Please click the titles below for a brief description of the content of each of these lectures.

For lecture times please check the main online lecture list at:
https://weblearn.ox.ac.uk/access/content/group/modlang/general/lectures/index.html

*Always ensure to check the latest online lecture list on WebLearn for any changes to lectures during term time. Changes are shown in red.*

- French Morphology and Syntax (IV, V)
- Perspectives on the French Language (IV, V)
- Translating Old French Texts (IX (+XII))
- Writing Commentaries on Old French Texts (IX (+XII))
- Narrative Voices in Medieval French Texts (VI)
- Key Concepts in Medieval French Literature (VI, IX, XII)
- Villon (VI, IX)
- Molière (VII, X)
- Racine (VII, X)
- Romanticism: Writing and Revolution (VIII, XII)
- Flaubert (VIII, XI)
- Stéphane Mallarmé
- Sartre (XI, VI, VII, VIII)
- Barthes: towards post-structuralism (XI)
- Assia Djebar (XI, VIII, XII)
- Colonialism and Postcolonialism in French and Francophone Literature and Thought (VIII, XII)
- Poetry/Poetics/Poethics (VIII & XII (the first two lectures are also relevant to XI))
- Rupture and Reformulation: Twentieth-Century Experiments in Poetry and Prose (VIII)
- 20th/21st-Century Autobiography (XII, VIII, MSt)
- Women’s Writing (XII, VIII)

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French Morphology and Syntax (IV, V) / Dr Wolfe
In this series of lectures, we will explore the grammatical structure of both Standard French and its regional varieties. Topics covered will include gender, number, verb paradigms and word order. Some of the lectures will be supplemented with practical classes on syntactic tree drawing, which will be useful for both those taking French V and IV.

Perspectives on the French Language (IV, V) / Dr Temple
This course is relevant to Papers IV and V. It outlines the development of different perspectives on the French language tracing the tension between French as a heterogeneous or homogeneous object from its origins to the present. We shall examine the external history of French, the various perspectives of descriptive and prescriptive grammarians since the sixteenth century and the contrasting approaches of twentieth- and twenty-first-century linguistics.

Translating Old French Texts (IX (+XII)) / Prof. Marnette
This lecture course is aimed at students taking paper IX and/or some paper XII. We will translate together passages of the texts set for paper IX as well as a few passages of unseen texts. The first two lectures deal with Old French (i.e. *La Chanson de Roland*, Béroul's *Tristan* and others) and the third one with Middle French (i.e. Villon and others). Before attending the lecture course, it is advisable to watch the series of video podcasts by Dr Marnette covering a range of grammatical questions and other issues relating to the study of Old French (available on WebLearn).

Writing Commentaries on Old French Texts (IX (+XII)) / Prof. Marnette
This lecture course is aimed at students taking paper IX and/or papers XII dealing with Medieval French. The lectures outline strategies for writing literary commentaries about medieval French texts and offer specific examples of commentaries based on previous exam questions.

Narrative Voices in Medieval French Texts (VI) / Prof. Marnette
This lecture course reflects on the usefulness and the relevance of our modern notions of "author" and "narrator" for the study of medieval texts. For our discussion, we will adopt a stylistic approach of several medieval literary genres (chansons de geste, verse romances, lais, prose romances) and we will envisage questions that are specific to Old French literature such as the problem of textual origin, the evolution from oral performance to literary writing, the classification of literary genres, the position of the narrator, the - often multiple - point(s) of view through which the content of story worlds is filtered, the transposition from verse to prose, etc. This lecture course will be geared towards students taking paper VI (early period: 11th-13th centuries).

Key Concepts in Medieval French Literature (VI, IX, XII) / Dr Burrows
Reading Medieval French literature entails dealing with a number of questions not typically encountered in the study of texts from other periods. What is meant by oral composition, oral performance, and aural reception, and how may these concepts affect
our appreciation of written texts? Who precisely were clerics, and how can an understanding of their education and culture enhance our understanding of the literature of the period? What is the significance of phenomena such as *mouvance* and *remaniement* in the process of textual transmission? How useful is the idea of genre in the treatment of texts written at this time? This series of lectures will attempt to address these and other key questions that students inevitably face when tackling Medieval French literature.

**Villon (VI, IX) / Dr Burrows**

“‘Then Horse Ancestor said ‘This mind is Buddha.’ He also said ‘No mind is Buddha.’ Then finally talking about Great Plum his boy, ‘The plum is ripe.’”

“Well that's pretty interesting,” said Alvah, “but Ou sont les neiges d'antan?”

Kerouac’s citation in *The Dharma Bums* of the haunting refrain of Villon’s *Ballade des dames du temps jadis*, one of the most famous of the poems incorporated into his *Testament*, is significant. Not only does it highlight the extent to which François Villon – as much through a romanticised imagining of his unconventional and iconoclastic life as through his poetry – continues to fascinate modern audiences, but also the very context of the citation points to the enduringly evocative, elusive, and enigmatic quality of his work. This series of lectures will seek to shed light on one of the most challenging and stimulating writers of the late Middle Ages by considering his poetry in the context of the clerical culture and the social margins of fifteenth-century Paris.

**Molière (VII, X) / Dr Hawcroft**

Four lectures for those preparing French Paper VII or Paper X.

1. Performance
2. Speech and Action
3. Music and Spectacle
4. Comic Vision

There will be two commentary lectures later in the year.

**Racine (VII, X) / Dr Hawcroft**

This Four lectures for those preparing French Paper VII or Paper X.

1. Poetics, galanterie, tragedy, subject, plot, character
2. Poetics versus Metaphysics. From source to plot in *Andromaque*. Invented characters and *héros moyens*.

