

## BA English and Film & Theatre

UCAS code: QW34

Awarding Institution:  
Teaching Institution:  
Relevant QAA subject benchmarking group(s):  
Faculty of Arts and Humanities  
For students entering Part 1 in 2002  
Programme Director: Dr Ronan McDonald  
Board of Studies: English and Film & Theatre  
Accreditation: not applicable

The University of Reading  
The University of Reading  
English; Film and Drama  
Programme length: 3 years  
Date of specification: April 2003

### 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 film 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 and of Film and Theatre.

### Transferable skills

The University's Strategy for Teaching and Learning has identified a number of generic 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, numeracy, problem-solving, team working and use of information technology.

From their studies in English and Film & 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.

### Programme content

Part 1 of the joint degree programme introduces students to debates about approaches to the study of literature, film and drama, 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 60 credits in the School of English and 60 credits in Film and Theatre studies. In Parts 2 and 3 they must also normally take 60 credits each year in both English and Film & 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) Certificate Level In English (60 credits)

#### Compulsory Modules

		<i>Credits</i>	<i>Level</i>
EN1LL	<i>Languages of Literature</i>	20	C
EN1RS	<i>Revisioning Shakespeare</i>	20	C
EN1WKT	<i>What Kind of Text is This?</i>	20	C

**In Film & Theatre (40 or 60 credits)***Compulsory modules*

FD1HA	<i>Historical Approaches to Film and Theatre</i>	20	C
FD1CA	<i>Critical Approaches to Film and Theatre</i>	20	C

*Optional module*

FD1TFC	<i>Introduction to Television Studies</i>	20	C
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**Part 2 (three terms) Intermediate Level***Credits Level***In English (60 credits)**

Students choose three modules at Part 2, at least one in the Autumn and one in the Spring terms. One module must be chosen from each of the groups A, B and C.

***Autumn Term***

## Group A

EN2CMN	<i>Chaucer and Medieval Narrative</i>	20	I
EN2RTC	<i>Renaissance Texts &amp; Cultures</i>	20	I
EN2RR	<i>Restoration to Romantics</i>	20	I

## Group B

EN2 WW1	<i>Women's Writing and Feminist Theory 1</i>	20	I
EN2MC1	<i>Modernity and Cultural Crisis 1</i>	20	I
EN2WA1	<i>Writing America 1</i>	20	I

## Group C

EN2 SH1	<i>Shakespeare A</i>	20	I
EN2NCN	<i>Nineteenth Century Novel</i>	20	I
EN2LCT	<i>Literary Criticism &amp; Theory</i>	20	I

***Spring Term***

## Group A

EN2LV	<i>Lyric Voices 1340 – 1650</i>	20	I
EN2ERE	<i>English Renaissance Epic</i>	20	I
EN2SH2	<i>Shakespeare B</i>	20	I

## Group B

EN2RD	<i>Romantics to Decadents</i>	20	I
EN2MC2	<i>Modernity and Cultural Crisis 2</i>	20	I
EN2MDR	<i>Modern Drama</i>	20	I

## Group C

EN2WW2	<i>Women's Writing and Feminist Theatre 2</i>	20	I
EN2WA2	<i>Writing America 2</i>	20	I
EN2FN	<i>Film Narrative</i>	20	I

**In Film & Theatre (60 credits)**

Students will normally take the following modules:

*Either:*

FD2US1A	<i>Studies in US Cinema 1</i>	20	I
FD2BTA	<i>Studies in British Theatre</i>	20	I
[various]	<i>Critical Option [from group with A suffix]</i>	20	I

*Or:*

FD2US1A + B	<i>Studies in US Cinema 1</i>	20 + 10	I
FD2BTA + B	<i>Studies in British Theatre</i>	20 + 10	I

The Critical Option will be selected from a list approved by the Department. The following list is subject to change, and not all options will necessarily be available every year. Admission to optional modules will be at the discretion of the Programme Director.

FD2TCA	<i>Third Cinema</i>	20	I
FD2ECA	<i>European Cinema Since 1945</i>	20	I
FD2MA	<i>Musical in Film and Theatre</i>	20	I
FD2MDA	<i>Modern European Drama</i>	20	I
FD2DA	<i>Documentary Film and Television</i>	20	I
FD2BCA	<i>British Cinema</i>	20	I
FD2WFA	<i>Women's Film and Theatre</i>	20	I
FD2TVA	<i>Television Drama</i>	20	I
FD2NTA	<i>North American Theatre</i>	20	I
FD2RTA	<i>English Renaissance Theatre in the Modern Period</i>	20	I
FD2CPA	<i>Chekhov in Production</i>	20	I
FD2PTA	<i>Physical Theatre</i>	20	I
FD2JCA	<i>Japanese Cinema</i>	20	I

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

<i>Careers Management Skills</i>	5	I
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Students may choose to replace one 20-credit English module from Groups B or C, or the 20-credit International Relations optional module, *either* with a module or modules totalling 20 credits from outside the programme, *or* with:

EN2CWA	<i>Communications at Work</i>	20	I
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### Part 3 (three terms) Honours Level

*Credits Level*

*Compulsory module*

EN3JDX	<i>Joint Dissertation (20 credits in each Department)</i>	40	H
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**In English**, students additionally choose two 20-credit modules, one in each term, to make a total of 40 credits, from an approved list. (NB. Not all these options will necessarily be available every year. Admission to optional modules will be at the discretion of the Programme Director.)

