

Jesus College, Oxford

Subject Notes: ENGLISH AND MODERN LANGUAGES



Academic Staff

Fellows

Dr Paulina Kewes (Associate Professor), Fellow and Tutor in English, teaches English literature from the Renaissance to the Romantics, including Shakespeare. Paulina's research interests are in early modern literature (especially drama), history, and politics. Her publications include *Authorship and Appropriation: Writing for the Stage in England, 1660-1710* (1998) and several edited or co-edited volumes: *Plagiarism in Early Modern England* (2003), *The Uses of History in Early Modern England* (2006), *The Oxford Handbook of Holinshed's Chronicles* (2013), *Doubtful and Dangerous: The Question of Succession in Late Elizabethan England* (2014) as well as numerous articles on Shakespeare, Dryden, early modern drama, translation, plagiarism, historical writings, and royal iconography. Her current projects include a monograph on the Elizabethan succession for Oxford University Press, and two edited volumes: *The Literature of Stuart Successions* (with Andrew McRae) and *Ancient Rome and Early Modern England: History, Literature, and Political Imagination*.

Dr Marion Turner (Associate Professor), Fellow and Tutor in English, 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.

Professor Katrin Kohl is a Fellow and Tutor in German. She teaches German literature from 1750. Her research focuses on poetry and poetics, and on the theory and practice of metaphor. Currently she is on research leave, leading an interdisciplinary research project on Creative Multilingualism for the Faculty of Medieval and Modern Languages.

Dr Caroline Warman, Fellow and Tutor in French. She teaches eighteenth- and nineteenth-century French literature and thought. Her first book was about Sade and the philosophy of materialism; she is now working on Diderot and theories of consciousness in the 1790s. She has translated the novels of Isabelle de Charrière, *The Nobleman and Other Romances* (2012) and co-translated Diderot's *Rameau's Nephew* (2014). She co-ordinated the translation by 102 Oxford students and tutors of *Tolerance: The Beacon of the Enlightenment*, an anthology of texts from the eighteenth century which was published in January 2016 and has since been downloaded all over the world more than 20,000 times. Her language teaching specialises in translation into and out of French.

Lecturers

Dr Owen Holland, is a Career Development Lecturer in English. He teaches for Prelims Paper 1b, 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 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.

Dr Julie Curtis, a Fellow of Wolfson College, is a Lecturer in Russian for Jesus. Her research interests lie in twentieth-century Russian literature, especially Mikhail Bulgakov and Evgenii Zamiatin. She has also published on the literature of the Gorbachov era.

Dr Kirstin Gwyer is a Departmental Lecturer in German at Jesus. She teaches German literature from the eighteenth century to the present, with a special interest in twentieth- and twenty-first-century prose fiction, and translation into and out of German. Her research interests are in the first-generation Holocaust novel, contemporary German-Jewish and American-Jewish literature, German memory writing since 1945, and postmodernism and post-postmodernism.

Dr Elena Lombardi, a Fellow of Balliol College, is a Lecturer in Italian for Jesus College. Her teaching interests focus on Dante, early Italian poetry, and Medieval Studies.

Dr Daniela Omlor, Fellow in Spanish at Lincoln College, also looks after Jesus students. Her research focuses on contemporary Spanish literature, with a particular emphasis on memory, trauma and exile. Her first book examined the role of memory and self-representation in the works of Jorge Semprún. Currently, she is exploring the interaction between memory and fiction in recent novels by Javier Cercas, Javier Marías and Antonio Muñoz Molina and others, in order to investigate how the recovery of historical memory in Spanish novels increasingly extends beyond the Spanish Civil War.

About the Course

English and Modern Languages is a course designed to give students the opportunity to investigate and reflect on the literary and linguistic relations between Great Britain and the continent. Professor Kohl is the overall co-ordinator for English and Modern Languages. In this role she discusses subject choices with each undergraduate in order to ensure that the two sides of the course complement each other in accordance with the student's interests.

N.B. English and Modern Languages is a four year course including a compulsory year abroad during the third year.

Both the English and the Modern Languages Faculties at Oxford are among the largest in the country, and include major scholars in all areas of the respective subjects. Students thus have the opportunity to receive teaching from a range of expert tutors. Library provision at Oxford is excellent: all students have access to the English Faculty Library, the Taylor Institution Library (for modern languages), the Bodleian Library and their own college libraries. Both faculties have well-equipped computer rooms and all colleges have computing facilities.

Teaching takes the form of tutorials and classes, which will usually be organized and taken by the Fellows and Lecturers of the College (although those pursuing some of the more specialized options may receive tutorials from an outside tutor). 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. Tutors will, however, be happy to advise undergraduates concerning which lectures are likely to prove most beneficial.

