

HISTORY AND ANCIENT AND MODERN HISTORY AT CORPUS

A GUIDE FOR INCOMING STUDENTS ☉ 2018

Welcome to Corpus! When you come up in October, we shall give you a lot of guidance about the History course, including a handbook, which will tell you everything you need to know. At this stage, we just want to give you a rough outline, so that you can make some decisions about what you want to study in the first couple of terms and do a little preparatory work. If you want to know more, see <http://www.history.ox.ac.uk/undergraduate-admissions>, which tells you about the shape of the course and enables you to find out more information about the various papers (follow the links to 'BA History' or 'Join Schools'.

THE FIRST YEAR PROGRAMME

There is an examination (called the Preliminary Examination, usually abbreviated to Prelims), at the end of your third term, and this shapes the work you do during the first year. The syllabus, which is the same for all colleges, aims to introduce you to historical study in all its variety. There are four courses, or 'papers'. You select two 'outline' papers, each of which will cover a broad period. One of these will be on the history of the British Isles; the other will be on 'General' history (that is, European, Near Eastern and, in later centuries, world history). Then there is a choice between four papers concerned with historical method, which are described below. Finally, there is an 'Optional Subject' to be selected from a range of possibilities; this will give you an opportunity to cover a topic in greater detail, using original sources. The year's work thus consists of the following courses, each of which will be examined by one paper in Prelims:

1. a British History paper: History of the British Isles I (c.300-1100), II (1000-1330), III (1330-1550); IV (1500-1700); V (1688-1848); VI (1830-1951). Although students are expected to gain an overall sense of the period covered in each of these papers, it is also possible to explore topics of special interest in some depth. This paper will normally be taken in seven tutorials in Michaelmas Term.
2. a paper on 'European and World History' (any one of the four periods, 370-900, 1000-1300, 1400-1650, 1815-1914), which will normally be taken in Hilary Term (seven tutorials). This paper must be in a different period from your British History paper.
3. one of the following four options on historical method, usually taken fortnightly throughout the year (seven tutorials):
 - a) 'Approaches to History'. This looks at how historical writing has been influenced by other disciplines in the humanities and social sciences. You will look at three

of these 'approaches', to be chosen from Archaeology, Art History, Anthropology, Economics, Gender Studies and Sociology.

- b) 'Historiography: Tacitus to Weber'. For this paper you will study the development of historical writing and attitudes to history by looking at the works of major historians and setting them in context. The historians concerned are Tacitus, Augustine, Machiavelli, Gibbon, Ranke, Macaulay and Weber. You will look at three or four of them.
 - c) 'Foreign Texts'. Here you can choose from a range of historical writing in foreign languages (Greek, Latin, French, German, Italian, Spanish, Russian) designed to improve or revive skill at languages, and to allow the close study of texts which are particularly interesting to the historian.
 - d) 'Quantification in History'. This is not available to those doing Ancient and Modern History. It covers the major methods of statistical presentation and analysis used by historians.
 - e) Beginning- or Intermediate-level papers in Latin or Ancient Greek. Various restrictions apply: click on 'Ancient and Modern History' at <https://www.history.ox.ac.uk/joint-schools>, and download last year's handbook to get an idea.
(Note that these courses are restricted to people reading Ancient and Modern History, but they may be available – on a non-examined basis – to main-school History candidates too, if there are enough places free.)
4. an 'Optional Subject' (using documentary evidence), normally studied via six tutorials in Trinity Term. See <https://www.history.ox.ac.uk/optional-subject>.

The choices you need to make before coming up in October are:

- (1) which of the British History papers you intend to study in your first term;
 - (2) which of the European and World History papers you would like to study in the second term; and
 - (3) which of the historiographical options listed above under 3 (a)-(e) you wish to take.
- (There is no need to decide on your 'Optional Subject' yet.)

We think it is very important that you should begin your studies at Oxford by broadening your range; we will therefore expect you *not* to do in your first term the period of British history that you studied at A level. If you are deeply attached to that period, don't worry: you will be able to return to it later on.

There is one further thing to keep in mind: the Faculty's regulations for the BA in History require that in the course of studying here (over all three years) students must choose at least one paper of British or European and World History from each of the medieval (up to 1400), early modern (1400-1700) and modern periods. You must also take two British History papers, two European History papers and one World History paper (this includes optional papers and other specialised papers which will be available to you in the second and third years).

