

Course Information Sheet for entry in 2020-21

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 the University of Oxford. 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 period to the twentieth century. Among the authors studied will be Shakespeare, Jonson, Donne, Dickens, Charlotte Brontë, Hardy, Yeats and Woolf. Close analysis of works by these and other authors, reinforced by general discussion of modern critical theory and practice, and canonicity, 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) Approaches to Language and Literature
- 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: Approaches to Language and Literature I</i>	<i>Section 4: Approaches to Language and Literature II</i>
Hilary (Spring)	<i>Section 2: Victorian fiction & poetry</i>	<i>Section 5: Modernist Literature</i>
Trinity (Summer)	<i>Section 3: Early Modern Poetry</i>	<i>Section 6: Early Modern Drama (excluding Shakespeare)</i>
September	Shakespeare Summer School	

Classes will meet once a week (these will be online during Michaelmas term) 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, usually one per term (delivered online initially). Each day school will

be linked to the syllabus, usually by its subject matter, though the third will focus on preparation for examinations. Each term you will have two one-hour tutorials. There are usually no more than two students in each tutorial group.

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

Assessment for the award is through coursework, examinations and portfolios. Candidates are required to submit each of the assessment items below and to gain an overall average of 40% or more in each year of the course to be awarded the Foundation Certificate.

- Four online, open book examination papers, two on each of the topics below, each of four hours' duration:
 - a. Early Modern Literature
 - b. Victorian and Modern Literature;
- Two portfolios of written work demonstrating critical approaches to language and literature, the first to be of not more than 3,000 words and the second to be of not more than 5,000 words;
- Twelve coursework essays, each of not more than 2,000 words in length. (Students attend a paired tutorial before writing each assignment. These focus on the preparation of the essays and on suggestions for further development.)

Attendance (online or in person)

Candidates are expected to attend a minimum of:

- 80% of the thirty, two-hour seminars each year;
- Four of the six one-hour tutorials each year; and
- 80% of the one-week summer school at the end of the first year.

The sequence of subjects is as follows:

YEAR ONE

Section 1: Approaches to Language and Literature I

The introductory sessions will raise fundamental questions about why and how we should study literature and then concentrate on detailed analysis of literary texts. 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 explore Victorian fiction, represented by Charles Dickens, Charlotte Brontë, Emily Brontë and Thomas Hardy; and Victorian poetry, represented by Robert Browning, Gerard Manley

Hopkins, Christina Rossetti and Alfred Lord Tennyson. Both fiction and poetry will be related to their social and intellectual contexts.

Section 3: Early Modern poetry

The third section will be 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 Edmund Spenser, Sir Philip Sidney (and other sonneteers), John Donne and George Herbert.

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*, and *Henry IV Part I*.

YEAR TWO

Section 4: Approaches to Language and Literature II

During the first five weeks of term, talks and discussions will introduce students to the concepts and methodologies central to a number of critical theories current in the twentieth century. We shall consider the ways in which Formalist, Structuralist, Post-Structuralist, and political theories raise questions about and challenge concepts such as the production of meaning, reading, literature, and literary value. Students will be encouraged to choose two or three theories for independent study.

During the second five weeks of term, talks and discussions will introduce students to the concepts and methodologies of diachronic and synchronic study of the English language. We shall consider aspects of the history of the English language and language change, register, language and class, language and gender, and language and power. Students will be encouraged to choose two or three theories for independent study.

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 development of the early years of the twentieth century.

We shall focus on the following texts: Katherine Mansfield, *Selected Stories*; James Joyce, *Ulysses*; T.S. Eliot, *The Waste Land*; Virginia Woolf, *Mrs Dalloway*; and the poetry of W.B. Yeats. The focus of this course will be on close textual analysis of several exemplary novels, short stories and poems. Paragraphs or selections from critical essays or contemporary articles will be distributed either prior to or during each seminar, and students will be encouraged to respond to the primary texts from a variety of critical perspectives.

Section 6: Early Modern drama

The sixth section will deal with the drama of the Early Modern period, excluding that of Shakespeare, which has already been the focus of the summer school. Among the texts likely to be represented will be: Christopher Marlowe's *Edward II* and *Dr Faustus*; Ben Jonson's *Volpone* and *Bartholomew Fair*;

Thomas Middleton's *A Chaste Maid in Cheapside*; and John Webster's *The Duchess of Malfi* and *The White Devil*.

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 2020-21

Fee Status	Tuition fee	College Fee	Total annual fees
Home/EU	£2,825	N/A	£2,825
Overseas	£4,840	N/A	£4,840

The fees shown above are the annual tuition fees for this course for entry in the 2020–21 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 case you plan to move to Oxford for the duration of the course' 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 2020–21 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	£270	£385	£2,430	£3,465	£3,240	£4,620
Accommodation	£630	£760	£5,670	£6,840	£7,560	£9,120
Personal items	£130	£245	£1,170	£2,205	£1,560	£2,940
Social activities	£45	£110	£405	£990	£540	£1,320
Study costs	£40	£95	£360	£855	£480	£1,140
Other	£20	£55	£180	£495	£240	£660
Total	£1,135	£1,650	£10,215	£14,850	£13,620	£19,800

When planning your finances for any future years of study in Oxford beyond 2020-21 you should allow for an estimated increase in living expenses of 3% each year.

More information about how these figures have been calculated is available at www.ox.ac.uk/admissions/graduate/fees-and-funding/living-costs.