

Course Information Sheet for entry in 2016~17

Foundation Certificate in English Literature

About the course

The two-year Foundation Certificate in English Literature is equivalent to the first year of the full-time degree in English Literature at Oxford University. Students who successfully complete the course are eligible to apply for second-year entry to undergraduate literature courses at the University of Oxford and other institutions.

The course covers a range of English literature from the Early Modern to the twentieth century. Among the authors studied will be Shakespeare, Jonson, Donne, Dickens, Charlotte Brontë, Hardy, Conrad, Yeats and Woolf. Close analysis of works by these and other authors, reinforced by general discussion of modern critical theory and practice, will provide the basis for an enhanced appreciation of the pleasures and problems associated with the serious reading of literature.

The course will consist of three principal elements, each subdivided, to offer a total of six sections over its two-year span. The three elements are:

- i) Criticism: History, Theory and Practice
- ii) Victorian and Modernist Literature
- iii) Early Modern Literature

The course structure can be represented as follows

	YEAR ONE	YEAR TWO
TERM		
Michaelmas (Autumn)	<i>Section 1:</i> Criticism: history, theory and practice I	<i>Section 4:</i> Criticism: history, theory and practice II
Hilary (Spring)	<i>Section 2:</i> Victorian literature	<i>Section 5:</i> Modernist Literature
Trinity (Summer)	<i>Section 3:</i> Early Modern Poetry	<i>Section 6:</i> Early Modern Drama (excluding Shakespeare)
September	Shakespeare Summer School	

Classes will meet once a week and there will be ten classes per term, each of two hours' duration. In addition there will be a summer school of five days' duration between year one and year two, as well as a series of six day schools, one a term. Some of these day schools will be part of the Public Programme, while a number will be designed specifically for Foundation Certificate students. Each day school will be linked to the syllabus, usually by its subject matter, though the third will focus on preparation for examinations. There will be two one-hour tutorial sessions for each student in each term.

As well as the lectures arranged specifically for the Foundation Certificate, you will be entitled, for no extra payment, to attend the wide range of lectures organised by the University's Faculty of English.

Assessment of each of the sections of the course is based on coursework (2000-word essays submitted during the period of study) and written examinations, held at the end of each of the two years. The exception is the Criticism: History Theory and Practice I and Criticism: History Theory and Practice II sections of the course, both of which are examined by a portfolio of written work.

Coursework

Participants write an essay for each section of the course, in total six essays each year plus one further essay following the Shakespeare Summer School. Coursework assignments account for 5% each of the final mark of each year. Students attend a paired tutorial before writing each assignment. These focus on the preparation of the essays and on suggestions for further development.

Examinations

Written examinations will take place at the end of each year of study; there will be two three-hour examinations in each year. The examinations set at the conclusion of year one will account for 25% of the total marks for the course; the examinations set at the conclusion of year two will account for a further 25% of the total. Participants will answer six questions in each year, two from each section of the course. The written portfolio will account for 20% of the total marks in each year.

At the end of the course, the marks awarded for the first year will account for 40% of the final mark, and the marks awarded for the second year will account for 60%.

There is an attendance requirement of at least 80% of the total number of class hours; attendance is expected at all six day schools and the Shakespeare Summer School.

The sequence of subjects is as follows:

YEAR ONE

Section 1: Criticism: history, theory and practice I

The introductory sessions will raise fundamental questions about why and how we should study literature and then concentrate on detailed analysis of poetry and fiction. The emphasis will be on techniques of close reading, but we also hope to impart a sense of literary history and an understanding of the links between literature and its wider contexts.

Section 2: Victorian literature

This section will deal first with works by four Victorian novelists: Dickens, Charlotte Brontë, Emily Brontë and Hardy. The second part of the section will offer a survey of the main forms and themes of Victorian poetry. Discussion will concentrate on Tennyson, Browning, Christina Rossetti and Hopkins. Both fiction and poetry will be related to their social and intellectual contexts.