Two main courses are available for the English section of the syllabus. Course I (which most candidates will take) offers the usual range of literary options, while Course II allows more specialization in early periods of languages and literature.

The Preliminary Examination is taken after three terms. On the Modern Languages side, candidates are

required to offer two language examinations ('papers'), and two literature papers on prescribed books. On the English side, two papers must be offered. The first of these is *An Introduction to Language and Literature*. 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 third year of the course is spent abroad, with most students taking a posting as an 'assistant' in a foreign school. On your return, you may choose from options including special author papers and special topic papers in both English and your modern language.

The Final Examination, taken at the end of four years, allows great flexibility on both sides of the course. On the Modern Languages side there are compulsory papers in translation from and into the language, as well as an oral examination. Two further Modern Languages papers must be offered, again chosen from a wide range of literary and linguistic options. Candidates also select three subject papers from the English side; one of these may be an interdisciplinary paper. All candidates also complete a dissertation, which can be on an interdisciplinary topic.

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. All English and Modern Languages students are, by default, members of the **Herbert English Society**, which 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.

Joint Schools

English and Modern Languages can also be studied as individual degree subjects.

Admissions

Written tests: All candidates must take the Modern Languages Admissions Test (MLAT) and the English Literature Admissions Test (ELAT) on **Thursday 2 November 2017**. Please note that separate registration is required for each of the two tests and the deadline for doing this is **15 October 2017**. For further details about the ELAT, please see: <http://www.admissionstestingservice.org/our-services/subject-specific/elat/about-elat/>

Candidates may also be required to take a **language-specific test** on the same date (if currently studying the language to A2 level or equivalent). For details about this, please consult the following webpage - <http://www.ox.ac.uk/admissions/undergraduate/applying-to-oxford/tests> - and click on 'check the requirements for your course' in the Modern Languages section. The language tests consists of a monolingual exercise and a number of non-consecutive sentences for translation from and into the language, and are primarily intended to test knowledge of basic grammar rather than vocabulary.

Written work: Candidates are required to submit one recent essay on an English literature topic. This should be a marked essay produced in the normal course of your school or college work. It should not be rewritten and it should not be a short timed essay, piece of creative writing, or critical commentary. Candidates are also required to submit one piece of school or college work written *in the language they are applying for* (if currently studied).

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 written tests and in interviews if shortlisted. In a total College entry of about 100 undergraduates, 6 are offered places in a typical year to read English or English and Modern Languages. It is essential to study A2 Level English Literature (or English

Language and Literature), or equivalent in other qualification systems. Offers made to pre-A level candidates will be conditional upon A2 level results (normally AAA, with an A in English Literature and an A in the language to be taken, if currently studied). 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 Graduate School of the Oxford Faculty of English is large and dynamic. The following degrees are offered at postgraduate level:

- MLitt or DPhil in English Language and Literature
- MSt English Language and Literature (650 -1550)
- MSt English Language and Literature (1550-1700)
- MSt English Language and Literature (1660-1830)
- MSt English Language and Literature (1800-1914)
- MSt English Language and Literature (1900- Present)
- MSt English and American Studies
- MPhil Medieval Studies

Oxford has a large, varied, and active teaching and research community in Modern Languages. There are over ninety members of the Faculty, with research interests spread across the full chronological range of the languages and into most areas of linguistics and literary study. The College welcomes applicants for the following degrees in Medieval and Modern Languages:

- MSt, MPhil or DPhil Medieval and Modern Languages
- MSt, MPhil or DPhil Celtic Studies
- MSt or MPhil Slavonic Studies
- MSt Women's Studies
- MSt Yiddish Studies

Beyond the subject-specific aims, the undergraduate course trains students' critical faculties and gives them a wide range of other 'transferable skills'. Students learn to organise their time and cope with working under pressure, and the course provides intensive training in communication skills: weekly essays demand quick assimilation of material and foster writing skills, while discussion in tutorials and classes develops confidence in presenting an independent view clearly and comprehensibly.

Graduates in English and Modern Languages go on to a great variety of careers, including broadcasting, publishing, teaching, journalism, acting, administration, management, advertising, translation, librarianship and law.

Preliminary Reading and Further Information

Further information about English and Modern Languages at Oxford can be found on the faculty websites at www.english.ox.ac.uk and www.mod-langs.ox.ac.uk

Information about Admissions is available at <http://www.ox.ac.uk/admissions/undergraduate/courses-listing/english-and-modern-languages>

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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