EN3AAL	<i>African American Literature</i>	20	H
EN3AF	<i>American Fiction: Chopin to Carver</i>	20	H
EN3AP	<i>American Poetry: Bishop to Dove</i>	20	H
EN3CD	<i>Contemporary Drama</i>	20	H
EN3CF	<i>Contemporary Fiction</i>	20	H
EN3CL1/2	<i>Children's Literature</i>	20	H
EN3CWF	<i>Canadian Women's Fiction</i>	20	H
EN3DD	<i>Decadence and Degeneration: Literature of the 1890s</i>	20	H
EN3DF	<i>Detective Fiction</i>	20	H
EN3DIC	<i>Dickens</i>	20	H
EN3EMP	<i>'For Profit and Delight': Early Modern Poetry Collections</i>	20	H
EN3ETW	<i>Elizabethan Travel Writing</i>	20	H
EN3FSS	<i>Further Spenser Studies</i>	20	H
EN3GG	<i>Grotesque to Gothic: Body Text and Audience 1680-1800</i>	20	H
EN3HJ	<i>Henry James</i>	20	H
EN3HP	<i>Harold Pinter</i>	20	H

EN3JA	<i>Jane Austen and her Contemporaries</i>	20	H
EN3JAF	<i>Jewish American Fiction</i>	20	H
EN3LC1	<i>Topics in Literary Theory and Criticism 1</i>	20	H
EN3LC2	<i>Topics in Literary Theory and Criticism 2</i>	20	H
EN3LP	<i>Literature and Psychoanalysis</i>	20	H
EN3LTT	<i>Irish Literature of 'The Troubles'</i>	20	H
EN3MA	<i>Margaret Atwood</i>	20	H
EN3MDN	<i>Medieval Dream Narrative</i>	20	H
EN3MID	<i>Modern Irish Drama</i>	20	H
EN3MP	<i>Modern Poetry: Larkin to Muldoon</i>	20	H
EN3MPP	<i>Marvell, Poetry and Politics in the Mid-17th Century</i>	20	H
EN3OEL	<i>Introduction to Old English Literature</i>	20	H
EN3OE2	<i>Old English 2</i>	20	H
EN3PCE	<i>Popular Culture in Early Modern England</i>	20	H
EN3PR	<i>Pre-Raphaelitism</i>	20	H
EN3RD	<i>Renaissance Drama</i>	20	H
EN3RWW	<i>Renaissance Women Writing</i>	20	H
EN3SB	<i>Samuel Beckett</i>	20	H
EN3SF	<i>British Science Fiction</i>	20	H
EN3SHG	<i>Shakespeare and Gender</i>	20	H
EN3SHH	<i>Shakespeare and History</i>	20	H
EN3SHR	<i>Shakespeare and Romance</i>	20	H
EN3SIR	<i>The American South: Image and Representation</i>	20	H
EN3SJ	<i>Samuel Johnson</i>	20	H
EN3VSF	<i>Victorian Sensation and Popular Fiction</i>	20	H
EN3TH	<i>Thomas Hardy</i>	20	H
EN3TTC	<i>From Troy to Camelot: Medieval Romance</i>	20	H
EN3TVL	<i>Television, Literature and Popular Culture</i>	20	H
EN3TVP	<i>Television Police Drama</i>	20	H
EN3WOR	<i>Wordsworth</i>	20	H
EN3WP	<i>War Poetry: from the Crimean to World War 2</i>	20	H
EN3YJ	<i>Yeats and Joyce</i>	20	H

**In Film and Theatre**, students take a further 40 credits made up as follows:

*Either:*

FD3AFA	<i>Alternative Forms in Film and Drama</i>	20	H
[various]	<i>Critical Option [from group with A suffix]</i>	20	H

*Or:*

[various]	<i>Critical Option [from group with A suffix]</i>	20	H
[various]	<i>Critical Option [from group with A suffix]</i>	20	H

Critical Option(s) will be selected from a list approved by the Department. The following list is subject to change, and not all options will necessarily be available every year. Admission to optional modules will be at the discretion of the Programme Director.

