

LINGUISTICS: FINAL HONOURS SCHOOL, ACADEMIC YEAR 2010/2011

Papers for the Final Honours School

The subjects below (papers IV, V, XII and XIII) comprise the ‘linguistics’ part of the Final Honours School in ‘Modern Language and Linguistics’. Some of these papers are also available individually to students who are not reading for that degree but are reading for the Final Honours School in either a sole language or in two languages. *Please note that this handbook and is only about the papers in the shaded cells. Specific information on Papers IV and V in the language can be found on each Sub-Faculty’s webpage.*

	IV in the language	V in the language	XII marked as linguistics	XIII	Second XII
Modern language and linguistics*	Compulsory	Compulsory	Compulsory	Compulsory	Optional
Sole language other than French	At least one		Optional	Optional	Unavailable ¹
French sole	Optional	Optional	Optional	Optional	Unavailable
Two languages	Optional	Optional	Unavailable ²	Unavailable	Unavailable ¹

Brief descriptions of the available papers are given below together with summaries of teaching and examining conventions. Please bear in mind that some of these subjects, especially the paper XII special subjects, are on offer subject to appropriate teaching being available, and that details of courses may change at short notice.

The names of tutors whom you can contact for further information about each paper are given with the description of the paper (cf. the contact list below the Linguistic Project section). **Please remember, however, that official contact regarding teaching for any paper should always be made through your college tutor, preferably in good time before the end of the previous term.**

Lectures and tutorials

The lectures for linguistics subjects are spread throughout the academic year, and some of them are regularly spread across two or even three terms. It follows, therefore, that you will not necessarily have tutorials in the same term as you attend the lectures, and it may even be necessary for you to have the tutorials before the lectures, for instance if a clash in your timetable prevents you attending

¹ Except for those offering Spanish who wish to offer XII Modern Catalan or XII Modern Galician.

² Unless also marked with another language identifier or by agreement with the specific Paper convenor.

a set of lectures in your second year. This is not in itself a problem, since tutorials and lectures are often intended to be complementary, and you should not normally expect them to cover all the same material, even if they sometimes do. Conversely, it is also important to ensure that you attend relevant lectures from the very first term of the course even if you will not be having tutorials until later in the year or even in your final year. Do not assume that when you return in your final year you will have time to attend all the lectures again! Linguistics tutors will be able to advise you on which lectures to attend at what stage in your course, depending on your choice of options: however, it is your responsibility to ask for that advice.

Reading lists

A reading list for Paper XIII General Linguistics is available on the Linguistics web site:

http://www.ling-phil.ox.ac.uk/reading_lists#fhs

Students are encouraged to contact their tutors or the contacts for the Paper XII options, listed below, for advice on specialized reading lists for each option or for particular areas of research.

Duplication of material in examinations

Students are forbidden to repeat or reuse material in answering more than one examination question, either within the same examination or in two different examinations. However, it is likely, indeed expected, that there will often be overlap between material studied for paper XIII and the various linguistics paper XIs, as well as papers IV and V in the language and the extended essay. In light of this, students are reminded that they may make use of any relevant material in answering questions on these papers, but can only use the same material once. In particular, students may choose to answer questions within the same area of linguistics in more than one paper: for example, a student is permitted to answer questions on Phonetics or Phonology in the General Linguistics Paper XIII, even if the student has also chosen the Phonetics and Phonology Special Option Paper XII, as long as no material is reused. To provide a concrete example: a candidate who answers a question on the analysis of French nasal vowels by reference to an autosegmental phonological framework could not also answer a question on autosegmental phonology by reference to French nasal vowels in the same or any other paper. However, such a candidate would be free to answer about other areas of phonology or other data in the same or other papers.

GENERAL LINGUISTICS

PAPER XIII

This is a paper specially designed for students who have a strong interest in the theoretical underpinnings of linguistic analysis. It is compulsory for students taking the Modern Language and Linguistics course, and is available as an option to students taking a sole language for the Honour School of Modern Languages, as well as students for the Honour Schools of Experimental Psychology, and Psychology, Philosophy and Physiology.

