

BA Film & Theatre and Television Studies

UCAS code: WW64

Awarding Institution:

The University of Reading

Teaching Institution:

The University of Reading

Relevant QAA subject benchmarking group(s):

Dance, Drama and Performance;
Communication, Media, Film and
Cultural Studies;

Faculty of Arts and Humanities

Programme length: 3 years

For students entering Part 1 in 2002

Date of specification: April 2003

Programme Advisers:

Dr Jonathan Bignell and Mr Jim
Hillier

Board of Studies:

Film, Theatre & Television

Accreditation:

not applicable

Summary of programme aims and learning outcomes

The central aim of this multi-disciplinary programme is to enable students to gain an understanding of major areas of cinema, of theatre since the late nineteenth century and of British and other English language television drama and documentary. Students will experience some of the varied achievements of film-makers, writers (for both the stage and television), directors, producers and theatre practitioners, and become familiar with a range of perspectives which can inform analysis of film, drama and television texts.

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, problem-solving, team working and use of information technology.

On completion of this degree programme, students are expected to have developed a range of transferable skills including: fluency in writing and oral communication, the ability to formulate and evaluate their own arguments and those of others, to translate subject-specific knowledge and skills to new environments, the ability to find and use relevant information resources, to manage their time effectively, and use basic word-processing, information retrieval and IT skills; the ability to work co-operatively with others. Although there is no practical component in the degree, students will have ample opportunity to participate in practical work generated by Single Honours students in Film & Theatre in the Department of Film, Theatre & Television.

Programme content

In each Part of the degree programme students must take modules to make up a total of 120 credits.

In Part 1 of the Film & Theatre and Television Studies degree, students will take 60 credits worth of modules in the Department of Film, Theatre & Television. They will be free to acquire their remaining 60 credits from modules elsewhere in the University. In Parts 2 and 3 they must normally take 60 credits in Film & Theatre and 60 credits in Television Studies in each Part. However, in consultation with their programme adviser, students may substitute up to 20 credits from modules available elsewhere in the University.

In the Department of Film, Theatre and Television

Compulsory modules

FT1CHA	<i>Critical and Historical Approaches to Film & Theatre</i>	40	C
FT1TFC	<i>Introduction to Television Studies</i>	20	C

Part 2 (three terms) Intermediate level

Credits Level

Designated Film & Theatre Modules

Students will normally take the following modules:

Either the following two core modules for 20 credits each, plus one Critical Option for 20 credits

FT2USIA	<i>Studies in US Cinema I</i>	20	I
FT2BTA	<i>Studies in British Theatre</i>	20	I

Or two core modules for 20+10 credits

FT2US1A + B	<i>Studies in US Cinema I</i>	20+10	I
FT2BTA + B	<i>Studies in British Theatre</i>	20+10	I

Notes 10 credit modules **MUST** be taken together with the relevant 20 credit module, making the module worth 30 credits.

The Critical Option(s) below will be selected from a list offered at the discretion of the Programme Director (not all options will necessarily be available every year) and chosen from the following:

FT2TCA	<i>Third Cinema</i>	20	I
FT2ECA	<i>European Cinema Since 1945</i>	20	I
FT2MA	<i>Musical in Film and Theatre</i>	20	I
FT2MDA	<i>Modern European Drama</i>	20	I
FT2BCA	<i>British Cinema</i>	20	I
FT2WFA	<i>Women's Film and Theatre</i>	20	I
FT2NTA	<i>North American Theatre</i>	20	I
FT2RTA	<i>English Renaissance Theatre in the Modern Period</i>	20	I
FT2CPA	<i>Chekhov in Production</i>	20	I
FT2PTA	<i>Physical Theatre</i>	20	I
FT2JCA	<i>Japanese Cinema</i>	20	I

Designated Television Studies modules

*In Part 2, students follow **either** three modules at 20 credits:*

TVS2TD1A	<i>Television Drama 1: History and Forms</i>	20	I
TVS2ADA	<i>Authorship in Television Drama and Documentary</i>	20	I
FT2DA	<i>Documentary Film and Television</i>	20	I

Or two modules at 20 + 10 credits:

Notes 10 credit modules **MUST** be taken together with the relevant 20 credit module, making the module worth 30 credits.

