**Jesus College, Oxford**

**Subject Notes:**
**HISTORY AND ENGLISH**

**Academic Staff**

**Fellows**

**Professor Patricia Clavin** is a Fellow and Tutor in History at Jesus. She has written books on the history of international economic diplomacy between the two world wars, the history of the Great Depression in Europe, a history of Europe from 1789 to the present (with Asa Briggs), and edited a history of Internationalism in the Twentieth Century (with Glenda Sluga). She has also published some thirty articles and book chapters on the international history of the twentieth century. Her book *Securing the World Economy. The Reinvention of the League of Nations, 1920-1946*, published by Oxford University Press in 2013, was awarded the British Academy Medal. Her latest book project, supported by a grant from the Leverhulme Trust, explores the history of human security in the twentieth century. Patricia teaches the history of Britain and Europe in the nineteenth and twentieth centuries, and offers specialist teaching on the history of the two world wars and the history of international and transnational co-operation in the twentieth century.

**Dr Alexandra Gajda** is also a Fellow and Tutor in History at Jesus. She read history at New College. She researched her D.Phil in Oxford under the supervision of Susan Brigden and was a JRF at St. Anne’s College, Oxford. She has taught at Royal Holloway, University of London, and at the University of Birmingham where she also served as head of the Centre for Reformation and Early Modern Studies. She has written on the political, religious and intellectual history of early modern Britain and Europe and her book *The Earl of Essex and Late Elizabethan Political Culture* was published in the Oxford Historical Monographs Series in 2012. Alexandra teaches sixteenth- and seventeenth-century British and European history, with specialisms on Tudor politics and religion, and literature and politics in the early modern period. She is currently writing a book about the evolution of the parliaments of the British Isles during the Reformation.


**Professor Marion Turner** teaches the Old and Middle English papers (roughly the 7th to the 16th centuries), and has particular interests in late-medieval secular literature, especially Chaucer. Her first book – *Chaucerian Conflict* was published by Oxford University Press in 2007 and she has also published many articles on Chaucer, Usk, and late-medieval political texts. In 2013, she published an edited collection about the relationship between critical theory and medieval literature: *A Handbook of Middle English Studies* (Blackwell), and she is currently working on a biography of Chaucer for Princeton University Press. She is interested in literature and medicine, and is contributing an article to and editing a special issue of the Journal of Medieval and Early Modern Studies about medical discourse in pre-modern Europe. In 2015-2016 she held a British Academy Mid-Career Fellowship.
Lecturers

Dr Thomas Brodie joined Jesus College in Michaelmas Term 2015 as a Departmental Lecturer in Modern History. He studied for an undergraduate degree at Hertford College, Oxford between 2006 and 2009, and was inspired to become a historian of modern Germany. He completed an MSt and DPhil at Hertford between 2009 and 2014, focusing on the social and cultural histories of German society during the Second World War, and specifically, the roles played by religious belief and practice in shaping Germans' attitudes towards the conflict and the Nazi regime. Thomas teaches a range of papers about modern European and global history.

Dr Conrad Leyser is a Fellow and Tutor in History at Worcester College. His interests lie in the religious and social history of the Latin West, 300-1100; law, memory and narrative.

Dr Owen Holland is a Career Development Lecturer in English. He teaches for Prelims Paper Ib, paper 3 and paper 4. He is currently working on two main projects: a monograph on William Morris's utopianism and a study of the cultural reception of the Paris Commune in Britain between 1871 and 1914. More widely, he is interested in critical theory – particularly cultural materialism – and interdisciplinary approaches to literary criticism.

Dr Steven Kaye is a lecturer in English. He teaches the Introduction to English Language, and his research interests include Indo-European linguistics; morphological theory; documentation and the description of endangered languages.

About the Course

History and English is a Joint School which allows undergraduates to inform themselves about, and to participate in, many of the most exciting theoretical and practical debates in historical and literary studies. It is a challenging course covering many of the areas where the latest research is transforming the parent Schools.

Both the History and English tutors are committed to interdisciplinary teaching and research, and to the expansion of the Joint School. Dr Kewes is Chair of the Joint Standing Committee for History and English and both she and Dr Gajda teach interdisciplinary bridge papers for History and English.

Teaching takes the form of tutorials and classes, many of which will be organized and taken by the Fellows and Lecturers of the College. You will also receive tuition from Fellows and Lecturers of other colleges, especially on the History side of the course. Attendance at, and production of work for, tutorials and classes is compulsory, and must be given priority over all other activities. The University organizes courses of lectures which cover the syllabus, but which are not compulsory, and which are not designed to prepare candidates for a particular examination paper. Tutors will, however, be happy to advise undergraduates concerning which lectures are likely to prove most beneficial.

The first year examination is taken in June at the end of the first year. On the History side, candidates must offer a period of British history, and either an optional subject, chosen from a wide range of options; or a paper on historical methods Historiography: Tacitus to Weber. On the English side, two papers must be offered. The first of these is An Introduction to English Language and Literature which also includes an interdisciplinary component. For the second paper, candidates may choose Victorian Literature, Modern Literature or Early Medieval Literature. All papers are taught through a mix of tutorials, small classes, and faculty lectures. The examination is intended only to consolidate your work at the end of the first year and the result does not count towards the final degree classification.

In your second year you will study one interdisciplinary paper (chosen from two options) which enables you to bring together the literary and historical approaches to evidence. This paper is taught by historians and literary specialists in shared university classes. One such course offered at present is Representing the City, 1558-1640, which is co-taught by Dr Paulina Kewes and Dr Ian Archer. The five
other papers have to include a history period and a period of literature and then more specialist options drawn from one or other side of the syllabus. Students may include options from English Course II which specializes in early language and literature. You will also write an interdisciplinary dissertation.