The paper requires students to show knowledge of contemporary linguistic theory regarding the different aspects of human linguistic capacity in the areas of phonology, phonetics, morphology, syntax, semantics and pragmatics of interpretation. The student should also be able to examine the relation of these systems to issues of linguistic variation, language acquisition and language change. The paper is concerned largely with issues of theory and general techniques of analysis, rather than

the description of individual languages or language groups. It is intended to complement the linguistic study of individual languages (Papers IV and V) and also may be used to complement the general study of human cognitive systems and philosophy of mind.

Paper XIII presupposes and builds on the content of the Foundation Course in Linguistics offered for the Preliminary Examination in the Faculty of Modern Languages. In view of this, while paper XIII is an option for some students who have not taken this examination, it would not normally be sensible or advisable for any student to start to prepare for paper XIII unless and until they have mastered the material that is covered in the Foundation Course in Linguistics.

Students can attend any of the Paper XII lectures, as well as the lectures taught specifically for Paper XIII – consult the Linguistics timetable. Tutorial teaching can be provided from among those lecturing on this course. Assessment is by way of a conventional three-hour exam.

Although the course is not taught from a single textbook, prospective students may gain an idea of its scope and theoretical standard by looking at a general textbook such as Andrew Radford et al., *Linguistics: An Introduction* (Cambridge University Press, 1999) or Victoria Fromkin, Robert Rodman, and Nina Hyams, *An Introduction to Language* (Thomson/Heinle, 8th ed., 2006).

Contact for tutorial arrangements: Please contact Dr Stephen Parkinson in the first instance.

SPECIAL SUBJECTS

***For Special Subjects consult the Faculty website and the linguistic area in Weblearn for reading lists and advanced information (this latter available from September). Inquiries about tutorials arrangements should be directed in the first instance to the named contact for each course. If the contact is unavailable, forward your inquiry to Dr Stephen Parkinson**.*

Paper XII. Phonetics and Phonology

This course is aimed at those who wish to study how sound is used in language to a greater depth than is possible for paper XIII. The topics covered include:

- Coarticulation and models of speech production
- Approaches to speech perception
- Phonetic Acquisition
- Experimental methodology
- Prosody
- Non-linear phonology
- Constraint-based phonology
- The phonetics/phonology interface.

This option is taught through seminars and practical sessions. **Method of Assessment A*** (Three-hour unseen written paper and a half-hour practical phonetic transcription exercise: 75%/25%)

Contact: Prof. John Coleman (on leave in MT 10)
Dr Elinor Payne

Paper XII. Psycholinguistics

Psycholinguistics is an interdisciplinary area of study that addresses the relation between language and cognition. Fields covered in this course include the study of the development of language in children and the investigation of the psychological mechanisms that underlie the production and understanding of speech. The lectures and classes will take place in Hilary Term.

Teaching is through a combination of lectures and classes. **Method of Assessment A.**

Contact: Prof. Aditi Lahiri

Paper XII. Semantics

This option is a thorough introduction for candidates who wish to explore the ways in which meaning is encoded in language. The areas under study will include: lexical meaning and lexical relationships, combinatorial and truth conditional semantics, the interaction between semantics and pragmatics, and the syntax-semantics interface.

Suggested reading: Saeed, John I. (2003) *Semantics*. [Second edition] Oxford: Blackwell

This option is taught through a combination of lectures and tutorials. **Method of Assessment A.**

Contact: Prof. Mary Dalrymple

Paper XII. Sociolinguistics

Sociolinguistics is the study of language variation and change, and their relationship to social phenomena (e.g. class, gender and ethnic divisions, patterns of migration and contact, social network structures). Topics covered include sociolinguistic methods, geographical and social dimensions of dialect variation, mechanisms of language change, code choice and code-switching in multilingual settings, pidgin and creole languages, language shift and language death. The lectures and classes will take place in HT.

Teaching is through a combination of attendance at lectures and classes. **Method of Assessment A.**

Contact: Dr Rosalind Temple (on leave in MT 10)

Paper XII. Syntax

This option is designed for candidates who wish to attain a more detailed understanding of contemporary syntactic theory. The theoretical issues explored usually includes phrase structure and X' theory, raising and control, long-distance dependencies, and coordination; analysis and discussion are primarily (though not exclusively) conducted within the theory of Lexical Functional Grammar.

