

French Sub-Faculty Lecture List ‘Blurbs’ for TRINITY TERM 2020

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)**
- ❖ **Transcription Revision (Paper V)**
- ❖ **FHS Paper VI Revision**
- ❖ **FHS Paper IX Revision**
- ❖ **La chanson de Roland (Papers IX, VI)**
- ❖ **Key Contexts for Reading Medieval French Literature (VI and IX)**
- ❖ **Money and Status in Early Modern French Literature (PAPERS VII, X)**
- ❖ **The Body in French Renaissance Literature**
- ❖ **Molière Commentaries (X)**
- ❖ **Tartuffe and Athalie (VII, X)**
- ❖ **Poetry 1820-1898: Revolt and Invention**
- ❖ **Baudelaire Commentaries (XI, VIII)**
- ❖ **Researching and Writing a DPhil: Problems, Methods**

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.

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Transcription Revision (Paper 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 (Papers IX, VI) / Dr Grange

The Oxford version of the *Chanson de Roland*, whose unique text is found in the Bodleian Library, is a heroic tale of military prowess and moral anguish, whose poetry and searching profundity are perennially relevant. This lecture course explores many aspects of the text including its origins, its oral style, its narrator's voice, its ideological values and its fascinating characters: Roland, Olivier, Charlemagne, Ganelon, the Saracens...

Key Contexts for Reading Medieval French Literature (VI and IX) / Dr Cooper

This mini-series is designed as a follow on from Prof. Burrows' series, 'Key Concepts in Medieval French Literature'. Designed primarily with Paper VI in mind, it will also be of interest to those taking (or thinking of taking) Paper IX. Over the course of five lectures, we will explore some of the ways in which the cultural and historical landscape of the Middle Ages shaped the literary works that were being produced at the time. Some of

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these “key contexts” concern the environment within which the works were composed (such as the important historical events taking place and their impact on the wider culture), and others are to do with the ways contemporary audiences would have encountered and received them.

Together, we will think about who would have read the texts you will be studying and how that reading would have taken place. I will also introduce you to the captivating world of medieval visual culture. Our own experience of reading modern printed editions differs enormously from that of contemporary readers, and this series will give you the tools needed to understand those differences and why they matter, as well as help you to grasp the cultural and manuscript contexts of the works studied.

Money and Status in Early Modern French Literature (PAPERS 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.

The Body in French Renaissance Literature / Prof. Valerie Worth

Four lectures examining the multifarious representations of the body in writings of the French Renaissance (c. 1530-1630). The course is relevant for Papers VII, X (Rabelais and Montaigne) and Paper XII. The lectures will range across prose fiction (Rabelais, Marguerite de Navarre), discursive prose (Bruscambille, Henri Estienne, Montaigne) and poetry (Gabrielle Coignard, D’Aubigné, Catherine des Roches, Pernette Du Guillet Louise Labé, Ronsard, Scève), and will draw comparisons with some medical writings (Louise Bourgeois, Dalechamps, Joubert, Paré.) The lectures will not assume prior knowledge of any particular author.

Lecture plan:

Week 1: Textual representations of bodily ‘norms’ and ‘monstrosities’: humours, blood and bones

Week 2: Sexual and gendered bodies: dissecting the body, anatomical blasons, and sexually ambiguous bodies

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Week 3: The body, the mind and the imagination: locating the mind, the mind possessed or added, catching the mind in thought

Week 4: Religious conceptions of the body: mortal bodies, eternal souls?

Molière Commentaries (X) / Dr Hawcroft

Week 1 L’Ecole de femmes II.2

Week 2 Dom Juan V.5-6

Tartuffe and Athalie (VII, X) / Dr Hawcroft

A consideration of the different challenges of dealing with religion on the seventeenth-century French stage in comedy and tragedy.

Week 3: Tartuffe

Week 4 Athalie

Poetry 1820-1898: Revolt and Invention / Dr Lunn-Rockcliffe

This course offers an overview of the key issues shaping the development of poetry in nineteenth-century France: the social marginalization of the poet, the relationship between the real and the ideal, the problematization of the self, and, above all, the increasingly self-conscious use of language itself. Since these social, religious, and psychological preoccupations are expressed in a series of increasingly diverse experiments with poetic language, the survey will be based on close reading of a series of key poems. No prior knowledge is assumed and all texts will be provided.

The main poets discussed will be as follows:

- 1 Romantic renewals: Lamartine, Hugo, Marceline Desbordes-Valmore
- 2 Modernity: Baudelaire
- 3 Sensations: Rimbaud and Verlaine
- 4 Self-Consciousness and Irony: Mallarmé and Laforgue

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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 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*. The relevant poems will be posted on Weblearn so that you can read them ahead of the lectures.

Please read "Le crépuscule du matin" carefully ahead of the first lecture and "Le joujou du pauvre" ahead of the second.

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.