

UNIVERSITY OF BRISTOL - DEPARTMENT OF FRENCH

We look forward to seeing you in Bristol in September 2014. Many of you will wish to do some preparatory reading before then, and we certainly recommend it. The books listed below are all available in Bristol libraries for reference, but given how frequently you will need them throughout your course you would be well advised to have your own copies.

FRENCH LANGUAGE REFERENCE BOOKS

The following references are key to the French language syllabus, and you will be expected to refer to them as part of the course on a regular basis

- Vercollier, C. Vercollier, K. Bourlier, *Difficultés expliquées du français* for English speakers (CLE International, 2004)
- S. Callet, *Répertoire des difficultés du français*, PUG, 2013 (this is a new item on the reading list so we would need to get a few copies for the library)
- *Bescherelle Complete Guide to Conjugating 12000 French Verbs* (English Edition) (Paris: Hatier, 1995)
- P. Humberstone, *Mot à Mot: New Advanced French Vocabulary* (London: Hodder Education, 5th Edition, 2010)
- J. Morton, *English Grammar for Students of French: The Study Guide for Those Learning French* (Olivia & Hill Press, 2008)

FRENCH CULTURAL UNITS

These units aim to introduce you to the history, culture and identity of France, as well as the main genres of French and Francophone literature and film. For Single Honours students, there will also be an introduction to modern and contemporary art in France.

- All Single Honours students will study Reading Literary and Visual Cultures in French, Shaping France and Arts in Contemporary France.
- All Joint Honours students will study **both** Reading Literary and Visual Cultures in French and Shaping France
- Students of Law with French may choose either Introduction to French Literature in TB1 **or** Shaping France in TB2.

READING LITERARY AND VISUAL CULTURES IN FRENCH

This unit will introduce you to a variety of literary and visual artefacts from the Middle Ages to the present and to the methods we use in analysing them. It will involve a weekly lecture and a weekly seminar in the second half of the academic year. Through your contact with major French literary texts, films and other cultural artefacts, you will be encouraged to think about what is involved in the study of art, culture and literature. You will be expected to develop an awareness of different ways of approaching the analysis of culture and literature, and to explore how background reading around these topics will expand your horizons and contribute to a holistic approach to the study of the Humanities.

Set works for 2014-15

Rimbaud, Verse and prose poetry: a selection will be made available to you.

Racine, *Phèdre*. We will study the text (Bordas or Classiques Larousse editions are recommended) and several different filmic adaptations.

La Châtelaine de Vergy (The Folio classique edition by Jean Dufournet and Liliane Dulac contains the medieval text plus a more modern French adaptation of the text, as well as other material that is integral to our study of it).

Agnès Varda, *Les Glaneurs et la glaneuse* (DVD versions of this 2000 film are available in the School's Multimedia Centre and viewings will be arranged).

Maryse Condé, *La Belle Créole* (Folio)

Assessment

- 1) An assessed commentary (1500 words), on a Rimbaud poem or prose poem, or on an extract from one of the other literary set texts (33%)
- 2) A 2-hour exam comprising a choice of essay questions on single works and a choice of essay questions involving comparison of two or more works (67%). You will not be allowed to answer in the exam on the text on which you wrote your commentary, so you will be obliged to answer on four different set works overall.

Advance and Background Reading

Although the study of these works will not begin until February 2014, it will benefit your French and your general preparation for the course if you can explore them soon. You should be able to sample poems and prose poems by Rimbaud (take pot luck on

http://poesie.webnet.fr/lesgrandsclassiques/poemes/arthur_rimbaud/index.html) and clips of performances of *Phèdre* through google.fr and youtube. *La Belle Créole* is quite a long novel and you will enjoy it more if you spread your reading of it over a period. It would be an excellent general introduction to modern French society and culture to view *Les Glaneurs et la glaneuse* – preferably without subtitles in the first instance, although the language is quite testing!

SHAPING FRANCE

This unit aims to provide students with an overview of issues pertaining to the history, culture and identity of contemporary France. It will give them a better understanding of the nature of the French Republic, of its position in Europe and the contemporary world, and of current social issues. It involves a weekly lecture and a weekly seminar. .

Recommended Reading:

There are no set texts for this unit, but you may find it useful to access one or more of the following:

- Beik, William, *A Social and Cultural History of Early Modern France* (Cambridge University Press, 2009)
- Evans, Martin and Godin, Emmanuel, *France 1815-2003* (Hodder Arnold, 2004)
- Labruno, Gérard and Toutain, Philippe, *L'Histoire de France* (Paris: Nathan)
- Cole, A. and Raymond, G. (eds), *Redefining the French Republic* (Manchester University Press, 2006)

These works will be of use not only for this unit, but for others offered later in the Department.

THE ARTS IN CONTEMPORARY FRANCE – SINGLE HONOURS FRENCH STUDENTS ONLY

This unit is followed ONLY BY SINGLE HONOURS FRENCH STUDENTS.

Using slide presentations, recordings of performance art and dossier material, this unit will introduce students to modern and contemporary developments in the visual arts in France. Media to be studied include painting, sculpture, photography, installation and performance art. Specialist knowledge will not be required. The course aims to help students to develop their critical skills in relation to diverse works by artists such as Henri Matisse, Robert Delaunay, Marcel Duchamp, Louise Bourgeois and Sophie Calle. Presentations will provide the essential facts and aim to generate discussion about artistic developments and cultural issues, which will be followed up in seminars structured around exposés in French by students.

Recommended Reading

Full reading lists, and instructions about the assessment and delivery of the unit, will be distributed at the first class. However, you may wish to familiarise yourself with the history of modern and contemporary art in France by consulting the texts below.

The following book is an accessible introduction to the study of Art History:

- Gombrich, Ernst, H, *The Story of Art*, 16th ed. London: Phaidon, 1995.

[For this course, focus on the introduction and the later chapters (on the nineteenth century onwards).]

The following book is an accessible introduction to the study of art in the twentieth century:

- Lynton, Norbert, *The Story of Modern Art*, 2nd ed. Oxford: Phaidon, 1989.

The following book provides short chapters on some of the major movements in art since 1900:

- Stangos, Nikos (ed.), *Concepts of Modern Art: from Fauvism to Postmodernism*, London: Thames and Hudson, 1981.