The option is taught through lectures and tutorials or classes, as appropriate. **Method of Assessment A.**

Contact: Prof. Mary Dalrymple

Paper XII. Language Change and Historical Linguistics

The course will examine major current issues in the areas of phonological, morphological, syntactic, and semantic change, looking at both internal developments and external changes resulting from contact between languages. Amongst topics likely to figure on the course in any given year are: comparative reconstruction; regularity and lexical diffusion in sound change; analogy; grammaticalisation; the sociolinguistics of language change.

Teaching will be by a combination of lectures and classes. **Method of assessment A.**

Contact Mr J.C. Smith

Paper XII. Linguistic Project

This option allows a candidate to undertake a descriptive project, using the analytic tools acquired in other core areas of Linguistics. The report should document a piece of original research conducted by the student into some aspect of a particular dialect, language, or variety. The data may be collected at first hand by the student (possibly during the year abroad), or it may be from another credible source. The analysis of the data may focus on an aspect or combination of aspects of linguistic structure or usage.

Students planning to offer this option are encouraged to begin planning for the project during the second year, since the year abroad is an ideal time to conduct research for the project. Topics must be discussed with a course co-ordinator, and are ratified by the Faculty of Linguistics, Philology and Phonetics in the same manner as for other Longer Essays in the Faculty of Modern Languages. More information on supervision and assessment is available at the Linguistic Project web page:

http://www.ling-phil.ox.ac.uk/ling_project

For more information of what may be involved, check the lecture series that were delivered in TT10, available on Weblearn:

http://weblearn.ox.ac.uk/site/human/lingphon/undergrad/ling_proj/

Examples of the sorts of topics that have been undertaken are:

- *Code-switching in Swiss German.*
- *Variation in the syntax of Polish numeral phrases with reference to Government and Binding Theory.*
- *To what extent does Poplack 1992's hypothesis of the inherent variability of the French subjunctive hold when applied to a corpus of online blog comments?*
- *The grammaticalisation of German causal conjunctions: pragmatic, semantic and syntactic dimensions.*

Method of Examination B (1) (see the Linguistic Project web page for further information).

List of contacts in Linguistics for the 2010-2011 academic year:

Prof. John Coleman, john.coleman@phon.ox.ac.uk, Phonetics Laboratory

Prof. Mary Dalrymple, mary.dalrymple@ling-phil.ox.ac.uk, Centre for Linguistics and Philology

Dr Kerstin Hoge, kerstin.hoge@ling-phil.ox.ac.uk, St Hilda's College

Prof. Aditi Lahiri, aditi.lahiri@ling-phil.ox.ac.uk, Centre for Linguistics and Philology

Dr Elinor Payne, elinor.payne@phon.ox.ac.uk, Phonetics Laboratory

Dr Stephen Parkinson, stephen.parkinson@mod-langs.ox.ac.uk, 47 Wellington Square

Mr J.C. Smith, johncharles.smith@stcatz.ox.ac.uk, St Catherine's College

Dr Rosalind Temple, rosalind.temple@mod-langs.ox.ac.uk, New College

Other papers under Linguistics

CELTIC

Paper XII - The Structure and History of the Welsh Language

The course will be divided into two parts: first, a study of some of the main aspects of modern and earlier Welsh, notably the initial consonant mutations, the nominal and verbal systems, and, secondly, the main phases in the history of the language. In the first half of the course the focus will be on the modern language, but with one eye to the historical background; in the second half, the approach will be historical, with rather more attention being paid to phonology but still building on the topics covered in the first half. Particular attention will be paid to the differences between the language of prose and poetry, what can be learnt from various attempts made in the past, from the fourteenth century onwards, to analyse the language, and the relationship between standard forms of Welsh and the dialects.

