### Job Description and selection criteria

FACULTY OF MEDIEVAL AND MODERN LANGUAGES

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Job title</th>
<th>Departmental Lecturer in Medieval French</th>
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<td>Division</td>
<td>Humanities Division</td>
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<tr>
<td>Department</td>
<td>Faculty of Medieval and Modern Languages (in association with St Hilda’s College)</td>
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<td>College</td>
<td>St Hilda’s College</td>
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<tr>
<td>Grade and salary</td>
<td>Grade 7: £32,817 - £40,322 (with discretionary range to £44,045) per annum</td>
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<tr>
<td>Hours</td>
<td>Full time</td>
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<tr>
<td>Contract type</td>
<td>Fixed-term (1 September 2020 until 31 August 2021)</td>
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<td>Reporting to</td>
<td>Chair of the Medieval and Modern Languages Faculty Board &amp; St Hilda’s Senior Tutor</td>
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<td>Vacancy reference</td>
<td>145091</td>
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<td>Additional information</td>
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The role

This post is to replace Dr Helen Swift while she takes on the duty of University Assessor.

The post will involve advanced teaching and independent academic research in French. The successful candidate will contribute to the teaching of Medieval French within the Sub-Faculty of French by offering sixteen hours of lectures or seminars over the course of the year. Some of the undergraduate lectures might be substituted with participating in the teaching of Medieval French Literature for the M. St. in Modern Languages or the M. St. in Medieval Studies. The current term’s Lecture List, for illustrative purposes, can be found at https://weblearn.ox.ac.uk/portal/site/humdiv:modlang

The successful candidate will also be responsible for providing eight hours a week of undergraduate tuition in Medieval French literature. They will be expected to give undergraduate tutorials and classes for the Preliminary Examination (= first year of degree course) on the Chastelaine de Vergi (for Paper IV), and for the Final Honour School (= second and fourth years of degree course) on Medieval French literature for the period of literature 1100-1530 (Paper VI), on the prescribed texts covered in Paper IX, and on the Special Subject Paper XII on Medieval Subjectivities: The Lyric I Across Boundaries; and to supervise extended or bridging essays as appropriate. The place of these Papers in the French Prelim and FHS curricula can be seen in the Appendix below.

To complement existing teaching provision in Medieval French (Professor Daron Burrows in Michaelmas and Hilary Terms, and Professor Sophie Marnette in Trinity Term), it would be strongly desirable for the successful candidate to have particular expertise in the later medieval period (1300-1530).

Responsibilities

- To give 16 lectures in the course of the academic year in the area of Medieval French language and literature;
- To give no fewer than 8 tutorial hours of teaching¹ in each week of term to cover topics in French as specified above; To supervise master’s dissertations in the area of Medieval French language and literature, if needed;
- Participating in the teaching of master’s students for the following topics: ‘Brief Encounters: Medieval Short Narratives’ (taught in Michaelmas Term) and/or ‘Women and Medieval French Literature’ (taught in Hilary Term);
- To engage in assessment and university examining in the area of Medieval French language and literature where required;
- To participate in the undergraduate and graduate student admissions processes;

¹ This is referred to as the college teaching stint; term dates are detailed at: https://www.ox.ac.uk/about/facts-and-figures/dates-of-term
To undertake advanced academic study and publish independent research in Medieval French literature and culture to underpin lectures and tutorial teaching, and to participate in the Faculty’s research-related activities;

To support the academic oversight of undergraduate students reading French at St Hilda’s College, including advice and guidance relating to attendance, conduct, coursework, performance, the year abroad and welfare (referring matters to appropriate others), also including the setting and marking of the termly exams known as ‘collections’;

To act as College Adviser for graduate students at St Hilda’s College, as required;

To co-operate in the administrative work of the Faculty and College and contribute to access and outreach activities.

Selection criteria
Applications will be judged only against the criteria which are set out below. Applicants should make sure that their application shows very clearly how they believe that their skills and experience meet these criteria.

Essential
1. The candidate should possess a good undergraduate degree involving French studies.

2. They should also possess a Ph.D. or D.Phil. in the field of Medieval French literature and culture.

   The selection committee will, in exceptional cases, consider applications from those still to complete their doctorate, provided that they will have submitted it by 1st September 2020.

3. Evidence of the ability to teach undergraduate (and graduate) students across a range of topics in Medieval French literature, especially in the period 1300-1530, at the highest level in the medium of English, whether through lectures, seminars or tutorials.

4. Evidence of ability to produce high quality research within the field of Medieval French literature and culture. Such evidence should include publicly available peer-reviewed research.

5. Exceptional fluency in French.

6. Exceptional fluency in English.

7. Evidence of the interpersonal skills for, and a willingness to undertake, the pastoral care of undergraduate students.