**Romanticism: Writing and Revolution (VIII, XII) / Various**

1. Origins, Conceptions, and definitions (Prof. Seth)
2. History and Politics (Dr Counter)
3. Poetry and Nature (Dr Lunn-Rockliffe)
4. Drama (Dr Nye)
5. Gothic and Dreams (Prof. Seth)
6. Romantic Geographies (Prof. Yee)
7. Romantic Sexualities (Dr Counter)
8. TBC

Flaubert (VIII, XI) / Dr Yee
These four lectures aim to help students approach Flaubert’s most well known texts in the context of his work more generally, concentrating on Madame Bovary, L’Éducation sentimentale of 1869, and the Trois contes. There will also be some discussion of Flaubert’s style which will be of use for close reading or commentary work as well as essays.

Stéphane Mallarmé / Prof. Lübecker
These four lectures will take us through key texts in Stéphane Mallarmé’s work, place this work in its historical and intellectual context, consider why Mallarmé became one the most influential French authors in the 20th century, and reflect on how Mallarmé’s writings speak to the contemporary situation. The lectures begin in week 2 and focus on the following topics: Week 2: The Crisis (Ontology); Week 3: The Marvellous Crisis (Poetics); Week 4: Mallarmé as a Cultural Historian; Week 5: Mallarmé in the 20th and 21st century. (Please consult WebLearn for more detailed information about the lectures).

Sartre (XI, VI, VII, VIII) / Dr Kemp
These lectures are designed to be useful to those studying Sartre as a prescribed author for Paper XI, as well as those exploring his work for other courses. The four lectures will focus in turn on Les Mouches, Les Séquestrés d’Altona, La Nausée and Les Mots.

Barthes: towards post-structuralism (XI) / Dr Bourne-Taylor
The lectures cover the prescribed texts in detail and beyond.

Assia Djebar (XI, VIII, XII) / Dr Marisi & Prof. Hiddleston
Assia Djebar is one of the most important Francophone writers, and was the first Algerian woman to be made a member of the Académie française in 2005. Despite the acclaim she has received in Europe and the US, however, her work offers a challenging critique of French colonialism and its aftermath, and contains a profound reflection on the ways in which literature is able to probe and question existing versions of colonial history. Djebar’s relationship with Algeria remains complex: she goes on to depict the ravages of the ‘civil war’ of the 1990s in her later work and she explores her simultaneous commitment to and alienation from her native land. In this course, you will study four of her most sophisticated works, which include recollections of the colonial invasion of Algeria, of the War of Independence, and of the violence of the 1990s, in particular from the point of view of the women caught up in it.
Lecture One: Femmes d’Alger dans leur appartement
Lecture Two: Le Blanc de l’Algérie
Lecture Three: L’Amour, la fantasia
Lecture Four: Nulle part dans la maison de mon père
Colonialism and Postcolonialism in French and Francophone Literature and Thought (VIII, XII) / Prof. Hiddleston & Ms Reza
1. Camus
2. Sartre
3. Fanon
4. Césaire
5. Sembène
6. Glissant

Poetry/Poetics/Poethics (VIII & XII (the first two lectures are also relevant to XI)) / Dr Bourne-Taylor
A panorama of modern & contemporary poetry/poetics/poethics from Baudelaire to Michel Deguy. The first two lectures are fairly general, harking back to Baudelaire, Rimbaud and Mallarmé, and covering the 20thC; the third one is devoted to Bonnefoy, the fourth one to Deguy.

Rupture and Reformulation: Twentieth-Century Experiments in Poetry and Prose (VIII) / Dr McLaughlin
This lecture series examines a series of formally innovative twentieth-century writing techniques that challenge existing conceptions of subjective, social, and worldly experience. The lectures examine texts in poetry and prose by Apollinaire, Breton, Ponge, Jaccottet, Bancquart, and Bonnefoy. Each lecture is focused on a key twentieth-century movement: Modernism, Surrealism, Existentialism/Materialism, the everyday, women’s writing, and ecocriticism. This is a useful survey course for any student who is studying twentieth-century topics for Paper VIII or more specialist papers.

20th/21st-Century Autobiography (XII, VIII, MSt) / Prof. Killeen and Prof. Maclachlan
These lectures, intended for those studying the Paper XII on Autobiography or autobiographical writing in the context of Paper VIII, or graduates taking the MSt special subject on Life Writing, will attempt to broach general issues in the theory and practice of autobiography by means of a series of individual case studies:
Week 1: Introduction to modern autobiography [MCK]
Week 2: The limits of a life – Leiris, L’Age d’homme [IM]
Week 3: The puzzle of identity – Peref, W ou le souvenir d’enfance [IM]
Week 4: On fiction, imposture and ventriloquism – Gary/Ajar, Pseudo [MCK]
Week 5: Autobiography encounters the Nouveau roman – Sarraute, Enfance [MCK]
Week 6: Fiction and testimony – Guibert, A l’ami qui ne m’a pas sauvé la vie [IM]
Week 7: The life of the text – Laporte, Une Vie, and des Forêts, Ostinato [IM]
Week 8: Autobiography in the 1st-person plural – Ernaux, Les Années [MCK]

Women’s Writing (XII, VIII) / Profs Garrod, Kemp, Killeen, Seth, Swift, Whidden
1. Helen Swift : Christine de Pizan: 'First Lady of the Middle Ages'?
2. Marie-Chantal Killeen: A Short Introduction to Feminist Criticism
3. Raphaële Garrod : 16th-century women’s writing
4. Catriona Seth: ‘Je lis La Princesse de Clèves’
5. Catriona Seth: Women and Revolution
6. Seth Whidden: French Women’s Poetry in the Nineteenth Century
7. Simon Kemp: Autobiography and French Women’s Writing
8. Simon Kemp: Contemporary women novelists