

BA in Ancient History and Sociology

UCAS code: VL13

Awarding Institution:	The University of Reading
Teaching Institution:	The University of Reading
Relevant QAA subject benchmarking group(s):	Classics & Ancient History, and Sociology
Faculty of Arts and Humanities	Programme length: 3 years
For students entering Part 1 in 2002	Date of specification: October 2001
Programme Director:	Dr Tim Duff
Programme Adviser:	Dr Ray Laurence
Board of Studies:	Classics and Sociology
Accreditation: Not appropriate	

Summary of programme aims

The programme aims to provide a thorough degree level education in Ancient History and Sociology. In Classics it aims to produce graduates who have experience of literary, thematic and genre-based approaches to the cultures of antiquity. 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. The Sociology element covers the fundamental concepts, methods, and theories involved in sociological research, as well as more in-depth study to introduce students to empirical data of sociological phenomena as well as different 'middle-range' theories of more specific sociological topics. 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 Sociology 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. Both fields of study also prompt an awareness of numeracy through chronology, periodisation, and basic quantification through to advanced skills in statistics in conjunction with the use of IT: spreadsheets, database and statistical software. 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. Teamwork, project management, and career planning are also included within this programme.

Programme content

Each Part comprises 120 credits. Students must normally take a minimum of 40 credits in each of the Classics and Sociology units in Part One. In Part 1 the remaining credits can be made up from any optional modules and/or from modules elsewhere in the University. In Part 2 students must normally take a minimum of 60 credits in each subject. In Part 3, 40 credits are taken in each subject, plus the dissertation of 40 credits in one subject or jointly held between the two.

Part 1 introduces students to the disciplines; Part 2 develops skills through the study of broad, contrasting genres and periods, and Part 3 contains a more detailed focus and specific research work.

Not all optional modules will necessarily be available in any year. 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
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Optional Module

CL1GRF	Greece and Rome on Film	20	C
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In the Department of Sociology

Part 1 (three terms)

Credits Level

Compulsory modules

SO1INT	Introduction to Sociology	20	C
SO1MET	Methods 1: Main Methodological Approaches in Sociology	20	C

Optional modules: both modules must be taken to acquire 20 credits:

SO1CES	Contemporary European Society	10	C
SO1CSI	Contemporary Social Issues	10	C

Part 2 (three terms)

Credits Level

In the Department of Classics [60 credits]

Compulsory modules in the Classics Department

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

In the Department of Sociology

Part 2 (three terms)

Credits Level

Compulsory modules

SO2THE	Theory 1: The Classical Tradition	10	I
SO2MET	Methods 2: Research Design	10	I

Additionally, students must take 20 credits from the four 10-credit Core modules in Sociology:

SO2CUL	Sociology of Culture	10	I
SO2POL	Political Sociology	10	I
SO2ECO	Economic Sociology	10	I
SO2STR	Social Stratification	10	I

(iii) *Modules chosen from the following to make an overall total of 60 credits in Sociology:*

Note: These are offered in the Spring term; availability of individual modules depends on staff availability. Modules will require pre-requisite or co-requisite of the appropriate Core module.

SO2SS1	Statistics 1	20	I
SO2POE	Political Economy	10	I
SO2GEN	Sociology of Gender	10	I
SO2POP	Popular Culture	10	I
SO2SEX	Human Sexualities	10	I
SO2REL	Understanding Religion and Belief	10	I
SO2EI	Evil Influences	10	I
SO2POE	Political Economy	10	I
SO2ORG	Sociology of Organizations	10	I
SO2GEN	Sociology of Gender	10	I
SO2SEX	Human Sexualities	10	I
SO2FEM	Feminisms	10	I
SO2MPM	Moral Panics, the Media, and Moral Crusades	10	I
SO2NAT	The Nation-State and Culture	10	I

Of the 120 credits in Part 2, 5 are taken up by Career Management Skills.