TVS2TD1A + B	<i>Television Drama 1: History and Forms</i>	20 + 10	I
FT2DA + B	<i>Documentary Film and Television</i>	20 + 10	I

Of the 120 credits in Year 2, 5 are taken up by the compulsory module on Career Management Skills (level 1), distributed throughout the Part 2 modules.

Students may choose to replace one 20-credit Intermediate module in Film & Theatre or in Television Studies either with a module or modules totalling 20 credits from outside the programme, or with this 20 credit Faculty module:

EN2CWA	<i>Communications at Work</i>	20	I
Part 3 (three terms) Honours level		<i>Credits</i>	<i>Level</i>
<i>Compulsory</i>			
FT3TVDIS	<i>Dissertation</i>	40	H

Designated Film & Theatre modules

Students will normally take

Either the following core module, plus one Critical Option

FT3AF	<i>Alternative Forms in Film and Drama</i>	20	H
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Or two Critical Options.

Critical Option will be selected from a list offered at the discretion of the Programme Director and chosen from the following (not all of which will be available every year):

FT3TCA	<i>Third Cinema</i>	20	H
FT3ECA	<i>European Cinema Since 1945</i>	20	H
FT3MA	<i>Musical in Film and Theatre</i>	20	H
FT3MDA	<i>Modern European Drama</i>	20	H
FT3BCA	<i>British Cinema</i>	20	H
FT3WFA	<i>Women's Film and Theatre</i>	20	H
FT3NTA	<i>North American Theatre</i>	20	H
FT3RTA	<i>English Renaissance Theatre in the Modern Period</i>	20	H
FT3CPA	<i>Chekhov in Production</i>	20	H
FT3PTA	<i>Physical Theatre</i>	20	H
FT3JCA	<i>Japanese Cinema</i>	20	H
FT3USA	<i>Studies in US Cinema II</i>	20	H

Designated Television Studies Modules

Students will normally take the following compulsory modules

TVS3TD2A	<i>Television Drama 2: Forms and Genres</i>	20	H
TVS3DA	<i>Television and Documentary</i>	20	H

Progression requirements

To proceed from Part 1 to Part 2 an Honours student must obtain a minimum of 40% in each of the Part 1 modules in the Department of Film & Theatre and Television modules and to fulfil Faculty criteria in subject(s) taken outside the Department.

To proceed from Part 2 to Part 3, it is necessary to satisfy the Faculty's progression rules and the general University provision: not 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 cause.

Summary of teaching and assessment

Teaching is through seminars, lectures and essay tutorials. In addition the Dissertation module is supported by workshops and individual supervisions. Teaching styles are varied to encourage active engagement by students. Film and television viewing and theatre visits are central to the teaching of the degree.

Over the programme as a whole, assessment will be conducted through a mixture of assessed essays and other assessed assignments plus informal and formal examination.

The weighting between Part 2 and Part 3 for classification purposes is 33% and 67%.

Assessment criteria for each of the Levels are given in the appropriate Departmental Handbook. The University's honours classification scheme 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%	below Honours standard
0% - 34%	Fail

Admission Requirements

Entrants to the Joint Degree programme are normally required to have obtained:

UCAS Tariff: *Either* 280 points from 3 A2s, to include 100 pts [grade B] in one of English Literature, Drama, Theatre Studies, Film Studies, Media Studies, Communication Studies; *or* 320 points from 3 A2s + up to 2 AS, to include 100 pts [Grade B] in one of English Literature, Drama, Theatre Studies, Film Studies, Media Studies, Communication Studies.

AS: 2 good AS grades are accepted as one supporting A level

Scottish Highers ABBBB or above (A in English Literature)

Irish Leaving Certificate at least ABBBB (A in English Literature)

International Baccalaureate 31 points with 6 or 7 for Higher level English Literature

GCSE/O Language preferred: grade C or above.

All applications are considered on their individual merits. Mature candidates will usually be expected to have a B (100 points) at A level in one of English Literature, Drama, Theatre Studies, Film Studies, Media Studies, Communication Studies or equivalent qualification. In other respects, concessions may be made to reflect the value of other qualifications and experience.