8. Sufficient depth and breadth of knowledge in the subject to develop teaching materials and research proposals.
Desirable

- Experience of graduate teaching and supervision.
- Ability to contribute to the French Special Subject (Paper XII) lecture course on ‘Literature and the Visual Arts’ and/or to the Modern Languages master’s (M.St.) lecture course on ‘Key Concepts in Critical Thought’.
About the University of Oxford

The University of Oxford aims to lead the world in research and education for the benefit of society both in the UK and globally. Oxford’s researchers engage with academic and cultural partners across the world to stimulate high-quality research and enable innovation through a broad range of social, policy and economic impacts.

We believe our strengths lie both in empowering individuals and teams to address fundamental questions of global significance, while providing all our staff with a welcoming and inclusive workplace that enables everyone to develop and do their best work. Recognising that diversity is our strength, vital for innovation and creativity, we aspire to build a truly diverse community which values and respects every individual’s unique contribution. While we have long traditions of scholarship, we are also forward-looking, creative and cutting-edge.

Join us and you will find a unique, democratic and international community, a great range of staff benefits and access to a vibrant array of cultural activities in the beautiful city of Oxford.

For more information please visit www.ox.ac.uk/about/organisation

Humanities Division

The Humanities Division is one of four academic divisions in the University of Oxford, bringing together the following faculties: Classics; English; History; Linguistics, Philology and Phonetics; Medieval and Modern Languages; Music; Oriental Studies; Philosophy; Theology and Religion; the Ruskin School of Art. The Division has over 500 members of academic staff, approximately 4,100 undergraduates (more than a third of the total undergraduate population of the University), 1,000 postgraduate research students and 720 students on postgraduate taught courses.

The Division offers world-class teaching and research, backed by the superb resources of the University’s libraries and museums, including the famous Bodleian Libraries, with their 11 million volumes and priceless early book and manuscript collections, and the Ashmolean Museum of Art and Archaeology. Such historic resources are linked to cutting-edge agendas in research and teaching, with an increasing emphasis on interdisciplinary study. Our faculties are among the largest in the world, enabling Oxford to offer an education in Arts and Humanities unparalleled in its range of subjects, from music and fine art to ancient and modern languages.

The Humanities Division has embarked on a major building project on the Radcliffe Observatory Quarter, following the recent announcement of the £150 million gift to create the Stephen A. Schwarzman Centre for the Humanities.

The Schwarzman Centre will serve as a dynamic hub dedicated to the Humanities. The building will bring together seven Humanities faculties, the Humanities Divisional Office, a new library and significant cultural and public engagement spaces in a space designed to encourage experiential learning and bold experimentation through cross-disciplinary and collaborative study. The Faculty of Medieval and Modern Languages will move to the Schwarzman Centre upon the completion of the project.

For more information please visit: www.humanities.ox.ac.uk

Faculty of Medieval and Modern Languages

The Faculty is one of the leading centres for the study of European language, literature, and culture world-wide, offering expertise in the entire chronological range from the
earliest times to the present day, and with specialists in film studies, cultural studies, history of the book, and cultural history as well as languages and literatures. The Faculty offers expertise in French, German, Italian, Modern Greek, Spanish, Portuguese, Russian, Polish and Czech, as well as in a range of other languages spoken in Europe. Colleagues across the various languages work together in various interdisciplinary projects and research centres, which bring specialists in language and literature together with historians, philosophers, and social studies scholars.

The Faculty is partly college-based, and partly housed in University buildings in Wellington Square, where some academic staff and the Faculty's administrative staff have offices, and at the Taylor Institution in St Giles' where some teaching takes place and the main Faculty and research library is based. The Taylor Institution, a fine nineteenth-century building sharing with the Ashmolean Museum a commanding site on St Giles', contains both the Taylorian Library, the largest and best resourced Modern Languages library in the country, and the Faculty's largest teaching rooms.

The Faculty is divided into seven sub-faculties: French, German, Italian, Portuguese, Russian and other Slavonic Languages, Spanish and Modern Greek. There are 81 permanent postholders, including 9 established professorships as well as 26 individuals with the title of professor. The colleges, which are responsible for undergraduate admissions and undergraduate tutorial teaching, admit a total of about 270 students a year to read for the Honour School of Modern Languages and its joint schools with Classics, English, History, Linguistics, Philosophy, and Oriental Studies. The Modern Languages Faculty Board is responsible for the admission and supervision of graduate students. There are about 50 graduates taking taught Master’s degrees, and about 120 research students.

For more information, please visit: www.mod-langs.ox.ac.uk

Sub-Faculty of French

- **Overall Profile**

With an annual intake of almost 200 undergraduate and graduate students from around the world per year and 30 full-time postholders, the University of Oxford’s Sub-Faculty of French is one of the largest French Departments in the world, rivalled only by the top French universities in the scope and depth of its teaching and research.

