

BA in Ancient History

UCAS code: V110

Awarding Institution:
Teaching Institution:
Relevant QAA subject benchmarking group(s):
Faculty of Arts and Humanities
For students entering Part 1 in 2002
Programme Director: Ray Laurence
Programme Adviser: Alastair Blanshard
Board of Studies: Classics
Accreditation: University of Reading

The University of Reading
The University of Reading
Classics and Ancient History
Programme length: 3 years
Date of specification: January 2004

Summary of programme aims

The programme aims to provide a thorough degree level education in Ancient History. The syllabus aims to familiarise students with the core chronological and geographical range of Greek and Roman cultures, whilst providing them with the opportunity to study more thematic topics in depth. The programme also provides for the development of the specific historical interests of students through independent study and specifically the dissertation. Students are encouraged to include elements of ancient languages throughout their degree programme. Students will expand the range, depth and sophistication of their knowledge of Ancient History through the structured progression of through Parts 1,2, and 3 of the programme.

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 enhance their skills relating to career management, communication (both written and oral), information handling, problem-solving, team working and use of information technology.

Programme content

Part 1 introduces students to the study of Greek and Roman Civilisations, with a particular emphasis upon the development of the study of primary sources and source criticism, alongside the development of historical writing skills to explore specific historical topics. Students are encouraged to take an additional 20 credits as well in Greek and Roman Civilisations. Part 2 develops the students knowledge of the chronological changes within the period of study via compulsory core units, and includes also units to develop their academic capabilities (study skills, historical skills). In addition, students choose two option units that are either more thematic or add greater depth than the core units. In Part 3, there is an increasing specialisation and progression to approach topics in greater depth through the provision of optional units and the opportunity to research a dissertation topic in depth. Students take 120 credits per year.

Not all options will necessarily be available every year. Admission to options will be at the discretion of the Programme Director.

Part 1 (three terms)

Compulsory modules

Mod Code	Module Title	Credits	Level
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:

Mod Code	Module Title	Credits	Level
CL1GRF	Greece and Rome on Film	20	C

Part 2 (three terms)		<i>Credits</i>	<i>Level</i>
<i>Compulsory modules</i>			
Mod Code	<i>Module Title</i>		
CL2SS	Study Skills	10	I
CL2HS	Historical Skills	10	I
CL2GH	Greek History	20	I
CL2RR	Roman Republic	20	I
CL2RE	Roman Empire	20	I
<i>Optional modules:</i>			
Mod Code	<i>Module Title</i>		
CL2EG	Egypt and Greece	20	I
CL2AM	Greek and Roman Medicine	20	I
CL2AP	Greek and Roman Painting	20	I
CL2AS	Greek and Roman Sculpture	20	I
CL2RL	Greek and Roman Religions	20	I
CL2CM	Classical Mythology	20	I
CL2GD	Greek Drama	20	I
CL2AE	Ancient Epic	20	I
CL2GL	Greek Lyric Poetry	20	I
CL2LP	Roman Love Poetry	20	I
CL2PS	Plato	20	I
CL2EP	Early Greek Philosophy	20	I
CL2BG	Beginners Ancient Greek II	20	I
CL2IG	Intermediate Greek II	20	I
CL2AG	Advanced Greek II	20	I
CL2BL	Beginners Latin II	20	I
CL2IL	Intermediate Latin II	20	I
CL2AL	Advanced Latin II	20	I
CL2LL	Later Latin Authors	20	i

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

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

Part 3 (three terms)		<i>Credits</i>	<i>Level</i>
<i>Compulsory modules</i>			
Mod Code	<i>Module Title</i>		
CL3DS	Dissertation	40	H

Optional modules:

Mod Code	Module Title		
CL3AB	Ancient Biography	20	H
CL3CN	Conversion of the Roman Empire	20	H
CL3GD	Gender in Classical Antiquity	20	H
CL3AP	Greek and Roman Painting	20	H
CL3GA	Greek Art and Drama	20	H
CL3LL	Litigation and Life in the Graeco-Roman World	20	H
CL3NC	New Comedy	20	H
CL3HO	Odes of Horace	20	H
CL3OA	Oedipus and Antigone in the 20 th Century	20	H
CL3PW	Peloponnesian War	20	H
CL3POM	Pompeii	20	H
CL3PP	Pornography and Power in the Graeco-Roman World	20	H
CL3RM	Renaissance Medicine	20	H
CL3RL	Roman Life Cycle	20	H
CL3RF	Rome On Film	20	H
CL3ST	Special Topics in Greek Drama	20	H
CL3TC	Tourism, Classics and National Identity	20	H
CL3UA	Uses and Abuses of Antiquity	20	H
CL3BG	Beginners Greek III	20	H
CL3IG	Intermediate Greek III	20	H
CL3AG	Advanced Greek III	20	H
CL3BL	Beginners Latin III	20	H
CL3IL	Intermediate Latin III	20	H
CL3AL	Advanced Latin III	20	H

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

Progression requirements

To proceed from Part 1 to Part 2 students must:

- (a) obtain at least 40% average over both compulsory Ancient History modules;
- (b) achieve an overall average of 40% in 120 credits taken in the examination;
- (c) 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.

To proceed from Part 2 to Part 3 students must:

- (a) achieve an overall average of 40% in 120 credits taken in the examination;
- (b) 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 delivered by a mixture of lectures and seminars in Parts 1 and 2 and with a greater emphasis on seminars in Part 3. The dissertation in Part 3 comprises a piece of work based on supervised independent study.

Admission requirements

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

Entrants to this programme are normally required to have obtained:

Grade C or better in English in GCSE; and achieved

UCAS Tariff: BCC or 260 points from 3 A levels or 280 points from A and A/S levels

International Baccalaureat: 30 points

Scottish Highers: BBBB

Irish Leaving Certificate: BBBBC

Two AS grades are accepted in place of one A-Level

Admissions Tutor: Ray Laurence

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. The Department of Classics is the Curator of the Ure Museum of Greek Archaeology.

Career prospects

Graduates in Ancient History have found that their degree course has been a good basis for careers in management, administration, the civil service, commerce, law, publishing, librarianship and teaching. Graduates have also gone on to postgraduate courses within the field of the Classics at Reading and elsewhere.

Opportunities for study abroad or for placements

The Department of Classics is developing a Socrates exchange with the University of Aarhus, through which students can spend a period of study abroad (normally during Part 2).

Educational aims of the programme

The programme aims to provide a thorough degree level education in Ancient History. It aims to produce ancient historians who have experience of chronological, thematic and genre based approaches to the history of antiquity.

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">➤ another culture's history and political and social organisation.➤ a diverse range of primary materials.➤ a range of problems of interpretation and evaluation of primary materials,➤ a range of techniques and methodologies.	<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 oral presentations 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.	<p>Teaching/learning methods and strategies Skills will be introduced in lectures, developed through reading, writing of essays, dissertation and examination</p> <p><i>Assessment</i> Coursework and examinations, as well as in the dissertation</p>
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C. Practical skills – able to:

- gather, organise and deploy evidence and information, 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.

Teaching/learning methods and strategies
These are developed through the deployment of seminar classes and essay assignments. Oral presentation also constitutes a percentage of the assessment of the dissertation

Assessment
Coursework and examinations, as well as in the dissertation

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,
- to write and think under pressure and to meet deadlines.

Teaching/learning methods and strategies
In lectures and seminars and applied in self-study and writing of assignments

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.