Tuition is by means of tutorials. **Method of Assessment A.**

Introductory reading

Paul Russell, *An Introduction to the Celtic Languages*, London: Longman, 1995

M. J. Ball with J. Fyfe (eds.), *The Celtic Languages*, London: Routledge, 1993

D. MacAulay (ed.), *The Celtic Languages*, Cambridge: CUP, 1992

Contact: Prof. T. Charles-Edwards, thomas.charles-edwards@mod-langs.ox.ac.uk, Jesus College

Paper XII - The Structure and History of the Irish Language

The course will combine a study of selected distinctive aspects of Irish in the first half with a look at some of the main stages in the history of the language in the second half. An examination of the phonology of Irish will concentrate on the exploitation in the grammar of such features as the

palatalization of consonants, and initial mutations; this will lead straight to a consideration of word-boundaries and the phonology of nominal and verbal phrases. An examination of the verbal systems will pay particular attention to the relationship between the syntax of the finite verb and that of the verbal noun. Since the contemporary evidence for Irish stretches all the way from the fourth- or fifth-century inscriptions to the modern period, the historical section of the course will be correspondingly selective. It will concentrate, first, on the early period, from the fourth to the ninth century, and, secondly, on the relationships between the early-modern standard language and the separation of Scottish Gaelic from Irish and also modern Irish dialects.

Tuition is by means of tutorials. **Method of Assessment A.**

Introductory reading

Paul Russell, *An Introduction to the Celtic Languages*, London: Longman, 1995

M. J. Ball with J. Fyfe (eds.), *The Celtic Languages*, London: Routledge, 1993

D. MacAulay (ed.), *The Celtic Languages*, Cambridge: CUP, 1992

David Greene, *The Irish Language: An Ghaeilge*, Dublin, 1966; available only in libraries, but an excellent brief outline.

Contact: Prof. T. Charles-Edwards, thomas.charles-edwards@mod-langs.ox.ac.uk, Jesus College

ROMANCE

Paper XII – Romance Philology and Linguistics

Candidates will be expected to show a detailed knowledge of the methods of comparative Romance linguistics and to illustrate their answers with examples from more than one Romance language. Texts for linguistic commentary in 'Vulgar Latin' (G. Rohlfs, *Sermo vulgaris latinus*, Tuebingen, 1969: II, VII, XIII, XVIII, XX, XXIX, XXXIV) and unseen passages from 'lesser known' Romance varieties (Sardinian, Romanian, Romansch and others) will also be set each year.

Teaching for this option is through lectures and tutorials. **Method of Assessment A.**

Introductory reading

W. Elcock, *The Romance Languages*, 1975.

M. Harris and N. Vincent (eds.), *The Romance Languages*, 1988.

Contact: Prof. Martin Maiden, martin.maiden@mod-langs.ox.ac.uk, Trinity College

CZECH

For detailed information on Czech Paper IV, please consult the Czech handbook.

Contact: Dr James Naughton, james.naughton@mod-langs.ox.ac.uk, St Edmund Hall

FRENCH

For detailed information on French Paper IV and Paper V, please consult the French handbook. See also **Paper XII: Romance Philology and Linguistics**.

Contact: Mr J.C. Smith, johncharles.smith@stcatz.ox.ac.uk, St Catherine's College
Dr Ian Watson, ian.watson@mod-langs.ox.ac.uk, Christ Church College
Dr Rosalind Temple (on leave in MT10)

GERMAN

For detailed information on German Paper IV, Papers V(i) and V(ii), and Paper XII: Old High German with either Gothic or Old English or Old Saxon, please consult the German handbook.

Contact: Dr Kerstin Hoge, kerstin.hoge@mod-langs.ox.ac.uk, St. Hilda's College

GREEK

For detailed information on Greek Paper IV and Paper V, please consult the Greek handbook.

Contact: Prof. Marc Lauxtermann, marc.lauxtermann@mod-langs.ox.ac.uk, Exeter College

ITALIAN

For detailed information on Italian Paper IV and Paper V, please consult the Italian handbook. See also **Paper XII: Romance Philology and Linguistics**.

Contact: Prof. Martin Maiden, martin.maiden@mod-langs.ox.ac.uk

POLISH AND OTHER NON-RUSSIAN SLAVONIC LANGUAGES

Paper XII - The structure and history of one of the following languages: Bulgarian/Macedonian, Croatian/Serbian, Polish, Slovak, Slovene, Sorbian, Ukrainian.