Our size and the breadth of specialisms in French and Francophone Studies make it possible to complement our exceptionally broad coverage of literary periods with a variety of interdisciplinary approaches, including postcolonial and transcultural studies, ecocriticism, translation studies, linguistics, medical humanities and the exploration of other media and art practices (painting, book and manuscript iconography, film, mime, dance, theatre, etc.).

Our world-leading international researchers are also concurrently undergraduate lecturers/tutors and graduate supervisors. This means that undergraduate and postgraduate students in French work directly with prominent scholars in their areas of expertise.

Members of the Sub-Faculty of French have been at the forefront of interdisciplinary studies within Oxford: our involvement was seminal in the creation, convening and teaching of most interdisciplinary MSt courses in the Humanities, from the most established (Women’s Studies, Medieval Studies, Film Aesthetics) to the most recent (Comparative Literature), as well as in the creation of TORCH programmes, networks
and knowledge exchange projects (from the Oxford Medieval Studies Programme and the Women in the Humanities Programme through Theatre and Performance to Storming Utopia).

The Sub-Faculty of French benefits from an unparalleled research environment. In addition to the University of Oxford’s world-class research libraries hosting priceless French and Francophone manuscripts and original editions and one of the world’s largest Modern Languages book collections (i.e. the Bodleian and the Taylor Institution), we are privileged to receive incomparable support from the Maison française d’Oxford (MFO) and the Voltaire Foundation.

**- Postgraduate Provision**

In addition to the outstanding research facilities mentioned above, our postgraduate students have access to a large range of specialist researchers with the possibility of co-supervision of papers or mentoring across faculties and sub-faculties.² The Sub-Faculty of French also offers a range of postgraduate research seminars in the Medieval, Early Modern and Modern periods and in Francophone Studies, as well as more methodologically based seminars such as “Researching and Writing a DPhil: Problems, Methods”. Our postgraduate students and postdocs also have the opportunity to teach undergraduate courses and tutorials (including French language tuition and French Thought or French Literary Theory first-year seminars, and participation in a graduate teaching scheme).

**- Undergraduate Provision**

The Oxford tutorial system makes it possible for our undergraduate students to work directly with leading scholars in the field in their areas of expertise. This personal access to experts allows for tailored advice on essay content and technique; it also challenges students to think independently and to get to grips with a large range of authors and topics, while following their own interests within the different papers, which produces high standards of work.

From the very first year, our students are exposed to a diverse range of textual genres and literary periods. They can then follow their own flexible path in their second and final years and can choose from a large breadth of options, alongside other languages or other subjects (History, Classics, Philosophy, etc.) with different modes of assessment (take-home exams and three-hour final exams).³

Because it is college-based, the teaching of French language at Oxford is always done in very small groups, partly with native-speaker tutors or lecteurs/lectrices. This, added to the year-abroad, means that our students attain a very high proficiency in spoken and written French. The language work counts for half of the final results (oral exam, essay in French, translation work) and students also have the opportunity to develop

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² Examples of the wide range of MSt special subjects include: Brief Encounters: Medieval Short Narratives, Art of the Enlightenment: Image, Text, Object; Contemporary French Thought: Paths of Deconstruction; The Power of Literature: Representation, Perception and World-Making in Modern and Post-modern French Poetry.

³ Examples of course topics in French are: Medieval Subjectivities: The Lyric I Across Boundaries; Writing History in the Middle Ages; Gender & Early Modern Writing; Literature & Conflict in Early Modern France; Modern and Contemporary Poetry/Poetics/Poethics; Naturalism, Decadence and the Fin de siècle; 20th-c. Life-Writing, Colonialism and Postcolonialism; Writing Killing; Rupture and Reformulation: Twentieth-Century Experiments in Poetry and Prose; History of the French Language; Literature and Visual Arts; European Cinema.
their knowledge of the French language via course options in Linguistics and in Advanced Translation.

Students spending their year abroad in France can currently opt to be British Council language assistants, to do work placements (the Year Abroad Office holds a live feed of job opportunities), or to participate in the Erasmus study exchange for which the Sub-Faculty has several partner institutions: the École Normale Supérieure (Paris and Lyon); Sciences-Po; and the Sorbonne (Paris IV), Toulouse, and Montpellier Universities.

The Sub-Faculty of French has pioneered extremely successful outreach activities, including our blog Adventures on the Bookshelf, which was created in 2013 and had almost a million page-views last year, the Oxford University’s French film competition, which started in 2011, and an annual French Literature Masterclass since 2017. The Sub-Faculty also runs on a yearly UNIQ summer programme (previously Sutton Trust) and a yearly French Literature Masterclass in addition to its active participation in the Sir Robert Taylor Society (the Faculty’s annual MFL schoolteachers’ conference).