SO3SMT	Sociology of Market Transitions	10	H
SO3IND	Industrial Sociology	10	H
SO3SOB	Social Boundaries	10	H
SO3CIT	Citizenship, Economy, and Society	10	H
SO3IDE	Identities: Ethnic, National, Cultural and Racial	10	H
SO3HUM	Sociology of Humour	10	H
SO3GLO	Nationalism and Globalism	10	H
SO3BEL	Religion and Belief in Contemporary Society	10	H
SO3SOM	Social Movements	10	H
SO3INT	Internet Studies	10	H
SO3PSC	Power and Social Control	10	H
SO3POW	Power and Inequality in Pre-Industrial Societies	10	H
SO3GEN	Gender, Family, and the Work Place	10	H
SO3CLA	Class and Inequality in Contemporary Society	10	H
SO3LIF	Sociology of the Life Course	10	H
SO3CRS	Crime and Society	10	H
SO3AME	American Society: Power, Culture & Structure	10	H
SO3CHI	Contemporary Chinese Society	10	H
SO3ENT	Entrepreneurship: The Social Science Perspective	10	H
SO3MIG	Sociology of Migration	10	H
SO3CRI	Criminology	10	H
SO3MOR	Moral Controversies in Modern Societies	10	H
SO3EDU	Sociology of Education	10	H
SO3CHI	Contemporary Chinese Society	10	H
SO3AME	Contemporary American Society	10	H
SO3PCO	Culture and Power	10	H
SO3LIM	Advanced Topics in Liminality	10	H
SO3IDE	Advanced Topics in Ideology	10	H
SO3RHE	Advanced Topics in Rhetoric of Science	10	H
SO3EVL	Advanced Topics in Everyday Life	10	H
SO3LES	Advanced Topics in Leisure	10	H

NOTE: Sociology Options must be taken such that the 40 Option credits from Part 3 create either a Major (all 40 credits, including a 10-credit Advanced Topic, in **one** of Sociology's four Clusters) or two Minors (20 credits each in two of Sociology's four Clusters). Sociology's four Clusters for the BA are Political Sociology, Sociology of Culture, Economic Sociology, and Social Organization and Inequality. Students are free to choose the Major or two Minor Clusters that best fit their intellectual and professional/career interests.

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 compulsory Ancient History modules and 40% in each compulsory Sociology 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, provided that the candidate has pursued the course for the module(s) 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. 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 Sociology 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 Agostina Hawkins who can be contacted by:

Telephone – 0118 931 8420

Email – admissions-classics@rdg.ac.uk

Fax – 0118 931 6661

As well as by post.

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 Classics is the curator of the Ure Museum of Greek Archaeology. Advice on statistical computing is available from computing staff of the School of Applied Statistics, and copies of software manuals are held in the computing library

Career prospects

In recent years students who have gained degrees in Ancient History and Sociology have gone into a wide variety of jobs, including teaching, publishing, journalism, the media, management, administration, and public relations. A number of graduates each year go on to further academic study and research.

Opportunities for study abroad

The Departments of Classics and Sociology have various links under the Socrates programme through which students can spend a period of study abroad (normally during Part 2).

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. In Sociology, the aims are educational and practical. Intellectually, members of staff aim to widen students' capacities for critical thinking, analysis and problem solving, asking questions and deconstructing the arguments of others. Students also learn a variety of explanatory schemata and their application in understanding them in social life. Practically, the programme imparts technical skills: statistical methods and computer-related analytical skills, use of IT, enhanced writing capacity through continuous assessment. The course, as a whole, 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

A. Knowledge and understanding of:

- 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
- facts about the nature of social life and their application and understanding of particular forms of social life
- facts about a variety of human societies, past and present, European and non-European
- core aspects of modern societies
- the use of historical and comparative methods in understanding human societies
- the use of statistical methods in the study of patterns of human behaviour.

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.

Assessment

Most knowledge is tested through a combination of coursework and formal examination. The Dissertation and an oral presentation also contribute.

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.➤ Use evidence-based reasoning to argue or evaluate a claim➤ Apply multiple perspectives and levels of explanation to understand behaviour	<p>Teaching/learning methods and strategies</p> <p>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></p> <p>These skills are assessed in all Parts of the programme by a combination of coursework, essays, oral presentations, dissertation and unseen examinations.</p>
<p>C. Practical skills – able to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">➤ 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➤ have effective bibliographical and library research skills➤ use of IT and a familiarity with statistical methods of enquiry	<p>Teaching/learning methods and strategies</p> <p>These are developed through the deployment of seminar classes and essay assignments.</p> <p><i>Assessment</i></p> <p>Coursework and examinations, as well as in the dissertation.</p> <p>Oral presentation also constitutes a percentage of the assessment of the dissertation if in Ancient History.</p>

D. Transferable skills – able to:

- deploy a range of IT resources 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;
- locate information and use a range of information technology effectively;
- 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, as well as being included in specific units in Sociology. Time management is essential for the effective completion of the programme. Careers management is taught in Part 2.

Assessment

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 expect 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 module and programme handbooks.