

UNIVERSITY OF OXFORD

FACULTY OF MEDIEVAL AND MODERN
LANGUAGES



Information for the Preliminary Course in

PORTUGUESE

2008/2009

SUB-FACULTY TEACHING STAFF

The Sub-Faculty of Portuguese is part of the Faculty of Medieval and Modern Languages, and at present includes the following members who are all employed by the University to teach Portuguese at Faculty level:

Prof. Tom Earle (St Peter's) (on leave Michaelmas Term 2008)	47 Wellington Square, tel. (2)70474 thomas.earle@mod-langs.ox.ac.uk
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THE PRELIM COURSE

The aim of the first-year Portuguese course is to bring a potentially heterogeneous group to an intermediate level of competence in written and spoken Portuguese, which will enable students to engage fully with literary works in the language.

We recognize that many incoming students have a limited knowledge of Portuguese, though most are fluent in another foreign language. To cater specifically for the needs of *ab-initio* students and of those who have had little exposure to the language, the Sub-Faculty runs a one-week Pre-Sessional language course in the week preceding Freshers Week (also known as 'Nought Week').

Beyond the Pre-sessional, all incoming students receive teaching in language and literature, in a combination of lectures, classes and tutorials, over the course of three eight-week terms (Michaelmas, Hilary and Trinity). A timetable meeting of all incoming students of Portuguese is scheduled for the end of Freshers Week (details will be communicated nearer the time).

As a rule, one lecture/reading seminar a week will cover the set texts which are part of the literature syllabus. In addition to lectures/seminars, Oxford students cover the texts in greater detail during fortnightly tutorials (usually groups of 2/3 students). For these, students produce written work, on which feedback is provided by the relevant tutors.

Alongside the literature tuition, in the first year four weekly classes are provided for language learning, designed to develop and consolidate the full range of language skills. Special arrangements are made for students who are native speakers of Portuguese.

At the end of the first year, all students reading Portuguese either by itself or with another subject or language are examined in the four Portuguese papers in the Preliminary Examination in Modern Languages. Papers I & II are language exams, while Papers III and IV examine the literature syllabus. As students prepare for these Portuguese examinations over the course of the year, they will concurrently be preparing papers in their other language or subject. Exams take place at the end of Trinity term. Teaching continues up to week six of Trinity term, after which students have one week for revision before the start of the examination process.

LANGUAGE

The four parallel language classes are intended to develop accuracy and expose students to a range of written and spoken registers thereby:

- developing students' oral communication;
- developing their ability to write Portuguese that is grammatically and semantically correct;
- developing ability to translate from and into Portuguese, showing awareness of style and register.

One of the language classes concentrates specifically on spoken language and communicational situations, and the others are based on formal grammatical instruction and preparation for the specific linguistic tasks by which you are examined. During these courses you are given weekly written assignments which must be handed in before the following week's class.

Much of the language teaching will take place in 47 Wellington Square (where the Faculty of Modern Languages is located) and in the Portuguese Centre (*Centro de Língua Portuguesa*) 11 Bevington Road. (A University card is needed for access to both these venues). Throughout the first year and thanks to the wide range of language materials employed, students will be exposed to the European and Brazilian variants of Portuguese.

During their first Long Vacation at the end of their first year at Oxford, students are expected to attend a summer language course in one of the Portuguese-speaking countries. Some grants and scholarships are available to help with travel and course fees and information about these will be given at the end of Hilary term.

PRELIMS LANGUAGE EXAMINATIONS:

Beginners and non-beginners sit two three-hour language papers at the end of Trinity term. The language papers are as follows:

Paper I: You have to answer comprehension questions on a short audio or video recording, translate a short passage of English into Portuguese, write a short guided composition and do several monolingual grammatical exercises.

Paper II: You have to translate one passage of Portuguese into English and translate and answer comprehension questions on a second passage.

RECOMMENDED LANGUAGE BIBLIOGRAPHY:

We recommend students consult a selection of the following grammar, language books and dictionaries in preparation for the Prelims examinations. Further information on this bibliography will be provided at the timetable meeting. That said, your teachers will be happy to answer queries regarding learning materials at any time.

Grammars

Amélia Hutchinson and Janet Lloyd, *Portuguese, an Essential Grammar*, 2nd ed (London: Routledge, 2003): up-to-date, user-friendly, a good starting-point.

R.C.Willis, *An Essential Course in Modern Portuguese* (any edition). It might not look very user-friendly, but it is very comprehensive and will see you through to Finals, providing detailed explanations once you learn how to use its index.

C.F.da Cunha and Lindley Cintra, *Nova gramática do português contemporâneo*, (Lisboa, Sá da Costa) for more advanced work.

Grammar Books with Self-Correcting Exercises:

Olga Mata Coimbra and Isabel Coimbra Leite, *Gramática activa 1 and Gramática activa 2* (Lisbon: Lidel). Indispensable for regular revision and consolidation of main grammatical points.