Finally, a local peculiarity: all those accepted to read History at Corpus may choose either the Modern History or the Ancient and Modern History course for the first year. It does not matter if you have not hitherto expressed an interest in the Ancient and Modern History course, nor does it matter if you cannot read either Latin or Greek: most of the important primary sources are available in translation, and for those who so wish there are introductory classes provided in both languages. Most of the syllabus is the same whichever course you choose. The difference between them consists in just two things:

- for the Ancient and Modern History course you will do an outline paper on Ancient History instead of an outline paper on British History. This must be either Greek History, c.650-479 BC, or Roman History, 241-146 BC
- under 3, you must choose either (a) 'Approaches' or (b) 'Tacitus to Weber' or (c) 'Foreign Texts' or (e) Latin or Ancient Greek language. If you choose 3(c), you must study either Herodotus or Sallust, *Jugurtha*.

Please inform the Academic Registrar, as soon as you can, but in any event by 1st September:

1. whether you intend to take the Modern or the Ancient and Modern History course for Prelims.
2. which British History period (i.e. in 1 above) you wish to study in the first term.
3. which European and World History period (i.e. in 2 above) you wish to study in the second term.
4. which of the 'historical method' options (i.e. in 3 above) you wish to take.

INTRODUCTORY READING

We suggest that you do two kinds of introductory reading.

First of all, we would like you to read, and think about, the accompanying essays 'Time, Work- Discipline and Industrial Capitalism', by E. P. Thompson and 'Rice-Milling, Gender and Slave Labour in Colonial South Carolina', by Judith Carney. We will meet to discuss these essays during Freshers' Week. We do not expect you to know anything about the things the authors are discussing, but we would like you to think about their approaches, their arguments and their evidence. What do you find persuasive and interesting here? What does not convince you? What continuities and differences do you notice between the two pieces, written roughly thirty years apart? Our aim in asking you to read these articles, and in joining us to discuss it, is to draw you into some of the ways we work at Oxford. Your reactions to what you read are important. You'll get used to reading articles like this, as well as books, and to forming opinions about them. You'll also get used to exchanging those opinions with other students and tutors. And you'll get used to encountering unfamiliar material and having to come up with some ideas about it pretty quickly. We'd like to offer you a taste of that experience soon after you arrive.

We also suggest that you do some introductory reading for the British History/Ancient History paper, bearing in mind that it will be a period that you did not study at A level. Most of these are books to be enjoyed, and you shouldn't read them as though getting them up for examinations, but to get the flavour of the times explored in them. Some of them might help you to establish a rough chronological outline for the period you'll be studying, and to get an idea of its basic features.

1. For **British History I**, we would suggest either of the following books, which are easily available in paperback:
 - J. Campbell, ed., *The Anglo-Saxons* (Penguin, London, 1991)
 - R. Fleming, *Britain after Rome* (Penguin, London, 2010)

2. For **British History II**, we would suggest one of the following books, which are easily available in paperback:
 - M. T. Clanchy, *England and its Rulers, 1066-1307*, 3rd edn. (Blackwell, Oxford, 2006).
 - J. Crick and E. Van Houts, eds., *A Social History of England, 900-1200* (Cambridge, 2011)
 - R. R. Davies, *The First English Empire, 1093-1343* (Oxford, 2000) (a thoughtful series of lectures, rather than an introductory work)

3. If you choose **British History III**, there is no introductory work that surveys the whole period, but the following are useful, and available in paperback:
 - W. M. Ormrod and R. Horrox, eds., *A Social History of England, 1200-1500* (Cambridge, 2006)
 - G. L. Harriss, *Shaping the Nation: England, 1360-1461* (Oxford, 2005)
 - C. Carpenter, *The Wars of the Roses* (Cambridge University Press, 1997)
 - S. Brigden, *New Worlds, Lost Worlds: the Rule of the Tudors, 1485-1603* (Penguin, 2000)

4. For **British History IV**, you will find the following books helpful as an introduction; all of them are in paperback:
 - S. Brigden, *New Worlds, Lost Worlds: the Rule of the Tudors, 1485-1603* (Penguin, 2000)
 - A. Ryrie, *The Age of Reformation: the Tudor and Stewart Realms, 1485-1603* (Harlow, 2009)
 - J. Wormald, ed., *The Seventeenth Century, 1603-1714* (Oxford, 2008)
 - K. Wrightson, *English Society, 1580-1680* (Rutgers, NJ, 2003)

5. For **British History V**, the following books offer an excellent orientation:
 - P. Langford, ed., *Oxford History of the British Isles: the Eighteenth Century, 1688-1815* (Oxford, 2002)
 - Boyd Hilton, *A mad, bad, and dangerous people? England 1783-1846* (Oxford: OUP, 2006)
 - D. Hay and N. Rogers, *Eighteenth Century English Society* (Oxford: Oxford University Press, 1997).

