



June 2024

English and German/German and Linguistics/EMEL German and Arabic/French and German/Spanish and Beginners' German

The Modern Languages tutors are delighted that you have accepted a place to read Modern Languages at St Hilda's, and we look forward to welcoming you to College in October.

The reading list with the set texts and a syllabus for the first-year German course (called Prelims) is attached. Please buy and read (or in one case watch) the set texts **before you arrive**, as you will not have enough time to read them during the short and academically demanding terms at Oxford. Read steadily over the summer (for instance, one chapter or act a day), and make notes as you read, capturing your thoughts and perceptions as well as details of plot, vocabulary and other matters of language.

With your German language, too, the more you are able to do in advance, the more you will be able to enjoy the course, and there are suggestions in the reading list for resources to help with both grammar work and vocabulary expansion.

You should retain the receipts for your book purchases as you will be able to apply for a College book grant to claim back up to £60 when you arrive in October. Your tutor will give you further information on how to do this then.

If you have any questions about reading or preparation, or if you have difficulty obtaining books, please get in touch (georgina.paul@st-hildas.ox.ac.uk).

With best wishes,

Dr Georgina Paul
Fellow and Tutor in German



Modern Languages Prelims (Beginners' German course)

Students will attend a pre-sessional course in order to prepare for the intensive language work leading up to the Preliminary examination. This pre-sessional course consists of an online course and a residential course. All students need to have completed the online course by the time they start the residential course. Students are advised to allow at least 14 days for completion of the online course, which will be available from 1 September. For completion, students will need an internet connection, the *DaF kompakt* course book and work book, and *Essential German Grammar* (details below).

The online course uses the platform Babbel and is supported by a forum on WebLearn, which is used for smaller assignments and allows students to discuss questions and any areas of difficulty. Students are also able to contact the instructor via email.

A letter with details about the online course and information on the residential course will be sent out to students in advance.

The first-year German for Beginners course, starting in Michaelmas Term, consists of four components: three will be focused on intensive language study, while the fourth will give students an opportunity to work on literature also studied by the post-A level cohort. The course for the three language papers (Papers I, II and III) is centrally organised, and is specific to students of Beginners' German. The course for the literature paper (Paper IV) is organised and taught by the student's college.

For Paper IV, Beginners' German students will read three narrative works, initially primarily in translation. You will be expected to use the translation consistently in conjunction with the original, maximising the focus of your reading over time on the original German text. In addition, you will study one film, with subtitles, to learn the techniques of analysing cinematic works. The college-organised tutorials or classes on these works will bring together students from the Beginners' German group and the post-A-level group, and will focus on the German text. Alongside these tutorials or classes, your reading skills in German will be developed in a centrally organised class that will complement, and interact with, both the language papers and the literature/film paper.

The Preliminary Examination is taken at the end of the first year, and consists of the following:

LANGUAGE

Paper I Reading Comprehension, Essay and Grammar

- A) Reading comprehension exercise (in German) on a passage in German.
- B) One essay in German (250-400 words). A choice of questions will be set.
- C) Grammar exercises designed to test grammatical knowledge and the ability to apply it appropriately

Paper IIA Translation into German of a prose passage.

Paper IIB Translation from German of a prose passage in a modern literary register.

Paper III An oral exam with a spoken part and a listening comprehension.

Books required for the language papers:

DaF kompakt A1 - B1, Birgit Braun, Margit Doubek et. al. Kursbuch + 3 Audio-CDs A1 - B1 ISBN 978-3-12-676180-2

DaF kompakt A1 - B1, Birgit Braun, Margit Doubek et. al., Übungsbuch + 2 Audio-CDs A1 - B1 ISBN 978-3-12-676181-9

Essential German Grammar, Martin Durrell, Katrin Kohl, Gudrun Loftus and Claudia Kaiser, second edition (London: Routledge 2015) [Please note that you will need this edition.]

Thematischer Basiswortschatz Klett Verlag 2016. ISBN 978-3125195073

LITERATURE

Paper IV Prose and film: Essays

All students of German, non-beginners and beginners, will study the prescribed prose texts and the prescribed film in Hilary Term. For the examination candidates will be required to write THREE essays on the prescribed works (selected from a choice of questions).

Prose texts and film prescribed for study (please be sure to get the prescribed editions):

Theodor Fontane, *Irrungen, Wirrungen* (1888) [Stuttgart: Reclam XL, 2021. ISBN 3150161215]

Also: *On Tangled Paths*, trans. by Peter James Bowman (London: Penguin Classics, 2013)

Franz Kafka, *Die Verwandlung* (1912/1915) [Stuttgart: Reclam XL, 2021. ISBN 3150161096]

Also: *The Metamorphosis*, trans. by Joyce Crick, in *The Metamorphosis and Other Stories* (Oxford World's Classics; Oxford: OUP, 2009)

Elfriede Jelinek, *Die Liebhaberinnen* (1975) [Reinbek: Rowohlt Taschenbuch, current edition. ISBN 978-3499124679]

Also: *Women as Lovers*, trans. by Martin Chalmers (London: Serpent's Tail, 1994)]

Fatih Akin (dir.), *Aus dem Nichts* (2017)

Also: *In the Fade*, with English subtitles [DVD: Curzon Artificial Eye, 2018]

Candidates on the beginners' course are encouraged to use the original German text as far as possible and to refer to it when quoting from the work, including in the Paper IV examination.