

French Sub-Faculty Lecture List 'Blurbs' for TRINITY TERM 2018

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.

- ❖ *La Chastelaine de Vergi* revision (Prelims, IV)
- ❖ History of French – Writing Commentaries (IV, V)
- ❖ Phonetic Transcription Revision (V)
- ❖ FHS Paper VI Revision
- ❖ FHS Paper IX Revision
- ❖ *La Chanson de Roland* (VI, IX, XII)
- ❖ Money and Status in Early Modern French Literature (VII, X)
- ❖ Eighteenth-Century Literary Style: Theory and Practice
- ❖ Diderot Commentaries (X)
- ❖ Thinking Matter, Writing on Diderot
- ❖ Baudelaire Commentaries (XI, VIII)
- ❖ *Les Fleurs du Mal* (VIII and XI)
- ❖ Naturalism, Decadence, and the *fin de siècle*

***La Chastelaine de Vergi* revision (Prelims, IV) / Prof. Marnette & others**

There will be animated debate amongst the medieval French tutors and we very much encourage you to bring your unresolved questions, digested thoughts, and fresh ideas to contribute to the discussion; the aim of the session is always for it to be fuelled by issues from the floor. Feel free to Tweet a question in advance to @MedFrenchOx if there's something in particular that you know you'd like us to cover.

We'll also direct you where to find information on WebLearn about medieval French FHS papers as you consider your options for next year and beyond.

History of French – Writing Commentaries (IV, V) / Dr Wolfe

These lectures will focus on the technique of commentary writing for Paper IV as well as offering general revision on the history of French. The final lecture in third week will also discuss exam technique?

Phonetic Transcription Revision (V) / Dr Temple

These are intended as revision sessions for finalists wishing to tackle the transcription question for Paper V (French Linguistics). After some brief recapping of basic phonetics, we'll move swiftly on to the transcription passages set for Paper V in 2006. Students may wish to prepare these in advance of the lectures.

NB it will not be possible to correct individual students' work, but we shall work through the transcriptions in some detail with plenty of opportunity for student comments and questions.

FHS Paper VI Revision / Medieval French Tutors

The medieval French tutors invite you to attend a collective revision session for the period paper. During the hour, we'll address issues of strategy and approach, and the session will be followed up by smaller group classes in subsequent weeks. Do bring any and all questions/uncertainties/anxieties -- remember that everyone is in the same boat, so your simmering question is doubtless shared by many others!

FHS Paper IX Revision / Medieval French Tutors

The medieval French tutors invite you to participate in a collective revision session for the prescribed texts paper. During the hour, we'll address issues of strategy and approach, and the session will be followed up by smaller group classes in subsequent weeks. Do bring any and all questions/uncertainties/anxieties -- remember that everyone is in the same boat, so your simmering question is doubtless shared by many others!

***La Chanson de Roland* (VI, IX, XII) / Dr Burrows**

During the Prussian siege of Paris in 1870, the inaugural lecture delivered by the eminent mediaevalist Gaston Paris at the Collège de France was entitled '*La Chanson de Roland et la nationalité française*', in which he argued for the crucial role that this song of epic deeds, composed nearly eight centuries earlier, had played in the formation of modern French national identity. This series of lectures will seek to elucidate various of the qualities which have secured for the text conserved in Oxford, Bodleian Library, Digby 23 such a distinguished position in French literary history to the present day. Topics covered will include narrative structure, oral composition and performance and aural reception, religious ideology, the crusading ethos, the treatment of history, and feudal preoccupations.

Money and Status in Early Modern French Literature (VII, X) / Dr Patterson

Four lectures outlining important social and economic historical backgrounds for the study of key early modern authors such as Rabelais, Ronsard, Montaigne, and Molière. These lectures will explore how early modern French literature feeds into but cannot be reduced to these contexts. We shall cover the impact of major wars, changes in the social hierarchy, social institutions, and financial crises.

Eighteenth-Century Literary Style: Theory and Practice / Prof. Nye

Intended for students studying the eighteenth century for Paper VII or VIII, Voltaire or Diderot for Paper X, or Rousseau for Paper XII. There will be one lecture each on the

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following authors: Diderot, Marivaux, Voltaire, and Rousseau. Why were these authors brilliant stylists in their time, and why are they still regarded as models today?

Diderot Commentaries (X) / Prof. Warman

In the first lecture we will look at perceptions of Diderot's style, at what he himself says about style, and measure all this against certain passages from the *Neveu de Rameau* and the *Rêve de d'Alembert* to see whether in fact they do display the sorts of characteristics we have deduced we should expect. The aim is to see whether we collectively and individually can draw up a check list of features of Diderot's style. The subsequent 3 lectures will look at 2 extracts per session, all taken from the prescribed texts but not from past papers: I will be handing three out in advance for students to prepare, whilst a further three will be unseen. The aim will always be to see the relationship between stylistic qualities and philosophical and fictional content.

Thinking Matter, Writing on Diderot / Prof. Tunstall

These two lecture-seminars would be of interest to undergrads and postgrads working on the French 18thc, the Enlightenment, Diderot, or on questions in material culture and the history of the book. The format is designed to allow for collective reading and for questions and discussion.

Baudelaire Commentaries (XI, VIII) / Prof. Morisi

These commentary lectures are mainly relevant for Paper XI, but will also be of interest to anyone studying Paper VIII and/or to students who wish to further hone their close reading skills. The first lecture will focus on a poem from *Les Fleurs du mal*. The second will be dedicated to the analysis of a prose poem from *Le Spleen de Paris*.

Les Fleurs du Mal (VIII and XI) / Dr Lunn-Rockliffe

This course of four lectures will begin by examining the texture of Baudelaire's verse, and include revision of key aspects of versification. Subsequent lectures will cover the structure of the collection, the use of dualities, approaches to nature, the idea of 'Correspondances', and representations of modernity and Paris.

Naturalism, Decadence, and the *fin de siècle* / Dr Counter

Naturalism, Decadence and the *fin de siècle*. In this series, we'll consider Émile Zola and Naturalism more broadly not in isolation, but as part of a literary field, in which literary writers absorbed discourses of science, religion, and sexuality in order to produce new cultural forms. We'll look at the close relationship between Naturalism and its supposed 'other', Decadence, as well as the tensions between them. The series finishes by considering how the period's cultural tensions came to a head during the Dreyfus Affair.