This handbook gives subject-specific information for your Prelim course in Portuguese. For general information about your studies and the faculty, please consult the Faculty’s Undergraduate Course Handbook (https://weblearn.ox.ac.uk/portal/site/humdiv.modlang).

SUB-FACULTY TEACHING STAFF

The Sub-Faculty of Portuguese is part of the Faculty of Medieval and Modern Languages, and at present includes the following members who are all employed by the University to teach Portuguese at Faculty level:

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(Instituto Camões Language Assistant)
THE PRELIM COURSE

The aim of the first-year Portuguese course is to bring a potentially heterogeneous group to an intermediate level of competence in written and spoken Portuguese, in order to enable students to engage fully with literary works in the language.

We recognize that most incoming students have a limited knowledge of Portuguese, though most are proficient in another foreign language. To cater specifically for the needs of beginners and of those who have had little exposure to the language, the Sub-Faculty runs a one-week Pre-Sessional language course in the week preceding Freshers’ Week (also known as ‘Noughth Week’).

After the pre-sessional, first-year undergraduates receive teaching in language and literature, in a combination of lectures, classes and tutorials, over the course of three eight-week terms (Michaelmas, Hilary and Trinity). A timetable meeting for all incoming students of Portuguese is scheduled for the end of Freshers’ Week.

As a rule, one lecture/reading seminar per week will cover the set texts which are part of the literature syllabus. In addition to lectures/seminars, students examine the texts in greater detail in fortnightly tutorials (usually groups of 2/3 students). For these, students produce written work, on which feedback is provided by the relevant tutors.

Alongside the literature tuition, in the first year, four weekly classes are provided for language learning, designed to develop and consolidate the full range of language skills. Special arrangements are made for students who are native speakers of Portuguese.

Tests known as Collections may be held at the beginning and/or end of each term.

At the end of the first year, all students reading Portuguese take four Portuguese papers in the Preliminary Examination in Modern Languages. Papers I & II are language exams, while Papers III and IV examine the literature syllabus. As students prepare for these Portuguese examinations over the course of the year, they will concurrently be preparing papers in their other language or subject. Exams take place at the end of Trinity term. Portuguese teaching continues up to week six of Trinity term, after which students have one week for revision before the start of the examination process.

LANGUAGE

The four parallel language classes are intended to develop accuracy and expose students to a range of written and spoken registers thereby:

- developing oral communication and aural comprehension;
- developing the ability to write Portuguese that is grammatically and semantically correct;
- developing the ability to translate from and into Portuguese, showing awareness of style and register.

One of the language classes concentrates specifically on spoken language and communicational situations, and the others are based on formal grammatical instruction and preparation for the specific linguistic tasks by which you are examined. Weekly written assignments are set and must be handed in before the following week’s class. Throughout the first year, thanks to the wide range of language materials employed, students will be exposed to the European and Brazilian variants of Portuguese.
Much of the language teaching will take place in 47 Wellington Square and in the Portuguese Centre (Centro de Lingua Portuguesa), 41 Wellington Square. (A University card is needed for access to both these venues). During their first Long Vacation at the end of their first year at Oxford, students are expected to attend a summer language course in one of the Portuguese-speaking countries. Some grants and scholarships may be available to help with travel and course fees and information about these will be given at the end of Hilary term. Students should also find out about whether travel grants are available from their own college.

A NOTE ABOUT SPELLING

In the Preliminary examination students will not have to choose definitively between European or Brazilian variants of Portuguese. Language classes will be delivered by a mixture of European and Brazilian speakers in order to give you a broad range of exposure and this is our primary objective at this stage. Whilst you are encouraged, then, to be consistent in which variant you choose to use and to become gradually more aware of the differences between them, lapses will not be penalized in Prelims at the end of the first year. You will, however, have to choose between either European or Brazilian for Finals and will have to be consistent in the form that you choose to use at that stage.

The acordo ortográfico is a controversial political subject but post-reform spellings are currently the expected norm. Students will wish to familiarise themselves with the principal rules of regularization that are part of the agreement. Porto Editora has a useful online guide to the acordo at: http://www.portoeditora.pt/assets/alp/GuiaAO_PE.pdf. For a paper guide, students may consult: Acordo Ortográfico: As novas regras - Todas as palavras que mudam (Porto: Porto Editora, 2012). Nonetheless, in Prelims, inconsistencies will not be penalized.
PRELIMS LANGUAGE EXAMINATIONS

Beginners and non-beginners sit two three-hour language papers at the end of Trinity Term. The language papers are as follows:

**Paper I:**

You have to answer comprehension questions on a short audio or video recording, translate a short passage of English into Portuguese, write a short composition and do several monolingual grammatical exercises.

