed through seminar and workshop discussions (1, 2, 3, 4, 7 and 9), through seminar presentations, essay writing, tutorial feedback, seen and unseen examinations (1 - 9). 4 and 7 particularly through requiring students to draw on acquired knowledge and skills when analyzing new material in essays unseen

personal workloads.  
A creative approach to problem-solving  
Group and interpersonal skills  
An ability to self-evaluate and self-reflect  
Use of information technology, especially word-processing

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).

*Assessment*

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

**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.**