French Sub-Faculty Lecture List ‘Blurbs’ for TRINITY TERM 2019

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)**
- **Phonetic Transcription Revision (V)**
- **Béroul’s Tristan (VI & IX)**
- **FHS Paper VI Revision**
- **FHS Paper IX Revision**
- **The Debate about Women in the Middle Ages (VI, IX)**
- **Old French Fabliaux**
- **Money and Status in Early Modern French Literature (VII, X)**
- **Molière (Commentaries)**
- **Naturalism, Decadence, and the fin de siècle**
- **Récits de soi**
- **Researching and Writing a DPhil: Problems, Methods**

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**La Chastelaine de Vergi Revision (Prelims, IV) / Medieval French Tutors**

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.

**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.

Béroul’s Tristan (VI & IX) / Dr Swift

Béroul's version of the story of Tristan and Iseut is a key text in the early medieval romance genre, not least because of the way it raises questions about the structure and content of romance: there is a tale, but it is fragment; there are lovers, but are they in love? There's a court, but is it courtly? And what about the dwarf, the leper and the hermit? This *roman* has a strong flavour of irony and more than a whiff of *fabliau*. The lecture course will ask a number of questions, taking each main character (Tristan, Iseut, Mark) as a cue to address broader issues of theme and structure, as well as tackling major textual and contextual concerns: the treatment of love and the presentation of feudalism. The lectures are intended both for Paper IX, for which Tristan is a prescribed text, and for Paper VI, the medieval period paper, where the *Tristan* legend feeds into discussion of the genre of medieval romance.

The lecture course will be structured as follows:

Wk 1. Introduction: how to read Béroul?
Wk 2. Tristan I: in search of an identity
Wk 3. Tristan II: finding identities
Wk 4. Iseut: naïve or knowing?
Wk 5. Marc: senpres est ci, senpres est la
Wk 6. It must be love? contextualizing amor in Béroul

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!
The Debate about Women in the Middle Ages (VI, IX) / Dr Cooper

From the earliest troubadour poetry to the didactic texts of the fifteenth century, through the bawdy fabliaux and the at times explicitly anti-feminist Roman de la Rose, women form a hot topic in medieval literature. Although their roles in these texts are diverse, whether they function as love-objects or comic stock figures, courtly ladies or low-born countrywomen, they may all be viewed within the wider debate about the essential nature of women. The aim of this pair of lectures is firstly to provide general background on medieval misogyny and the situation of women in the Middle Ages, and second, to familiarise students with the pro- and anti-feminist arguments circulating in contemporary literature. For those who were active on the literary scene in the Middle Ages, it was very difficult not to participate in the debate about women; it is just as important for us to have an understanding of what the various participants in this debate had to say on the matter.

Old French Fabliaux / Prof. Burrows

Sex, violence, transvestism, scatology, blasphemy… With their motley cast of wanton wives, castrated priests, defecating peasants, and autonomous genitalia, the Old French fabliaux, a large body of short verse narratives composed in Northern France between the late twelfth and the mid-fourteenth century, are of singular importance to the development of comic literature in Western Europe during the Middle Ages, exerting a clear influence on, amongst others, the Middle French nouvelles, the Middle High German Mären, the Italian novelle, and, Chaucer's Canterbury Tales. In this series of lectures, we shall explore the various techniques that the fabliaux employ to entertain and enthral their audiences, and thereby come to recognise the creativity and sophistication which underlie their wilful and blatant transgressions. Topics to be covered include generic definition, narrative structure, didacticism, subversive language, parody, satire, and the treatment of the body.

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.

Molière (Commentaries) / Dr Hawcroft

Two lectures intended for finalists preparing Molière for paper X. They will serve as revision of the prescribed plays as well as offering examples of close reading.
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.

Récits de soi / Dr A Aloisi

This course is intended for undergraduates studying the 18th and 19th centuries for Paper VIII (Modern Literature, 1715 to the present), but it is open to any other typology of students who are interested in the topic.

It introduces aspects of modern French literature and culture by looking at different forms of autobiographical writings, in particular:

1) Rousseau, Les Confessions, Les Rêveries du promeneur solitaire
2) Maine de Biran, Journal
3) Stendhal, Journal, Souvenir d’égotisme, Vie de Henry Brulard
4) George Sand, Histoire de ma vie

Overarching themes are:

1) Confession or self-discovery? (Week 2)
2) Masks, Pseudonyms and Literary Performances (Week 3)
3) Childhood recollections (Week 4)
4) Melancholy (Medicine and Autobiography) (Week 5)
5) Vie personnelle, vie collective (Week 6)

The first week will be introductory. It will introduce the course aims and provide some historical, cultural and philosophical background concerning the emergence of ‘autobiography’ between the end of the 18th century and the beginning of the 19th century. The course also intends to discuss possible literary models, such as Saint Augustine, Montaigne and Alfieri, as well as comparative similarities with other literatures (e.g. Italian).

Researching and Writing a DPhil: Problems, Methods / Prof. Kenny

Tea served from 4.45pm. All DPhil students are welcome to attend, at any stage of the year, whatever year they are in, and whether or not they attended in previous terms or years. We discuss a wide range of problems, techniques, and methods that tend to arise in the researching and the writing of the kinds of doctorates done within the Faculty (with
the exception of linguistics, to which the workshop is less well geared). Apart from
perhaps giving a very brief presentation during the year, students do no preparation: they
just turn up.