St Hilda’s College

There are 38 self-governing and independent colleges at Oxford, giving both academic staff and students the benefits of belonging to a small, interdisciplinary community as well as to a large, internationally-renowned institution. The collegiate system fosters a strong sense of community, bringing together leading academics and students across subjects, and from different cultures and countries.

Founded in 1893, St. Hilda’s is one of the constituent Colleges of Oxford University, and is spectacularly set in four acres of gardens on the banks of the Cherwell at Magdalen Bridge. The College has an academic staff of over 80 Fellows and Lecturers. There are at present approximately 400 undergraduates and 200 graduate students, who study most of the subjects offered by the University. The Senior Members of the College form a lively multi-disciplinary and international community, and the College promotes a thriving culture of research and intellectual engagement. Lecturers are welcome to use College facilities for seminars and conferences, as well as for social events, and to book the College’s guest accommodation. They may also enjoy the amenities of the Jacqueline du Pré Music Building, and the musical events that take place there, including free term-time concerts organised by the Director of College Music.

Modern Languages at St Hilda’s College

St Hilda’s College has a strong reputation in the field of Medieval and Modern Languages (MML). The present fellowship includes Dr Helen Swift (Fellow and Tutor in Medieval French), Dr Jonathan Patterson (Fellow and Tutor in French), Dr Georgina Paul (Fellow and Tutor in German), Dr Kerstin Hoge (Fellow and Tutor in German Linguistics) and Dr Elinor Payne (Fellow in Phonetics and Phonology). They are supported by College Lecturers in French, Italian, and Spanish as well as a language lecturer in French and a Lektor in German.

4 For more on these and other initiatives, see https://www.mod-langs.ox.ac.uk/schools.
St Hilda’s admits 10-12 undergraduates in MML and in Joint Schools with MML per year. (All MML and Joint Schools candidates must offer either French or German.) At St Hilda’s, joint schools degrees allows students to study a modern language with English, History, Philosophy, a Middle Eastern Language, or Linguistics. In the academic year 2020-21, there should be approximately 20 students (plus 10 students on their year abroad) reading French as part of an MML or MML and Joint Schools degree.

The Lecturer will be entitled to the following College benefits and allowances:

- Research and travel allowance: up to £300 per annum;
- Student entertainment allowance: up to £400 per annum;
- Entitlement to lunch and dinner in College without charge when the kitchens are open (approx. value £1495 per annum);
- Membership of the Senior Common Room.

How to apply

Before submitting an application, you may find it helpful to read the ‘Tips on applying for a job at the University of Oxford’ document, at www.ox.ac.uk/about/jobs/supportandtechnical/.

The application process is via the University’s on-line recruitment system. To retrieve the relevant ‘Job Details’ page, search for ID ref 145091 at: www.recruit.ox.ac.uk or go to: https://www.recruit.ox.ac.uk/pls/hrisliverecruit/erq_jobspec_version_4.jobspec?p_id=145091

Once on the relevant ‘Job Details’ page, click on the Apply Now button and follow the on-screen instructions to register as a user.

Please ask two referees to submit a reference for you to recruitment@modlangs.ox.ac.uk by the closing date of the post.

You will also be asked to upload a CV and a supporting statement. The supporting statement must explain how you meet each of the selection criteria for the post using examples of your skills and experience. This may include experience gained in employment, education, or during career breaks (such as time out to care for dependants).

Your application will be judged solely on the basis of how you demonstrate that you meet the selection criteria stated in the job description.

Please upload all documents as PDF files with your name and the document type in the filename.

All applications must be received by midday on Friday 13 March 2020.

Further information about the post is available from: sarah.norman@st-hildas.ox.ac.uk

Further information about the recruitment process is available from recruitment@modlangs.ox.ac.uk

It is expected that interviews will be held on Monday 20 April 2020. Please make it clear in your application if you are unlikely to be available at this time.
**Information for priority candidates**

A priority candidate is a University employee who is seeking redeployment because they have been advised that they are at risk of redundancy, or on grounds of ill-health/disability. Priority candidates are issued with a redeployment letter by their employing departments.

*If you are a priority candidate, please ensure that you attach your redeployment letter to your application (or email it to the contact address on the advert if the application form used for the vacancy does not allow attachments)*

Should you experience any difficulties using the online application system, please email recruitment.support@admin.ox.ac.uk. Further help and support is available from [www.ox.ac.uk/about_the_university/jobs/support/](http://www.ox.ac.uk/about_the_university/jobs/support/). To return to the online application at any stage, please go to: [www.recruit.ox.ac.uk](http://www.recruit.ox.ac.uk).

Please note that you will receive an automated email from our e-recruitment system to confirm receipt of your application. **Please check your spam/junk mail** if you do not receive this email.
Important information for candidates

Pre-employment screening
All offers of employment are made subject to standard pre-employment screening, as applicable to the post.

