

## ADDITIONAL INFORMATION FOR THE SINGLE HONOURS FRENCH COURSE

As a student on the Single Honours 'French sole' first-year course at Oxford, you will be taking the two French language papers (Papers I and II) and the two French literature papers (Papers III and IV) as well as the oral, just like everyone else studying the French first-year course. In addition, however, as a French sole candidate you will be taking three further papers in French. These are:

<b>Paper XI</b>	<b>Introduction to French Film Studies;</b>
<b>Paper XII</b>	<b>Introduction to French Literary Theory;</b>
<b>Paper XIII</b>	<b>Key Texts in French Thought.</b>

I include here an outline of what is covered in each paper, how each will be taught and how each is scheduled over the three terms of the first year. From this, you will see that you will begin in Michaelmas Term with the 'Introduction to French Film Studies' paper and add in during the second half of term the 'Key Texts in French Thought' paper. In consequence, it is especially important that you get hold of and read through the suggested texts for these papers (and if at all possible view the films) before the start of term.

There will be an information session for all first-year students in the University who are taking this course in '0th Week' of Michaelmas Term (the week you arrive in October). At this meeting, the course co-ordinators will explain the organisation of the teaching for the three French sole Prelims papers and distribute reading lists, timetables, and work requirements.

### PAPER XI: Introduction to French Film Studies

As part of your Prelim French sole course next year you will be taking a class in the history of French film. The course focuses on four classic Films (see below) but also includes reference a number of other films in order to give you an idea of how film developed in France from the 1930s to the 1970s. This is the first of the three French sole papers we will study, starting at the beginning of Michaelmas Term in October.

The four films that we study in depth are:

Henri-Georges Clouzot: *Le Corbeau* (1943)  
Godard's *Vivre sa vie* (1962)  
Bertrand Blier: *Les Valseuses* (1974)  
Agnès Varda: *Les Glaneurs et la glaneuse* (2000)

In order to prepare for this class over the summer we recommend the following books:  
David Bordwell and Kristin Thompson, *Film Art. An Introduction* (McGraw Hill, 1979 and later editions). This will be used as a course textbook.

### PAPER XIII: Keys Texts in French Thought

This paper will introduce you to four thinkers from the seventeenth to the twentieth centuries. In both essay and commentary writing you will be able to engage with their ideas and with their particular way of expressing them. The prescribed texts are:

R. Descartes, *Discours de la méthode*

J-J. Rousseau, *Discours sur l'inégalité*

H. Bergson, *Essai sur les données immédiates de la conscience*, chapters 1 and 2 (recommended edition: PUF critical edition, edited by Frédéric Worms).

S. de Beauvoir, *Le Deuxième Sexe* (2 vols). NB Both the French 'Idées' collection and the English translation have sections missing and cannot be relied upon. The extracts on which we will concentrate are (page refs from the Folio 1996 ed.): Vol. I, 'Introduction', pp.9-32; 'Mythes', pp. 237-408; Vol. II, 'La femme mariée', pp.221-329; 'La mère', pp.330-391.

The teaching for this paper takes place in Michaelmas Term weeks 5-8 (November-December) and Hilary Term weeks 1-4 (January-February) in a combination of lectures and seminars. You will write essays and commentaries on the texts during the course. The three-hour examination at the end of Trinity Term (June) requires you to answer three questions, each on a different text, one a commentary, the other two essays. There will be a choice of one commentary passage from each text and one essay question on each text.

### **PAPER XII: Introduction to French Literary Theory**

This paper will introduce you to four twentieth-century literary critics. In your essay writing you will be able to engage with their ideas about literature and with their particular way of approaching texts. You will be encouraged to apply these ideas to your own reading of texts. The prescribed authors are:

Paul Valéry, 'Questions de poésie' and 'Poésie en pensée abstraite', in *Théorie poétique et esthétique*, part of *Variété: Oeuvres*, Vol. I (Bibliothèque de la Pléiade, Gallimard, 1957), pp. 1280-1293, 1314-1339 (Given the cost of the Pléiade edition, online copies of these essays will be available to you once you've enrolled as a student on the 'French sole' section of the university's Weblearn resource, as an alternative to buying the text.)

J-P. Sartre, *Qu'est-ce que la littérature?* Sections I-II ('Qu'est-ce qu'écrire?', 'Pourquoi écrire?').

R. Barthes, *Critique et vérité*.

Todorov, 'La notion de littérature', 'L'origine des genres', 'Les deux principes du récit', 'Introduction au vraisemblable' in *La Notion de littérature et autres essais* (recommended edition : Seuil)

The teaching for this paper takes place in Hilary Term weeks 5-8 and Trinity Term weeks 1-4 in a combination of lectures and seminars. The three-hour examination in Trinity Term requires you to answer three questions, each on a different author. There will be a choice of two essay questions on each author.

Full details of the French sole course are available in the online handbook, which you can find on the faculty website.