Admissions tutor: Alison Butler and Dr Jonathan Bignell

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 a Handbook from the Department, which gives 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 detailed written feedback comments and academic and personal support is provided through the personal tutor system and the Personal and Academic Record scheme (PARS). Dissertation workshops prepare students for the Part 3 dissertation, which is individually supervised. Video-viewing suites are available within the Faculty (on the Whiteknights campus). The Department of Film, Theatre and Television has an extensive collection of films and television programmes, to which students may have access (currently some 6,000 titles), and a range of viewing facilities. The Library, which has buildings on both the Whiteknights and Bulmershe campuses (services between which are closely linked), has an extensive collection of printed materials as well as electronic databases, such as the OED, the MLA Bibliography, and the DNB on CD ROM, and such on-line resources as JSTOR, First Search. Specialist subject librarians are available to give students advice and guidance to library resources.

Career prospects

Since Film & Theatre and Television Studies is not a 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. Although the Film & Theatre and Television Studies degree contains no practical components, opportunities for extra-curricular participation in practical work are generated elsewhere in the Department of Film, Theatre & Television. A Reading Film & Theatre and Television Studies degree provides graduates with a range of communication and analytical skills that will serve them well in the world of work. The compulsory module in Careers Management Skills, distributed across Part 2 of the degree, requires assignments designed specifically to address the development of career opportunities. Students may also go on to post-graduate study at MA and PhD levels, at Reading and elsewhere.

Opportunities for study abroad

There are currently no opportunities to study abroad.

Educational aims of the programme .

The programme in Film & Theatre and Television Studies 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.

The central aim of the Film & Theatre combined subject programme is to enable students to gain a confident grasp of critical methods appropriate to the study of Film and theatre and an understanding of major areas of cinema and of theatre since the late nineteenth century. Students will experience some of the varied achievements of film-makers, writers and theatre practitioners and become familiar with a range of perspectives which can inform analysis of film and drama texts. The emphasis is on the close study of plays and films and on critical debates and competing theories that have influenced discussion of theatre and cinema.

Drawing on the critical methodologies developed in film and theatre studies, the Television Studies combined subject programme aims to provide a solid framework for exploring the changing nature of British and other English language television, especially (though not exclusively) television drama and documentary. It aims to promote a critical understanding of television in its historical and contemporary forms, and to enable students to relate individual

texts to relevant television genres, formats and programme categories, to developing historical, cultural and institutional contexts and to parallel experiences in other (non-UK) national cultures.

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> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. A selection of film and theatre texts from a range of national and cultural contexts from the late nineteenth century until the present day; a selection of television texts (primarily British television drama and documentary). 2. A variety of approaches to filmmaking, and television and theatre production 3. Methods of critical, dramatic, filmic and televisual analysis 4. Ways in which theatre, film and television have informed each other historically 5. Ways in which social, cultural and historical contexts inform theatre, film and television texts 6. A range of approaches in Film and Theatre studies and Television Studies 7. Selected special fields of Film and Theatre and Television Studies. 	<p><i>Teaching/learning methods and strategies</i></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, 3, 4 and 5 through seminars, lectures and individual feedback. Part 3 introduces more specialized study, particularly in relation to 3, 5, 6 and 7 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. Intellectual skills :</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 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 opinions and those of others 5. Apply conceptual frameworks and methods of analysis to new contexts and material 	<p><i>Teaching/learning methods and strategies</i></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 5) and essay feedback through tutorials (2, 3, 4 and 5).</p> <p>Assessment</p> <p>1 – 5 are assessed both formatively in coursework essays, and summatively in essays, seen and unseen exams. They are also assessed formatively through seminar discussion, seminar presentations and essay feedback and tutorials.</p>
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<p>C. Practical skills:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. The ability to criticize and formulate interpretations of television, 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 Film and Drama and Television to cultural and social issues 	<p><i>Teaching/learning methods and strategies</i></p> <p>1 – 3 and 6 are developed in seminars, workshops, seminar presentations, essays and essay tutorials. 4 and 5 are developed through essays, essay feedback and dissertation guidance and supervision.</p> <p><i>Assessment</i></p> <p>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.</p>
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<p>D. Transferable skills:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 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 11. Career management skills 	<p><i>Teaching/learning methods and strategies</i></p> <p>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), and through sessions and assignments associated with the module on Careers Management Skills (11). 4 and 7 particularly are developed through requiring students to draw on acquired knowledge and skills when analyzing new material in essays, seen 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 dissertation. We require that all summatively assessed essays are word-processed (10).</p> <p><i>Assessment</i></p> <p>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.</p>
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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.