If you are offered the post, you will be asked to provide proof of your right-to-work, your identity, and we will contact the referees you have nominated. You will also be asked to complete a health declaration (so that you can tell us about any health conditions or disabilities so that we can discuss appropriate adjustments with you), and a declaration of any unspent criminal convictions.

We advise all applicants to read the candidate notes on the University’s pre-employment screening procedures, found at: www.ox.ac.uk/about/jobs/preemploymentscreening/.

The University’s policy on retirement
The University operates an Employer Justified Retirement Age (EJRA) for all academic posts and some academic-related posts. From 1 October 2017, the University has adopted an EJRA of 30 September before the 69th birthday for all academic and academic-related staff in posts at grade 8 and above. The justification for this is explained at: www.admin.ox.ac.uk/personnel/end/retirement/revisedejra/revaim/.

For existing employees, any employment beyond the retirement age is subject to approval through the procedures: www.admin.ox.ac.uk/personnel/end/retirement/revisedejra/revproc/

From 1 October 2017, there is no normal or fixed age at which staff in posts at grades 1–7 have to retire. Staff at these grades may elect to retire in accordance with the rules of the applicable pension scheme, as may be amended from time to time.

Equality of Opportunity
Entry into employment with the University and progression within employment will be determined only by personal merit and the application of criteria which are related to the duties of each particular post and the relevant salary structure. In all cases, ability to perform the job will be the primary consideration. No applicant or member of staff shall be discriminated against because of age, disability, gender reassignment, marriage or civil partnership, pregnancy or maternity, race, religion or belief, sex, or sexual orientation.
Benefits of working at the University

**Employee benefits**

University employees enjoy 38 days’ paid holiday, generous pension schemes, travel discounts, and a variety of professional development opportunities. Our range of other employee benefits and discounts also includes free entry to the Botanic Gardens and University colleges, and discounts at University museums. See [www.admin.ox.ac.uk/personnel/staffinfo/benefits](http://www.admin.ox.ac.uk/personnel/staffinfo/benefits).

**University Club and sports facilities**

Membership of the University Club is free for all University staff. The University Club offers social, sporting, and hospitality facilities. Staff can also use the University Sports Centre on Iffley Road at discounted rates, including a fitness centre, powerlifting room, and swimming pool. See [www.club.ox.ac.uk](http://www.club.ox.ac.uk) and [www.sport.ox.ac.uk/oxford-university-sports-facilities](http://www.sport.ox.ac.uk/oxford-university-sports-facilities).

**Information for staff new to Oxford**

If you are relocating to Oxfordshire from overseas or elsewhere in the UK, the University’s Welcome Service website includes practical information about settling in the area, including advice on relocation, accommodation, and local schools. See [www.welcome.ox.ac.uk](http://www.welcome.ox.ac.uk). There is also a visa loan scheme to cover the costs of UK visa applications for staff and their dependents. See [www.admin.ox.ac.uk/personnel/permits/reimburseloanscheme](http://www.admin.ox.ac.uk/personnel/permits/reimburseloanscheme/).

**Family-friendly benefits**

With one of the most generous family leave schemes in the Higher Education sector, and a range of flexible working options, Oxford aims to be a family-friendly employer. We also subscribe to My Family Care, a service that provides practical advice and support for employees who have caring responsibilities. The service offers a free telephone advice line, and the ability to book emergency back-up care for children, adult dependents and elderly relatives. See [www.admin.ox.ac.uk/personnel/staffinfo/benefits/family/mfc](http://www.admin.ox.ac.uk/personnel/staffinfo/benefits/family/mfc/).

**Childcare**

The University has excellent childcare services, including five University nurseries as well as University-supported places at many other private nurseries. For full details, including how to apply and the costs, see [www.admin.ox.ac.uk/childcare](http://www.admin.ox.ac.uk/childcare).

**Disabled staff**

We are committed to supporting members of staff with disabilities or long-term health conditions. For further details, including information about how to make contact, in confidence, with the University’s Staff Disability Advisor, see [www.admin.ox.ac.uk/eop/disab/staff](http://www.admin.ox.ac.uk/eop/disab/staff).

**Staff networks**

The University has a number of staff networks including the Oxford Research Staff Society, BME staff network, LGBT+ staff network and a disabled staff network. You can find more information at [www.admin.ox.ac.uk/eop/inpractice/networks](http://www.admin.ox.ac.uk/eop/inpractice/networks/).