This paper surveys both the diachronic development and the synchronic state of one of the languages from the list given above. The diachronic part of the paper covers the development of the language from the earliest written texts to the present day, but is more limited in scope than papers dealing exclusively with the history of a language such as the Paper IV options. The synchronic section deals with the descriptive analysis of the phonetic, phonological, morphological, syntactic and lexical characteristics of the language today. Members of the Faculty *may* from time to time offer lectures or classes on the structure or the history of Polish, Ukrainian or another Slavonic language from the list above. In individual or small group tutorials, you will explore a range of

clearly defined topics in more depth. You will also have an opportunity to study source material that illustrates different periods in the development of the language. The examination comprises a range of questions, of which you can choose three. One of the questions may be a commentary on a modern or pre-modern passage in the Slavonic language you have chosen. As a prerequisite, you need a passive command of the language.

Method of Assessment A. See also **Russian** for other relevant Paper XII options.

Contact: Dr J. Fellerer, jan.fellerer@mod-langs.ox.ac.uk, Wolfson College
Dr C.M. MacRobert, catherine.macrobot@mod-langs.ox.ac.uk, Lady Margaret Hall

PORTUGUESE

For detailed information on Portuguese Paper IV and Paper V, please consult the Portuguese handbook. See also **Paper XII: Romance Philology and Linguistics**.

Contact: Dr Stephen Parkinson, stephen.parkinson@mod-langs.ox.ac.uk

RUSSIAN

Please consult the Russian handbook for detailed information on Russian Paper IV, Paper V, Paper XII: Old Church Slavonic in Relation to Common Slavonic and Russian, and Paper XII: Comparative Slavonic Philology. See also the **Polish** section of this handbook for information on Paper XII - The structure and history of one of the following languages: Bulgarian/ Macedonian, Croatian/Serbian, Czech, Polish, Slovak, Slovene, Sorbian, Ukrainian.

Contact: Dr J. Fellerer, jan.fellerer@mod-langs.ox.ac.uk, Wolfson College
Dr C.M. MacRobert, catherine.macrobot@mod-langs.ox.ac.uk, Lady Margaret Hall

SPANISH AND OTHER LANGUAGES OF THE IBERIAN PENINSULA

For detailed information on Spanish Paper IV and Paper V, Paper XII - Bilingualism: Spanish and English, Paper XII - Modern Catalan, and Paper XII - Modern Galician, please consult the Spanish handbook. See also **Paper XII: Romance Philology and Linguistics**.

Contact: Dr Paloma Garcia-Bellido, paloma.garcia-bellido@mod-langs.ox.ac.uk
Dr Juan-Carlos Conde, juan-carlos.conde@mod-langs.ox.ac.uk

YIDDISH

Paper XII: Yiddish Linguistics

Candidates will be expected to show knowledge of the methods and findings of Yiddish linguistic research with respect to any three of the following five topics:

- (i) origins and history of Yiddish;
- (ii) interrelationships with German dialects and standard German;
- (iii) the Semitic component in Yiddish;
- (iv) Yiddish dialectology;
- (v) Yiddish sociolinguistics.

Required readings for each of these topics will be in Yiddish, English, and German.

The course will be taught by tutorial. **Method of Assessment A.**

Contact: Dr Kerstin Hoge, kerstin.hoge@mod-langs.ox.ac.uk, St Hilda's College

WHEN DRAWING UP THIS HANDBOOK WE HAVE TRIED TO BE AS ACCURATE AND CLEAR AS POSSIBLE, BUT REMEMBER THAT IT IS ONLY AN INFORMAL GUIDE. THE REVISED EDITION OF THE UNIVERSITY'S *EXAMINATION DECREES AND REGULATIONS* WILL BE THE OFFICIAL AUTHORITATIVE SOURCE OF INFORMATION AND YOU SHOULD CHECK ALL DETAILS IN THE RELEVANT COPY OF THAT PUBLICATION. COURSES AND REGULATIONS ARE CONSTANTLY UNDER REVIEW, SO ALWAYS CHECK ALSO WITH YOUR COLLEGE TUTOR TO CONFIRM WHAT IS WRITTEN HERE.

IN ADDITION, DO NOT HESITATE TO ASK FOR CLARIFICATION ABOUT THE COURSE FROM ANY MEMBER OF THE FACULTY WHO IS LECTURING TO YOU OR TUTORING YOU; WE WILL ALWAYS DO OUR BEST TO HELP.

July 2010