**Paper II:**

You have to translate one passage of Portuguese into English (IIA) and translate and answer comprehension questions on a second passage (IIB).

Past papers may be consulted online, via WebLearn: https://weblearn.ox.ac.uk/portal/site/oxam

In order to pass the Preliminary Examination in Portuguese, colleges must present, for each candidate, a certificate of attendance and active participation in oral classes. Candidates must attend and actively participate in no fewer than eight oral classes of at least one hour before the end of the fourth week of the Trinity Term of their first year. The classes may consist of reading aloud with attention to proper pronunciation and intonation, and/or discussion of passages dealing with issues in contemporary culture.

The Senior Tutor of each candidate's college is required to submit to the Undergraduate Studies Administrator, Modern Languages, Examinations Office, 41 Wellington Square a certificate endorsed by the Senior Tutor and a Modern Languages Tutor (the latter acting on behalf of the sub-faculty) stating that they have attended, and participated in, the required number of classes. Certification is required by noon on the Friday of 5th week of Trinity Term. Candidates who fail to satisfy this requirement for the June examination shall have their mark for each of the two written language papers reduced by ten marks. Candidates for a language paper or papers in the September examination who have not previously in that academic year satisfied the attendance requirement will be examined viva voce to demonstrate at least basic competence in the spoken language.
PRELIMS LITERATURE EXAMINATIONS

Few students have studied Portuguese literature at school, and therefore the course is intended to develop techniques of close reading, while introducing a wide range of literary genres from different periods and locations within the Lusophone world. The breadth of the syllabus makes it possible for you to make an informed choice when selecting a period of literature paper to study after the Prelim.

At the end of Trinity Term, students sit two three-hour literature papers.

Paper III:

You will read three twentieth-century works, none of them long, but widely different in style and subject matter. All three are modern classics, and each represents a major strand in modern Lusophone literature. Multiple copies of the books are available in the Modern Languages Library (Taylorian Institute) and some college libraries, but most students find it useful to purchase their own copies. The set texts are:

- Clarice Lispector, *Laços de família*
- Pepetela, *O desejo de Kianda*
- Lídia Jorge, *O vale da paixão*

The exam will give students the chance to choose between a literary commentary and a selection of essay questions on each of the set texts. Students must write three answers, involving a combination of commentaries and essays.

Paper IV:

You will study the historical evolution of a literary genre, the unique Portuguese dramatic form known as the Auto. You will read two short plays written in the 16th century by Portuguese dramatist Gil Vicente, and two twentieth-century Brazilian plays by João Cabral de Melo Neto and Ariano Suassuna respectively. You will be encouraged to think how the Auto developed over time and was appropriated by dramatists from different social/historical backgrounds and with varying aesthetic intents. You will also study the 21st-century play by a woman writer, Ana Luisa Amaral, and see how it appropriates a range of earlier western literary traditions. The set texts are:

- Gil Vicente, *Auto da Índia* and *Auto da Barca do Inferno*
- João Cabral de Melo Neto, *Morte e Vida Severina*
- Ariano Suassuna, *Auto da Compadecida*
- Ana Luisa Amaral, *Próspero Morreu*

Students must answer three questions in this paper, and these must include a combination of essays and critical commentaries. A comparative essay is a compulsory component of the exam.
OXFORD CENTRES SPECIFICALLY RELEVANT TO STUDENTS OF PORTUGUESE

UNIVERSITY LANGUAGE CENTRE
(12 Woodstock Road)

It has audio-visual facilities, self-study resources and a large collection of language material. You are advised to arrange an induction meeting in Week 1.

Portuguese TV at the Language Centre:

You should plan to visit the Centre at least once a week and tune into the Portuguese channel (RTP). In addition to providing live broadcast of this channel, the Centre records news bulletins regularly, and the tapes are available for viewing at the Centre.

For more information, check the website: http://www.lang.ox.ac.uk/index.html

INSTITUTO CAMÕES, CENTRE FOR PORTUGUESE LANGUAGE
(41 Wellington Square)

Sponsored by the Portuguese Government and by the University of Oxford, the Instituto Camões Centre for Portuguese Language was founded in October 2001. It aims to promote the study of Portuguese History, Language, Literature and Culture, and to enhance and develop cultural and academic interchanges between Portuguese and British scholars and students. Undergraduates will have most of their language classes and some lectures at the Centre.

BRAZILIAN STUDIES AT THE LATIN AMERICAN CENTRE
(1 Church Walk, off the Woodstock Road):

The Latin American Centre offers a focal point for academics and students with an interest in Latin American Studies. It works closely with the Sub-Faculty of Portuguese and runs a Brazilian Studies programme, which includes courses, special seminars and workshops on Brazil within the disciplines of history, the social sciences, literature and geography. The Centre operates primarily as a forum for postgraduate research, but undergraduates are free to explore its academic programme and special events. The Centre has a lending library located at the same address. For further information visit: http://www.lac.ox.ac.uk
RECOMMENDED LANGUAGE BIBLIOGRAPHY

We recommend students consult a selection of the following grammar, language books and dictionaries in preparation for the Prelims examinations. A large number of Portuguese reference works are housed and may be consulted in the Taylorian Institute.