**The University of Oxford Newcomers’ Club**

The University of Oxford Newcomers’ Club is an organisation run by volunteers that aims to assist the partners of new staff settle into Oxford, and provides them with an opportunity to meet people and make connections in the local area. See [www.newcomers.ox.ac.uk](http://www.newcomers.ox.ac.uk).
Appendix

THE PRELIM COURSE

LANGUAGE EXAMINATIONS AND ORAL REQUIREMENT

Paper I French Grammar and Summary (3 hours)

1. Grammar Test
20 short sentences to translate into French, testing common, not exceptional, points of French grammar such as those explained in R. Hawkins and R. Towell, French Grammar and Usage, 2nd edn., 2001.

2. Summary
A passage of 500-700 words of French from a work of reflective, analytical or critical writing. To be summarised in French, using 180-200 words and bringing out clearly the writer’s argument. Candidates must not simply reproduce the expression of the original passage.

Paper IIA and IIB

IIA Unprepared translation into English (1 ½ hours)
A passage of about 250 words of French, taken from a post-1900 creative or discursive text testing accuracy in negotiating common grammatical and syntactic structures and some appropriately challenging vocabulary, but also requiring imagination and fluency in English expression.

IIB Prepared translation into English from Prescribed Texts (1 ½ hours)
A passage of about 300 words from one of the three novels set for Paper IV, i.e., excluding the medieval text.

Oral
In order to pass the Preliminary Examination in French, candidates must present a certificate of attendance and active participation in oral classes. Candidates must attend and actively participate in no fewer than eight oral classes of at least one hour before the end of the fourth week of the Trinity Term of their first year. The classes will help with proper pronunciation and intonation, and include discussion in French of passages dealing with issues in contemporary French culture. ‘Candidates are required to submit, via the Senior Tutor of their college or society, to the Undergraduate Studies Administrator, Modern Languages, Examinations Office, 41 Wellington Square, a certificate endorsed by the Senior Tutor, and their French tutor (the latter acting on behalf of the sub-faculty of French) stating that they have attended, and participated in, the required number of classes. Candidates who fail to satisfy this requirement for the June examination shall have their mark for each of the two written papers in French language reduced by ten per cent. Candidates for the September examination in French language who have not previously in that academic year satisfied the attendance requirement will be examined viva voce to demonstrate their competence in spoken French. Certification is required by noon on the Friday of 5th week of Trinity Term.’
LITERATURE

Many students begin the course without having had the opportunity to undertake much formal study of French literature. Both literature papers require you to undertake a close reading in the original French of a range of literary texts selected from different periods and different genres so that you will gradually build up your reading speed and learn how to write critical commentaries and essays. This will provide a sure grounding for the literary study you will do from the second year onwards.

Paper III Short Texts

This paper will introduce you to the techniques of close reading through the study of six short works arranged in three complementary pairs:


This paper is examined by critical commentary. One passage is set from each of the texts and you have to write on one passage from each of the three pairs of texts. You will certainly need to show that you know the texts well by establishing the context of the passages, but the skill is to show that you can comment pertinently and in detail on the words and ideas in front of you. When commenting on texts written in verse, you are required to show an awareness of the author’s use of versification.

List of prescribed poems by Baudelaire

- Au lecteur
- 3 Elévation
- 7 La Muse malade
- 10 L’Ennemi
- 19 La Géante
- 21 Hymne à la beauté
- 23 La Chevelure
- 25 ‘Tu mettras l’univers entier dans ta ruelle’
- 28 Le Serpent qui danse
- 29 Une Charogne
- 31 Le Vampire
- 36 Le Balcon
- 40 Semper eadem
- 44 Réversibilité
This paper introduces you to four narrative texts written between the Middle Ages and the twentieth century:

La Chasteleaine de Vergy
Laclos, Les Liaisons dangereuses
Sand, Indiana
Proust, Combray

This paper will be examined only by essay. There is a choice of two essay questions on each text, and you are required to answer three questions, each on a different text. You will need to show that you can construct a clear, relevant, and interestingly written argument, supported at every stage by detailed knowledge of the text. If your argument can be enhanced or sharpened by making comparisons between texts, you are positively encouraged to do so, though you are not penalised for not doing so.

Lectures are provided in Michaelmas Term on the six short texts, setting them in context and showing how passages from them might be commented on in detail. There are also lectures introducing you to the techniques of versification. In subsequent terms there are lectures on the longer narrative texts. Throughout the year you will be required to read and write about the prescribed texts for your tutor in college who will discuss your work with you in a series of tutorials or seminars. Lecturers will offer bibliographical advice, as will your tutors.
THE FINAL HONOUR SCHOOL IN FRENCH

LANGUAGE

After the Preliminary Examination a variety of approaches are used in the language teaching offered to you. Language classes will usually be arranged by your college and there will be opportunities for improving the whole range of skills: reading, listening, writing, and speaking. Developing your skills in translation will also encourage you to write accurately and acquire a feel for style and register, and there will be opportunities to develop oral and aural skills with native speakers. Communicative skills will be developed in preparation for the Essay paper and the Oral examination. Classes using authentic material (videos, newspapers and magazine articles) frequently provide a basis both for language exercises and for information on current affairs, politics and other aspects of modern society. Such classes prove especially useful for students who know little about the country and who need guidance for making the most of their year abroad; they also keep Final Year students up to date. Formal classes apart, undergraduates are urged to make use of the well-resourced Language Centre with abundant video and printed material and facilities for computer-assisted learning and self-taught courses.

