

Jesus College, Oxford

Subject Notes CLASSICS AND ENGLISH



Academic Staff

Classics

Professor Armand D'Angour is Fellow and Tutor in Classics, and author of *The Greeks and the New: Novelty in ancient Greek imagination and experience* (2011) and *Socrates in Love: The Making of a Philosopher* (2019). He has also co-edited (with Tom Phillips) *Music, Text, and Culture in Ancient Greece* (2018) and presented an online film 'Rediscovering ancient Greek music' (Youtube).

Dr Joe Cunningham is a Career Development Lecturer in Philosophy. He works in and teaches Logic, Moral Philosophy, Philosophy of Mind, Philosophy of Religion, Philosophy of Language, Ethics, Early Modern Philosophy, and Philosophy of Cognitive Science.

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, and she is a Fellow of the Royal Historical Society. 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* (2019) as well as numerous articles on Shakespeare, Dryden, early modern drama, translation, plagiarism, historical writings, royal iconography, and political thought. She is currently writing the first interdisciplinary study of debates about the royal succession in the period from Henry VIII's death in 1547 to the accession of James VI/I and union of the English and Scottish crowns in 1603, from a comparative British and European perspective. The book is contracted to Oxford University Press.

Professor Marion Turner, Fellow and Tutor in English, teaches literature from 650-1550. Her biography of Chaucer – *Chaucer: A European Life* – was published by Princeton University Press in 2019 and shortlisted for the Wolfson History Prize 2020. Her other publications include *Chaucerian Conflict* (2007) and *A Handbook of Middle English Studies* (2013), and she also works on literature and medicine and on life-writing. Her current book project, supported by the Leverhulme Trust, is about medieval women, focusing on Chaucer's *Wife of Bath* across time. Marion is committed to public engagement and outreach, and frequently speaks in schools, at literary festivals, and on television and radio.

Dr Amanda Holton, Stipendiary Lecturer in English Language, teaches a paper on the English language at Jesus. She also teaches literature from 650 to 1550. Her principal research interests and publications are in Chaucer, the medieval and sixteenth-century love lyric, and poetics, with an emphasis on how form precedes and generates meaning. She is interested in interrogating the agendas which drive the taxonomy of poetic form, and in challenging the division still made between medieval and early modern literature.

Dr William Ghosh, Career Development Fellow in English, teaches Victorian and Modern literature and literary theory at Jesus. His research explores the literature and intellectual history of Britain and the Caribbean in the twentieth century. His interests include comparative literature, critical theory, linguistics, and prose forms.

Dr Ayoush Lazikani is a Departmental Lecturer during Professor Marion Turner's leave. She is a SEDA-accredited tutor, teaching and lecturing in Old English and Middle English. As a researcher, Ayoush works in the history of emotions, specializing in devotional writing of the eleventh to thirteenth centuries. Her research considers English, Anglo-Norman, and Latin texts, and she has particular interests in literature written for religious recluses. Ayoush's first book, *Cultivating the Heart: Feeling and Emotion in Twelfth- and Thirteenth-Century Religious Texts* (University of Wales Press, 2015), studied the languages of feeling—especially the interrelated affections of compassion, love, and sorrow—in texts and church wall paintings. Her second book, *Emotion in Christian and Islamic Contemplative Texts, c. 1100-1250*, is due to be published in 2021.

Professor Peter Davidson is Senior Research Fellow at Campion Hall and teaches renaissance, baroque and romantic literature for Jesus College. He has edited the seventeenth century poet Richard Fanshawe for OUP, as well as the two Oxford anthologies, *Poetry and Revolution*, and *Early Modern Women Poets*. His study of early-modern international culture *The Universal Baroque* was published in 2007. He is general editor for the *Oxford Edition of the works of St Robert Southwell*. He has wide interests in early modern cultural history and also teaches for History of Art. He has taught the Epic bridge paper for Classics and English, and has supervised for History and English. He has another identity as a writer of literary non-fiction and verse: *The Idea of North* (2005); *The Palace of Oblivion* (2008); *Distance and Memory* (2013); *the Last of the Light* (2015).

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 **4 November 2020**. 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 2020**. Further details of these tests can be found at:

- 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>

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 2020**. Further information can be viewed here: <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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