Leonel Melo Rosa, *Vamos lá continuar* (Lisbon: Lidel). Perhaps for slightly more advanced work, but offering coverage of vocabulary too.

Help with Verbs:

Sue Tyson-Ward, *Portuguese Verbs and Essentials of Grammar* (a practical guide to the mastery of Portuguese): very useful but not a substitute for a reference grammar (see above).

Dicionário de Verbos Portugueses, (Porto Editora). More complete than most, but others like Hugo's *Portuguese Verbs Simplified* or *501 Portuguese Verbs* (Barron) are adequate.

Verb usage/with Prepositions:

H Ventura and M.Caseiro, *Dicionário prático de verbos*, (Lisbon, 1990). Valuable for checking which preposition(s) are used with any given verb.

Celso Luft, *Dicionário prático de regência verbal* (1987) (Brazilian Portuguese)

Vera Cristina Rodrigues, *Dicionário Houaiss. Verbos conjugação e uso de preposições* (Rio de Janeiro: Objetiva, 2003) [Brazilian Portuguese]

Monolingual Dictionaries:

Dicionário da língua portuguesa contemporânea, (Lisbon: Academia das Ciências, 2000). European Portuguese.

Dicionário da língua portuguesa, (Porto: Porto Editora). European Portuguese.

Antônio Houaiss, *Dicionário da língua portuguesa*, Brazilian Portuguese.

Novo Dicionário Aurélio, (Rio de Janeiro: Editora Nova Fronteira, 1986). Brazilian Portuguese.

Francisco da Silva Borba, *Dicionário de usos do português do Brasil* (good reference for usage of Brazilian Portuguese)

Bilingual Dictionaries:

Collins Portuguese Dictionary, English-Portuguese, Portuguese-English (Harper-Collins, 1991). Reasonably priced. Adopts Brazilian spelling and pronunciation as the norm.

Dicionário Inglês/Português Português/Inglês, Dicionários Acadêmicos, (Porto: Porto Editora). This is quite basic, centres on continental Portuguese usage.

Novo Dicionário Michaelis English-Portuguese, Portuguese-English (São Paulo: Melhoramentos, 1958-61). This is the standard bilingual dictionary from Brazil.

Dicionário de inglês-português, (Porto: Porto Editora). Efficient and quite extensive. Continental Portuguese.

Dicionário de português-inglês, (Porto: Porto Editora). Not as good as the English into Portuguese, but still useful.

A Portuguese-English Dictionary, (London: Harrap). Good for Brazilian vocabulary.

LITERATURE

Few students have studied Portuguese literature at school, and therefore the course is intended to develop students' techniques of close reading, while introducing them to a wide range of literary genres from different periods and locations within the Lusophone world. The breadth of the syllabus makes it possible for you to make an informed choice when selecting a period of literature paper to study after the Prelim. At the end of Trinity Term, students sit two three-hour literature papers.

* For Paper III (Twentieth-Century Portuguese and Brazilian Fiction):

you will read three twentieth-century works of fiction, none of them long, but widely different in style and subject matter. All three are modern classics, and each represents a major strand in modern Portuguese and Brazilian literature. The set texts are:

Mário de Sá-Carneiro, *A confissão de Lúcio*

Graciliano Ramos, *São Bernardo*

Clarice Lispector, *Laços de família*

The exam will give students the chance to choose between a commentary and a selection of questions on each of the set texts. Students must write three answers, which must involve a combination of commentaries and essays.

* For Paper IV (The Development of the *Auto*):

you will study the historical evolution of a literary genre, the unique Portuguese dramatic form known as the *Auto*. You will read short plays written in the 16th century by Portuguese dramatist Gil Vicente, one play from the Portuguese Romantic period, authored by Almeida Garrett, and two twentieth-century Brazilian plays by João Cabral de Melo Neto and Ariano Suassuna respectively. You will be encouraged to think how the *Auto* developed over time and was appropriated by dramatists from different social/historical backgrounds and with varying aesthetic intents. The set texts are:

Gil Vicente, *Auto da Índia* and *Auto da Barca do Inferno*

Almeida Garrett, *Um Auto de Gil Vicente*

João Cabral de Melo Neto, *Morte e Vida Severina*

Ariano Suassuna, *Auto da Compadecida*

Students must answer three questions in this paper, and these must include a combination of essays and critical commentaries. A comparative essay is a compulsory component of the exam.

SUGGESTED BACKGROUND READING:

In order to gain an understanding of the set texts you are strongly urged to familiarize yourself with the broader cultural/historical context of the Portuguese-speaking world. Some bibliographical suggestions are included below. Copies of these are held in Oxford libraries.