Paper I

An essay of between 1000 and 1500 words to be written in French from a range of questions on literary, linguistic and general cultural topics, including the topic prescribed for the FHS oral examination in French.

Paper II A Translation from modern French Paper II B Translation into modern French

The passage for translation from French is taken from a post-1800 text, the one for translation into French from a post-1900 text. Passages will be in contrasting styles or registers (e.g. narrative, descriptive, analytical, reflective or journalistic).

Oral Examination

All students reading French take a compulsory oral examination. This is divided into two parts:

Listening Comprehension (33%)

Candidates will listen to a passage in French lasting about 5 minutes. After listening to it once, they may look at the questions on it, which will be in English, and they will have 5 minutes to make notes.

Candidates will then hear the passage for a second time, after which they will have 25 minutes to write their answers to the questions. Answers must be written in English.

Reading Comprehension and Speaking (66%)
Candidates have 30 minutes to read and prepare a passage of journalistic French of between 470 and 520 words in length, on the subject of ‘L’actualité française et francophone’ (matters of contemporary political, social, cultural, and ethical interest).

Candidates may make notes on one side of A5 paper, but no more.

After the preparation time candidates will have a 15-minute examination with an examiner and a native speaker. External examiners, monitoring peripatetically, may sit in on some examinations. Candidates must, in about 5 minutes, summarise (in their own words) and comment on the passage. This will be followed by a discussion with the examiners of up to 10 minutes, which may focus on the passage or range more widely.

**LITERATURE**

**PAPERS VI, VII, VIII: TOPICS IN A PERIOD OF FRENCH LITERATURE**

There is no prescribed syllabus for these papers. Examination papers (in which you have to write three essays in three hours) are set with a sufficiently wide range of questions to allow students who have read widely under the guidance of tutors and lecturers to answer on almost any aspect of their chosen period which has interested them. You will prepare for the paper by following a series of tutorials on topics which your tutor will advise you to pursue and by attending, at all stages of your course, a large number of lectures that deal with different writers and issues relevant to the period. Tutors and lecturers will give detailed bibliographical guidance. The descriptions offered here are meant to help you make up your mind as to which paper to choose and to suggest some reading which will let you find your bearings in the period.

**PAPER VI: FRENCH LITERATURE TO 1530**

1. Course Content

Medieval France is the home of some of the masterpieces of European Literature, and the aim of the course is to enable you to study the most celebrated examples, ranging from the ‘epic biography’ of Guillaume d’Orange to the great lyric poets of the fifteenth century, in such a way that they can be properly understood in the context of the types of society which produced them. You will also gain an insight into the precursors of many of the traditional genres and classic texts of French literature. To ensure fair coverage the period is divided into the years preceding the accession of the first Valois king, Philippe VI, in 1328, and those following. The earlier period includes works like the courtly romances of Chrétien de Troyes, the lais of Marie de France and others, the Tristan legend, saints’ lives, the secular stage, comic narratives, Arthurian prose romances, and the Roman de la rose. In the second half of the period you may encounter lyric and narrative poets like Guillaume de Machaut, Alain Chartier, Charles d’Orléans, and François Villon, along with prose narratives, chronicles, farces, and the first professional woman writer Christine de Pizan.

2. Teaching

Normally a variety of topics are explored in eight tutorials, often with a change of tutor. Each year a number of lecture courses are offered on topics and texts from the period.
There are a range of learning support resources available on Weblearn, including podcasts of lectures on reading Old French, digitised primary and secondary sources, past lecture slides, and bibliographies for all topics. There are no compulsory language or commentary exercises. A high proportion of the texts studied are available in excellent and inexpensive editions in the series ‘Lettres Gothiques’ (Livre de Poche).

3. Examination

The paper is divided into two in accordance with the division explained above. A total of three essay questions must be answered, to include questions from both sections. Questions typically invite candidates to respond with reference to one or more appropriate texts/authors, but the general rubric of the paper requires candidates, in at least one of their answers, to refer to two or more texts/authors.

4. Introductory Reading


**PAPER IX: MEDIEVAL PRESCRIBED TEXTS**

1. Course Content

This paper consists of the close study of three varied texts which illustrate the incomparable richness and variety of medieval French literature: the *Chanson de Roland* (ed. Ian Short, Lettres gothiques), 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; Béroul’s *Tristran* (ed. Alfred Ewert) tells the immortal story of doomed adulterous love in a narrative of bewitching subtlety; Villon’s *Testament* and *Poésies diverses* (ed. Claude Thiry, Lettres gothiques) recreate the complexity of life in the University and the back streets of Paris in the fifteenth century from the vantage-point of the socially marginal criminal-poet.

