Jesus College, Oxford

Subject Notes
CLASSICS AND ENGLISH

Academic Staff

Classics


Dr Cressida Gaukroger is a Departmental Lecturer in Philosophy and Lecturer in Philosophy. She works in Ethics, Philosophy of Mind and Psychology, Early Modern Philosophy, and Philosophy of Language.

Dr Aneurin Ellis-Evans, Lecturer in Ancient History (based at Oriel), is author of The Kingdom of Priam: Lesbos and the Troad between Anatolia and the Aegean (2019), and is researching the history of literary production in the Greek city-states of the Hellenistic period.

Dr Melinda Letts, College Tutor in Latin and Greek Languages, undertakes the language teaching required for students; both reinforcing their A-level classical languages and those starting from scratch.

English

Professor Paulina Kewes, 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), Stuart Succession Literature: Moments and Transformations as well as numerous articles on Shakespeare, Dryden, early modern drama, translation, plagiarism, historical writings, and royal iconography.

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.

Dr Owen Holland is a Career Development Lecturer in English. He teaches the nineteenth and twentieth century period papers for Prelims, as well as Section B of Paper I: Introduction to English Language and Literature.

About the Course

Classics and English is a course designed to give students the opportunity to continue their study of both Classics and English, and in particular to investigate and reflect on the literary and linguistic relations between Great Britain and the classical civilizations of Greece and Rome. It brings together three of the most important world languages and many of the texts which have exerted the most powerful influence over Western culture.

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, 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, Honour Moderations, is taken after three terms. Candidates must offer the following five papers:

- An Introduction to English Language and Literature
- Early Modern English Literature 1550 - 1660
- Unseen Translation [candidates may offer either Latin, or Greek, or both]
- Greek and Latin Literature 1 (translation and comment)
- Greek and Latin Literature 2 (literary essays)

The Final Examination (FHS), taken at the end of three years, allows great flexibility on both sides of the course, as well as providing extensive opportunity for candidates to explore the relations between the two sides of the course. Candidates take two papers from the parent School of English, chosen from a wide range of periods and options (which may include one option from English Course II covering early periods of language and literature); two similar papers (i.e. topics or periods) drawn from the field of classical studies; and two 'link' papers.

All students take the Epic link papers, and then choose one out of

- Epic
- Tragedy
- Reception

Candidates must also write a dissertation, which is often (but not necessarily) related to an interdisciplinary theme.

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. 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. Recent speakers have included the Booker Prize-winning author Ben Okri, Marina Warner, Philip Pullman, Bernard O'Donoghue, Craig Raine, Hermione Lee, Sally Shuttleworth, William St Clair, Blair Worden, and the acclaimed poet Geoffrey Hill.

Admissions

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, 4 or 5 are offered places in a typical year to read Classics and joint schools.

Academic requirements: Offers made to candidates will be conditional upon A-level results (AAA including grade A in English Literature or English Language and Literature and a grade A in the classical languages, if currently studied) or equivalent qualifications. Applications from students taking equivalent examinations such as the International Baccalaureate are welcome. Applicants studying both classical languages to A2-Level, or only one, are equally welcome, as are those who may have only studied to GCSE level (who follow the Course II option).
Written tests: Candidates must take the **Classics Admissions Test (CAT)** and also the **English Literature Admissions Test (ELAT)** in schools on **30 October 2019**. Please note that these tests are administered by Cambridge Assessment Admissions Testing; separate registration is required and the deadline for doing this is **15 October 2019**.

Further details of these tests can be found at:

- CAT - [http://www.ox.ac.uk/admissions/undergraduate/applying-to-oxford/tests/cat](http://www.ox.ac.uk/admissions/undergraduate/applying-to-oxford/tests/cat)
- ELAT - [http://www.ox.ac.uk/admissions/undergraduate/applying-to-oxford/tests/elat](http://www.ox.ac.uk/admissions/undergraduate/applying-to-oxford/tests/elat)

Written work: Candidates should submit two pieces of written work, one relevant to English, and one relevant to Classics. Those applying for Course II may submit two essays in areas relevant to English or Classics. The deadline to submit written work is **10 November 2019**. Further information can be viewed here: [https://www.ox.ac.uk/admissions/undergraduate/applying-to-oxford/guide/written-work](https://www.ox.ac.uk/admissions/undergraduate/applying-to-oxford/guide/written-work)

Deferred Entry: Applications for deferred entry to Jesus College are accepted. 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 deferred place 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

In Oxford there is a larger concentration of teachers of classical subjects, and of graduate students, than anywhere else in the world. The following degrees are offered at postgraduate level:

- M.St (1 year) or MPhil (2 years) Greek and/or Latin Language and Literature
- M.St or MPhil Greek and/or Roman History
- DPhil Classics

The Graduate School of the Oxford Faculty of English is large and dynamic. The following degrees are offered at postgraduate level:

- 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 (1700-1830)
- M.St. English Language and Literature (1830-1914)
- M.St. English Language and Literature (1900- Present)
- M.St. English and American Studies
- M.Phil. English Studies (Medieval Period)
- M.St. World Literatures in English

Graduates in Classics and English go on to a wide variety of careers, including broadcasting, teaching, journalism, acting, management, advertising, librarianship and law, or have continued further study in their subject.
Preliminary Reading and Further Information

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

• www.classics.ox.ac.uk
• www.english.ox.ac.uk

Information about Admissions is available on the University website at:
http://www.ox.ac.uk/admissions/undergraduate/courses-listing/classics-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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