ON PORTUGAL

David Birmingham, *A Concise History of Portugal*, (Cambridge, Cambridge University Press, 1993)

H. Livermore, *Portugal: a traveller's history* (2004)

José H Saraiva, *Portugal: a Companion History* (Manchester: Carcanet, 1997)

ON BRAZIL

Jan Rocha, *Brazil in Focus. A Guide to the People, Politics and Culture* (London: Latin American Bureau, 1997)

Robert M. Levine and John J. Crocitti eds. *The Brazil Reader. History, Culture, Politics* (London: Latin American Bureau, 1999)

Stephen Hart and Richard Young eds., *Contemporary Latin American Cultural Studies* (London: Arnold, 2003)

OXFORD CENTRES SPECIFICALLY RELEVANT TO STUDENTS OF PORTUGUESE:

UNIVERSITY LANGUAGE CENTRE:

Situated at 12 Woodstock Road, has audio-visual facilities and a large collection of language material. You are advised to arrange an induction meeting in Week 1.

Portuguese TV at the Language Centre:

You should plan to visit the Centre at least once a week and tune into the Portuguese channel (RTP). In addition to providing live broadcast of this channel, the Centre records news bulletins daily, and the tapes are available for viewing at the Centre.

INSTITUTO CAMÕES, CENTRE FOR PORTUGUESE LANGUAGE (11 Bevington Road):

Sponsored by the Portuguese Government and by the University of Oxford, the Instituto Camões Centre for Portuguese Language was founded in October 2001. It aims to promote the study of Portuguese History, Language, Literature and Culture, and to enhance and develop cultural and academic interchanges between Portuguese and English scholars and students. Undergraduates will have most of their languages classes and some lectures at the Centre. For programme of events and links to web-based Portuguese language, literature and culture sites visit: <http://www.clpic.ox.ac.uk>

BRAZILIAN STUDIES AT THE LATIN AMERICAN CENTRE (1 Church Walk (off the Woodstock Road):

The Latin American Centre offers a focal point for academics and students with an interest in Latin American Studies. It works closely with the Department of Portuguese and runs a Brazilian Studies programme, which includes courses, special seminars and workshops on Brazil within the disciplines of history, the social sciences, literature and geography. The Centre operates as a forum for postgraduate research, but undergraduates are free to explore its academic programme and special events schedule. The Centre has a lending library located at the same address. For further information visit: <http://www.lac.ox.ac.uk>

ONLINE TOOLS:

Dictionaries:

<http://www.priberam.pt/dlpo/dlpo.aspx> (monolingual European Portuguese – also includes online Grammar)

<http://www2.uol.com.br/michaelis/> (monolingual, Brazilian)

<http://www1.uol.com.br/bibliot/index.htm> (site has links to the Michaelis bilingual dictionaries – Eng-Port; Port-Eng)

The following links will provide you with invaluable linguistic and cultural exposure. You should aim at accessing Portuguese/Brazilian newspapers, as well as television and radio, at LEAST three times a week.

Portuguese and Brazilian Newspapers:

www.publico.pt

www.expresso.pt

www.jn.pt

www.jb.com.br

www.globo.com.br

www.estado.com.br

Some Brazilian radios and television channels:

<http://redeglobo.globo.com>

www.radiobras.gov.br

<http://www.tvebrasil.com.br>

<http://www.radioeldoradofm.com.br>

<http://www.tvzuka.com/> (gives access to a number of TV channels)

<http://www.mpbfm.com.br> (Brazilian music)

Portuguese radio and television channels:

<http://www.rtp.pt/>

www.sic.pt

For more information on online materials, please consult Dr Stephen Parkinson's website:
<http://users.ox.ac.uk/~srp/ciberportugues.html>

WHERE TO PURCHASE PORTUGUESE BOOKS

The only place in this country where Portuguese books can reliably be obtained is Grant & Cutler Ltd., 55-7 Great Marlborough St., London W1V 1DD (www.grantandcutler.com). They are open in normal shop hours and also have a good mail order service.



The Brazilian LIVRARIA CULTURA (www.livrariacultura.com.br) provides an excellent on-line ordering service. You need to pay by credit card and it is advisable to choose the 'frete EXPRESSO INTERNACIONAL' delivery service option.

The following websites for the bookshops LIVRARIA BERTRAND and FNAC will allow you to order online for delivery from Portugal:

<http://www.bertrand.pt/>

<http://www.fnac.pt/>

The University has three offices, the two Proctors and the Assessor, held by members of the colleges in rotation for one year at a time, who have a University-wide role of ombudsman. The Proctors have particular responsibility for University student discipline and formal complaints, while the Assessor is concerned with student welfare and support. You should refer to the *Proctors' and Assessor's Memorandum*, available from the University Offices or your college, for information about such matters (<http://www.admin.ox.ac.uk/epsc/guidance/index.shtml>).

The University's Complaints and Appeals template may be downloaded in Word  or PDF  versions for inclusion in student handbooks.