2. Teaching

Faculty teaching is based on an annual cycle of lectures - six hours on each text, one series in each of the three University terms. In addition, lectures (including podcasts) are offered on reading and translating Old French and on commentary writing. Students may also join in final-year medieval translation classes. A range of additional electronic resources are available on Weblearn. Your college will also arrange eight hours of tutorials in either your second or final year, covering the three texts.

3. Examination
In the three-hour examination paper, you will be asked to answer THREE questions, AT LEAST ONE of which must be taken from each section. All three set texts must be covered in these answers.

Section A: One passage for commentary from each of the set texts (in the case of Villon, the section of his work for special study is Le Testament, lines 1-909 and 1660-end), each passage including a number of lines to be translated into English.

Section B: Two essay questions on each of the set texts dealing with more general topics arising from your reading.

4. Introductory Reading


PAPER XII: Medieval Subjectivities: The Lyric / Across Boundaries

1. Course Content

Subjectivity in medieval lyric verse is a much-debated entity, from structuralist approaches to the ‘je grammatical’ to psychoanalytic readings of personal psychologies. Its study has been importantly inflected by key movements in literary criticism, such as the so-called ‘material turn’, which brought to the fore the study of texts in their manuscript context. This Paper will give you the opportunity to study first-person expression across the medieval francophone period, in areas including Old Occitan and Anglo-Norman verse (e.g. troubadours/trobaritz, crusade songs), trouvère poetry, lyric insertions in later-medieval French dits, or the so-called grands rhétoriqueurs. Important figures in the development of – and experimentation with – lyric voice will be examined, such as Rutebeuf and Guillaume de Machaut. The Paper will specifically encourage asking questions across different boundaries: those of gender (e.g. the trobairitz alongside troubadours), genre (interrogating the parameters of ‘lyric’ as a formal category), language (e.g. debate poetry in oïl and oc, or Charles d’Orléans’s experimentation with English poetry, and space (e.g. touching on the varied compilation and presentation of lyrics across different chansonniers).

2. Teaching

The course is taught in a series of five seminars in Hilary Term of the student’s final year. Students are advised to indicate their interest by the start of Michaelmas Term, so they can be directed to relevant lectures to support their preparation for the course content. Students wishing to take this Paper will also be expected to have worked on medieval French language by following the recorded lectures on Reading Medieval French (https://weblearn.ox.ac.uk/portal/site/humdiv/modlang/french/fhs.medieval_fre) and on Medieval French commentary (https://ox.cloud.panopto.eu/Panopto/Pages/Sessions/List.aspx?embedded=1#folderId=%225b3ed5d0-2495-4dd7-910f-bbe105b63dfb%22&folderSets=3). You will normally also have taken an FHS medieval paper (VI or IX) in French or another romance
language.

3. Examination

Method of Assessment C (answer 2 questions, including compulsory commentary).

4. Introductory Reading


**Paper XIV - Extended Essay**

In addition to their other papers, some candidates choose to write an essay of up to 6000-8000 words on a subject of their own choice, approved by the Faculty. For students reading the Modern Languages School this is an optional additional paper, possibly written during the year abroad and submitted shortly after the end of the second term of your final year. In some joint schools the Extended Essay can be chosen in lieu of one of the other examination papers.

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**POSTGRADUATE TEACHING IN MEDIEVAL FRENCH LITERATURE**

**BRIEF ENCOUNTERS: MEDIEVAL SHORT NARRATIVES, MICHAELMAS 2019**

Short narrative forms have been much less studied than their longer counterparts (the roman or chanson de geste, for example), but are the locus for significant experimentation with and development of storytelling practice. This course considers a range of genres, in both verse and prose, to explore modes of storytelling, and the specificities of their brevity, across lais, fabliaux, exemplary literature (including fables and miracles), and nouvelles. You will also study the presentation and circulation of tales in manuscript compilations.

5 seminars 1h (with some time to discuss previous essays before or after)
4 essays (2000-3000 words each)

**WOMEN AND MEDIEVAL FRENCH LITERATURE, HILARY TERM 2020**

Although most medieval texts were seemingly written by men and some of them with a fairly misogynistic bias, women were absolutely central to Medieval French Literature.
The focus of this course will be twofold. In the first place, it will examine gender issues and women’s status in the work of French medieval women writers (such as Marie de France and Christine de Pizan). In the second place, it will envisage the place of women in male-authored texts, whether as characters, patrons or addressees.

5 seminars 1h (with some time to discuss previous essays before or after)
4 essays (2000-3000 words each)