Section 3: Early Modern poetry

The third section will be largely devoted to the study of Early Modern poetry and to the contemporary critical debate about its form and purpose. We shall examine a selection of poems by writers such as Edmund Spenser, Sir Philip Sidney, John Donne and George Herbert. In this term a special day school will be devoted to preparation for the first-year examinations.

Shakespeare Summer School

Focusing centrally on two comedies, two tragedies and two history plays, the one-week summer school will combine close textual analysis with an exploration of the wider context of Shakespeare's work. The central texts are likely to be: *A Midsummer Night's Dream*, *The Winter's Tale*, *Hamlet*, *King Lear*, *Richard III*, *Henry IV Part I*.

YEAR TWO

Section 4: Criticism: history, theory and practice II

The fourth section will examine major issues in critical theory in the light of modern developments. Among the topics to be discussed will be the author, genre, narrative and the production and reception of texts; among the topics will be Structuralism, Deconstruction, Marxist and Feminist criticism, New Historicism and Post-Colonial theory.

Section 5: Modernist Literature

This section is an exploration of the rise of Modernism in Britain and Ireland, grounded in an awareness of the social, political and ideological developments of the early years of the twentieth century. We shall be focusing primarily on the following texts: E.M. Forster's *Howards End*; James Joyce's *Dubliners*; T S Eliot's *The Waste Land*; Virginia Woolf's *Mrs Dalloway*; and the poetry of W B Yeats.

Section 6: Early Modern drama

The sixth section will deal with the drama of the early Modern, excluding that of Shakespeare, which has already been the focus of the summer school. Among the texts likely to be taught will be: Christopher Marlowe's *Edward II* and *Dr Faustus*; Ben Jonson's *Volpone* and *The Alchemist*, and John Webster's *The Duchess of Malfi* and *The White Devil*. The course will conclude with preparation for the second-year examinations.

Changes to courses

The University will seek to deliver each course in accordance with the descriptions set out above. However, there may be situations in which it is desirable or necessary for the University to make changes in course provision, either before or after registration. For further information, please see the University's Terms and Conditions.

Expected length of course

2 years

Annual fees for entry in 2016-2017

Fee Status	Tuition fee	College Fee	Total annual fees
Home/EU(including islands)	£2,460	N/A	£2,460
Overseas	£4,210	N/A	£4,210

The fees shown above are the annual tuition fees for this course for entry in the 2016-17 academic year; for courses lasting longer than one year, please be aware that fees will usually increase annually. For details, please see our guidance on likely increases to fees and charges. College fees are not generally payable for non-matriculated courses although a small number of courses may permit college affiliation for which a charge will be made.

Tuition fees are payable each year for the duration of your fee liability (your fee liability is the length of time for which you are required to pay tuition fees).

Additional cost information

This course has a study week in Oxford so you will need to meet any travel and accommodation costs you may incur in attending this week.

Living costs

In addition to your fees, you will need to ensure that you have adequate funds to support your living costs for the duration of your course.

The likely living costs for 2016-17 are published below. These costs are based on a single, full-time graduate student, with no dependants, living in Oxford. We provide the cost per month so you can multiply up by the number of months you expect to live in Oxford.

	Likely living costs for 1 month		Likely living costs for 9 months		Likely living costs for 12 months	
	Lower range	Upper range	Lower range	Upper range	Lower range	Upper range
Food	£265	£298	£2,384	£2,673	£3,177	£3,565
Accommodation	£469	£667	£4,221	£6,002	£5,627	£8,006
Personal items	£119	£244	£1,073	£2,187	£1,429	£2,915
Social activities	£60	£107	£539	£960	£718	£1,280
Study costs	£36	£73	£314	£661	£418	£880
Other	£19	£44	£197	£410	£265	£547
TOTAL	£970	£1,433	£8,727	£12,894	£11,636	£17,191

When planning your finances for any future years of study in Oxford beyond 2016-17, you should allow for an estimated increase in living expenses of 2% each year.