*Optional modules:*

FD3TCA	<i>Third Cinema</i>	20	H
FD3ECA	<i>European Cinema Since 1945</i>	20	H
FD3MA	<i>Musical in Film and Theatre</i>	20	H
FD3MDA	<i>Modern European Drama</i>	20	H
FD3DA	<i>Documentary Film and Television</i>	20	H
FD3BCA	<i>British Cinema</i>	20	H
FD3WFA	<i>Women's Film and Theatre</i>	20	H
FD3TVA	<i>Television Drama</i>	20	H

FD3NTA	<i>North American Theatre</i>	20	H
FD3RTA	<i>English Renaissance Theatre in the Modern Period</i>	20	H
FD3CPA	<i>Chekhov in Production</i>	20	H
FD3PTA	<i>Physical Theatre</i>	20	H
FD3JCA	<i>Japanese Cinema</i>	20	H

### Progression requirements

To proceed from Part 1 to Part 2, a Joint Honours student must (i) obtain an average of 40% across all Part 1 modules; (ii) achieve a minimum of 40% in each English module, and in each of the two compulsory modules in the Department of Film, Theatre & Television; and (iii) have no mark less than 30% in any module, except that marks of less than 30% in a total of 20 credits may be condoned, provided the candidate has pursued the course for the module with reasonable diligence and has not been absent from the examination without cause. To proceed from Part 2 to Part 3, students must obtain an overall average of at least 40% and 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 that module with reasonable diligence and has not been absent from the examination without cause.

### Summary of teaching and assessment

Teaching is through seminars, lectures and essay tutorials. The Dissertation module is supported by individual supervision in both English and Film & Theatre, and by dissertation workshops in the School of English. Teaching styles are varied to encourage active engagement by students. Film and theatre viewings are a central component in the teaching of Film and 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%.

The University's honours classification is as follows:

<u>Mark</u>	<u>Interpretation</u>
70% - 100%	First class
60% - 69%	Upper Second class
50% - 59%	Lower Second class
40% - 49%	Third class
35% - 39%	Fail: not of Honours standard
0% - 34%	Fail

### Admission requirements

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

**UCAS Tariff:** *either* 280 points from three A2s, including 100 points (grade B) in English Literature or English Language and Literature; *or* 320 points from 3 A2s + up to two AS, including 100 points (grade B) in English Literature or English Language and Literature

**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: Mrs Carolyn Lyle (English)

### **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 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 School of English, provides books, xeroxed materials, cassettes and a growing library of videos for loan to students. A video-viewing suite is available on the Whiteknights campus. Film and Theatre (on the Bulmershe campus) has an extensive collection of film and television programmes, to which students may have access, and a wide range of viewing facilities. The Library, which has buildings on both the Whiteknights and Bulmershe campuses, 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 prospects**

Since the English/Film 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 and Film & 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.

### **Opportunities for study abroad**

Students may, with permission, opt for a four-year degree programme which involves spending the third year abroad, at one of the European universities with which Reading has a Socrates exchange agreement. They would actively participate in courses abroad, experience the teaching and learning processes of another institution, learn or improve their knowledge of another European language, and enhance their curriculum vitae. Students following the four-year programme must take 120 credits in their Year Abroad. Of this total, 40 credits of English studies (two courses undertaken at the host institution) will count towards degree classification; the remaining 80 credits are assigned for the experience and satisfactory completion of the year abroad, and are assessed on a Pass/Fail basis.

There may also be opportunities to study for one term in the United States under the American Studies exchange programme.

## Educational aims of the programme

The programme seeks to develop students' knowledge and understanding of a wide range of literary, drama and film texts, and to promote an informed and self-reflective awareness of procedures of critical and cultural analysis. The overall aims are to enable students to achieve their full intellectual potential, and to equip them with broadly transferable skills of potential value to future employers.

## Programme Outcomes

### *Knowledge and Understanding*

<p><b>A. Knowledge and understanding of:</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"><li>1. Literary texts in English from selected periods between the Middle Ages and the present day. A selection of film and theatre texts from a range of national and cultural contexts from the late nineteenth century until the present day.</li><li>2. A range of kinds of texts including fiction, poetry and drama and a variety of approaches to filmmaking and theatre.</li><li>3. Methods of critical, dramatic and filmic analysis</li><li>4. Ways in which social, cultural and historical issues relate to literary, drama and film texts</li><li>5. A range of approaches in English and Film &amp; Theatre studies</li><li>6. Selected special fields of English and Film and Theatre</li></ol>	<p><b>Teaching/learning methods and strategies</b></p> <p>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 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.</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>B. Intellectual skills:</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"><li>1. Capacity for independent analysis and research</li><li>2. Identification of problems and issues</li><li>3. The ability to read, watch and interpret closely and critically</li><li>4. An ability to reflect on one's own positions</li></ol>	<p><b>Teaching/learning methods and strategies</b></p> <p>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).</p> <p><i>Assessment</i></p> <p>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</p>
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**C. Practical skills**

1. The ability to criticize and formulate interpretations of literary, drama and film texts (including theatre performances)
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 and of Film and Theatre to cultural and social issues

**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**

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

**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 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 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.