The Final Examination (FHS) is taken at the end of three years. Candidates take seven papers in total.

Cultural and Intellectual Life

Students at Jesus find themselves welcomed into a serious, lively, and good-humoured academic community with every opportunity to discuss their thoughts in tutorials, seminars, and College events. Students reading for the joint school of History and English enjoy the benefits of two subject societies:

The Herbert English Society provides a forum for exchange of ideas and discussion of literature, criticism, and the arts. The Society invites poets, playwrights, novelists, academics, journalists, and cultural historians. Our recent speakers have included Marina Warner, Philip Pullman, Bernard O'Donoghue, Craig Raine, Hermione Lee, Sally Shuttleworth, William St Clair, Blair Worden and the acclaimed poet Geoffrey Hill.

Jesus College students also run a lively History association, the J. R. Green Society, which is the oldest student History Society in Oxford. It hosts informal talks and organises a number of social events each year. Recent speakers have included Ian Kershaw, Peter Heather, Martin Kemp, Rana Mitter, Hew Strachan, Peter Hennessey and Faramerz Dabhoiwala.

Joint Schools

History and English can be taken as separate degree courses.

Admissions

Successful candidates will read widely, will enjoy writing and talking about history, literature and language, and will be interested in pursuing a comparative approach to historical and literary texts. Candidates are selected on the basis of academic record (e.g. GCSEs) and potential, as shown by their UCAS reference, submitted written work, performance in the History Aptitude Test (HAT) and in interviews if shortlisted.

Written test: All candidates must take the History Aptitude Test (HAT) in schools on Thursday 2 November 2017. The HAT is administered by Cambridge Assessment Admissions Testing, and the registration deadline is 15 October 2017. The HAT will comprise two passages for commentary, and will be used to help to determine which candidates will be interviewed. For further details, please see: http://www.admissionstestingservice.org/our-services/subject-specific/hat/about-hat/

* Please note that candidates for History and English are NOT required to take the English Literature Admissions Test (ELAT), as they take the History Aptitude Test instead. *

Written work: For History, candidates will be asked to submit one piece of written work, which will be used for discussion at interview. For English, candidates are required to submit two recent essays.

Candidates will usually be given at least two interviews, one with the History tutor or tutors in the college, and one with the English tutor or tutors. In the English interview, the candidate may be asked to discuss a piece of prose or verse, provided before or at the interview.

In a total College entry of about 100 undergraduates, 8 are offered places in a typical year to read History and related joint schools.
Offers made to pre-A level candidates will be conditional upon A-level results (normally AAA, with an A in History and an A in English literature or English Language & Literature). Offers made to post-A level candidates will usually be unconditional.

**Deferred Entry**: Applications for deferred entry to Jesus College are welcomed. You must apply for deferred entry at the time of application to Oxford: you cannot change your mind after an offer has been made. Please refer to departmental web sites for subject-specific advice. You should be aware that applicants who are offered places for deferred entry will generally be among the strongest of the cohort for their subject. We would not usually offer more than one or two deferred places per subject in order not to disadvantage the following year’s candidates. In some cases, an applicant for deferred entry may be offered a place for non-deferred entry instead. If you require any further advice, please contact the Admissions Officer via admissions.officer@jesus.ox.ac.uk

**Postgraduate Studies and Careers**

The Faculty of History offers a range of taught graduate courses at master's level and two research programmes leading to the degrees of Master of Letters or Doctor of Philosophy. In addition to the traditional fields in political, social, and cultural history, History at Oxford embraces more specialised areas, such as medieval history, economic and social history, the history of science, medicine, and technology, and the history of art.

Jesus has a thriving community of graduate students in English, and we are actively expanding our postgraduate intake. We welcome applicants for the following postgraduate courses in English:

- MLitt or DPhil in English Language and Literature
- M.St. English Language and Literature (650 -1550)
- M.St. English Language and Literature (1550-1700)
- M.St. English Language and Literature (1660-1830)
- M.St. English Language and Literature (1800-1914)
- M.St. English Language and Literature (1900- Present)
- M.St. English and American Studies
- M.Phil. Medieval Studies

Although the History and English degree is not vocational in any strict sense (and many students undertake the course for reasons of sheer intellectual pleasure) it does equip students with a set of transferable skills applicable to many careers.

Historians are used to the sifting of large quantities of often conflicting information; they are skilled in the evaluation of differing interpretations; they are trained in presenting complex issues in a lucid and convincing fashion; their verbal and critical skills are highly developed. These qualities have enabled generations of Oxford historians to excel in a wide range of careers. Oxford historians typically move on to careers in business, the law, investment banking and consultancies, advertising, accountancy, the civil service, publishing, journalism and the media, global charity work, museums, librarianship and archive work, and teaching.

**Preliminary Reading and Further Information**

Further information about History and English at Oxford can be found on the faculty websites at:

- [www.history.ox.ac.uk](http://www.history.ox.ac.uk)
- [www.english.ox.ac.uk](http://www.english.ox.ac.uk)

Information about Admissions is available at: [http://www.ox.ac.uk/admissions/undergraduate/courses-listing/history-and-english](http://www.ox.ac.uk/admissions/undergraduate/courses-listing/history-and-english)
Contact details

If you have any questions about our entrance requirements, or about applying to study at Jesus College, please contact the Admissions Officer:

Tel: 01865 279721
Email: admissions.officer@jesus.ox.ac.uk
Web: www.jesus.ox.ac.uk/study-here

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