



St Hilda's College
UNIVERSITY OF OXFORD

July 2025

Beginners' German and Linguistics

The Modern Languages and Linguistics tutors are delighted that you have accepted a place to read MLL 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 Beginners' German course (called Prelims) is attached, including the course books you will need for your language-learning. For the first year, the aim of your language course will be to provide you with a sound basis in German grammar, writing, and speaking, and you will have language classes most days of the teaching week. The *Akademie Deutsch* books will be used to support the first-year course, starting with the A1 and then A2 books in Michaelmas Term, and proceeding later on in Hilary Term to the B1 books – in case it is helpful to spread the cost over the year.

You will begin with the study of the set texts and film in Hilary Term, and it is expected that you will at that stage still be dependent on reading the recommended English translations. We advise you to buy and read the set literary texts in translation **before you arrive** in order to begin preparing yourself. By Hilary Term you will be encouraged to try to work with the English translations and the German texts in parallel when writing essays, as this will help you expand your vocabulary as well as giving you the insight into German as a literary language. You will have reading classes as part of your Beginners' German course to help you learn techniques of literary analysis with the original German text.

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).

From the beginning of September 2025, the Modern Languages team at St Hilda's will be joined by a new colleague, Dr Nicholas Jones, who will be your College tutor for German and will teach you for the literature course from Hilary Term onward.

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 for self-study and a residential course, both of which are compulsory. For the online course, which will be made available from the beginning of September, you should set aside approximately two hours per day, starting not later than two weeks prior to the residential course. All students need to have completed the online course by the time they start the residential course. The residential course will take place from Monday 29 September to Friday 3 October 2025, and you will attend classes every day. 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

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| Paper BI | 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 BIIA | Translation into German of a prose passage. |
| Paper BIIB | Translation from German of a prose passage in a modern literary register. |
| Paper BIII | An oral exam with a spoken part and a listening comprehension. |

Books required for the language papers:

Hueber Verlag (ed.) (2019) *Akademie Deutsch A1+: Intensivlehrwerk mit Audios online*. Ismaning: Hueber. ISBN 978-3-19-101650-0

Hueber Verlag (ed.) (2020) *Akademie Deutsch A1+: Zusatzmaterial mit Audios online*. Ismaning: Hueber. ISBN 978-3-19-111650-7

Hueber Verlag (ed.) (2020) *Akademie Deutsch A2+: Intensivlehrwerk mit Audios online*. Ismaning: Hueber. ISBN 978-3-19-121650-4

Hueber Verlag (ed.) (2020) *Akademie Deutsch A2+: Zusatzmaterial mit Audios online*. Ismaning: Hueber. ISBN 978-3-19-131650-1

Hueber Verlag (ed.) (2021) *Akademie Deutsch B1+: Intensivlehrwerk mit Audios online*. Ismaning: Hueber. ISBN 978-3-19-141650-8

Hueber Verlag (ed.) (2021) *Akademie Deutsch B1+: Zusatzmaterial mit Audios online*. Ismaning: Hueber. ISBN 978-3-19-151650-5

Thematischer Basiswortschatz Klett Verlag 2016. ISBN 978-3125195073

LITERATURE

Paper BIV 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.