Grammars:


R.C. Willis, *An Essential Course in Modern Portuguese* (any edition). It might not look very user-friendly, but it is very comprehensive and will see you through to Finals, providing detailed explanations once you learn how to use its index.


Grammar Books with Self-Correcting Exercises:

Olga Mata Coimbra and Isabel Coimbra Leite, *Gramática ativa 1 and Gramática ativa 2* (Lisbon: Lidel). Indispensable for regular revision and consolidation of main grammatical points.


Leonel Melo Rosa, *Vamos lá continuar* (Lisbon: Lidel). Perhaps for slightly more advanced work, but offering coverage of vocabulary too.

Help with Verbs:

Sue Tyson-Ward, *Portuguese Verbs and Essentials of Grammar* (a practical guide to the mastery of Portuguese): very useful but not a substitute for a reference grammar (see above).

*Dicionário de Verbos Portugueses* (Porto Editora). More complete than most, but others like Hugo's *Portuguese Verbs Simplified* or *501 Portuguese Verbs* (Barron) are adequate.

Verb usage/with Prepositions:

H Ventura and M. Caseiro, *Dicionário prático de verbos*, (Lisbon, 1990). Valuable for checking which preposition(s) are used with any given verb.

Celso Luft, *Dicionário prático de regência verbal* (1987) (Brazilian Portuguese)


Monolingual Dictionaries:


Diccionário Houaiss da língua portuguesa, Brazilian Portuguese and European Portuguese. Available as an app for mobile devices.


Francisco da Silva Borba, Dicionário de usos do português do Brasil (São Paulo, Ática, 2002; good reference for usage of Brazilian Portuguese)

Bilingual Dictionaries:

Oxford Portuguese Dictionary (Oxford: OUP). Recent dictionary that is available online via SOLO.


Diccionário Inglês/Português Português/Inglês, Dicionários Académicos, (Porto: Porto Editora). This is quite basic, centres on continental Portuguese usage.

Novo Dicionário Michaelis English-Portuguese, Portuguese-English (São Paulo: Melhoramentos, 1958-61). This is the standard bilingual dictionary from Brazil.


Diccionário de português-inglês, (Porto: Porto Editora). Not as good as the English into Portuguese, but still useful.

ONLINE TOOLS

Dictionaries

http://www.priberam.pt/dlpo/dlpo.aspx (monolingual European Portuguese – also includes online Grammar)

http://www2.uol.com.br/michaelis/ (monolingual, Brazilian/Portuguese)

http://www1.uol.com.br/bibliot/index.htm (site has links to the Michaelis bilingual dictionaries – Eng-Port; Port-Eng)

The following links will provide you with invaluable linguistic and cultural exposure. You should aim to access Portuguese/Brazilian newspapers, as well as television and radio, on a regular basis.

Portuguese and Brazilian Newspapers:
www.publico.pt
www.expresso.pt
www.jn.pt
www.globo.com.br
www.estado.com.br

Some Brazilian radio and television channels:
http://redeglobo.globo.com
www.radiobras.gov.br
http://www.tvebrasil.com.br
http://www.radioeldoradofm.com.br
http://www.tvzuka.com/ (gives access to a number of TV channels)
http://www.mpbfm.com.br (Brazilian music)

Portuguese radio and television channels:
http://www.rtp.pt/
www.sic.pt
WHEN DRAWING UP THIS HANDBOOK WE HAVE TRIED TO BE AS ACCURATE AND CLEAR AS POSSIBLE.

THE EXAMINING CONVENTIONS – A SEPARATE DOCUMENT – DETAILS THE STRUCTURE OF EACH EXAMINATION PAPER, INCLUDING RUBRICS. SEE: https://weblearn.ox.ac.uk/portal/site/humdiv:modlang:portuguese:prelims


COURSES AND REGULATIONS ARE CONSTANTLY UNDER REVIEW, SO ALWAYS CHECK ALSO WITH YOUR COLLEGE TUTOR TO CONFIRM WHAT IS WRITTEN HERE AND IN THE EXAMINATION CONVENTIONS.

IN ADDITION, DO NOT HESITATE TO ASK FOR CLARIFICATION ABOUT THE COURSE FROM ANY MEMBER OF THE SUB-FACULTY WHO IS LECTURING TO YOU OR TUTORING YOU; WE WILL ALWAYS DO OUR BEST TO HELP.

Last revised: TT 2019