- L. Colley, *Britons. Forging the Nation 1707-1837* (London: Pimlico, 1992).
- J. Brewer, *The Pleasures of the Imagination. English Culture in the Eighteenth Century* (Hammond: Harper Collins, 1997).

6. For **British History VI**, you will find the following books helpful as an introduction:
- Colin Matthew, ed., *The nineteenth century: the British Isles, 1815-1901* (Oxford: OUP, 2000)
 - Peter Clarke, *Hope and glory: Britain 1900-2000* (London: Penguin, 2004).
 - Martin Pugh, *State and society: British political and social history 1870-1992* (London: Hodder, 1999)
 - Martin Daunton, *Wealth and welfare: an economic and social history of Britain 1851-1951* (Oxford: OUP, 2007).
 - Ronald Hyam, *Britain's imperial century, 1815-1914: a study of empire and expansion* (Basingstoke: Palgrave Macmillan, 2002).
7. For those choosing **Ancient History**, the following are recommended for **Greek** history:
- R. Osborne, *Greece in the Making 1200-479 B.C.* (2nd ed. Routledge, London, 2009).
 - J. Hall *A History of the Archaic Greek World ca. 1200-479 BCE*, (2nd ed. , Blackwell, Oxford 2013)

You are strongly encouraged to begin reading some of the key texts:

- Herodotus. We recommend either the translation by Selincourt and updated by Marincola (Penguin edition) or the translation by Waterfield (*Oxford World's Classics* edition). The *Landmark Herodotus* (Strassler ed.) has become harder to get hold of, but is richly illustrated with maps of particular value to those less familiar with the text.

For **Roman** history we recommend:

- H. Flower, *Roman Republics* (Princeton, 2010) (interesting, rather than essential)
- Walbank, F.W., *The Hellenistic World* (London, 1992)
- N. Rosenstein, *Rome and the Mediterranean 290 to 146 BC: the imperial republic* (Edinburgh UP, 2012)

You are strongly encouraged to begin reading some of the key texts:

- Polybius: the most accessible and affordable version is the Penguin Classics (1 volume, *Polybius: The Rise of the Roman Empire*, tr. I. Scott-Kilvert).
- Livy's *ab urbe condita*. Books 21–45 are most relevant for this period. Again, there are volumes in the Penguin Classics translation series (books 21–30 as *The War with Hannibal*, and 31–45 as *Livy: Rome and the Mediterranean*). Preferable are the more recent translations by J.C. Yardley in the Oxford World's Classics series: *Livy: Hannibal's War* for books 21–30 (2006), and *Livy: the Dawn of the Roman Empire* which covers books 31–40 (2000).

PREPARING FOR WORK AT UNIVERSITY

IT

The use of a tablet, PC or lap-top is now routine, and you should expect to use one frequently, as you probably already do. The ability to touch-type will be a real advantage. Wi-Fi is available throughout the College and there are also network connections in student rooms on the main College site. The University Computing Service has a shop where you can purchase consumables, software and hardware cheaply.

Study Skills

You may like to look at one of the guides to studying at university, some of which are listed below. University work presents new challenges (and excitements), and it raises different issues and problems. No-one will be 'teaching' you in quite the way you have been taught before: it will be up to you, to a much greater extent, to organise your time and to plan your studies; and the standard university diet of lectures, classes and tutorials differs from the kind of teaching that is usual in sixth forms. You will not find it hard to adapt to the style and content of university education, and you will certainly develop your own personal strategies for meeting the demands placed upon you; but, even so, these guides often contain useful advice, and reading one of them may give you a better idea of what sort of things to expect when you come to Oxford in the autumn. All are available in paperback at reasonable prices.

- E. Chambers and A. Northedge, *The Arts Good Study Guide*, 2nd edn (Milton Keynes, 2008)
- M. Abbott, ed., *History Skills*, 2nd edn (London, 2009)
- L. Marshall and F. Rowland, *A Guide to Learning Independently* (Open University Press, 1998)
- P. Dunleavy, *Studying for a Degree in the Humanities and Social Sciences* (Macmillan, 1986)

The next two guides focus particularly on the sorts of writing skills which may be required for university work. If there are aspects of English style, grammar and syntax which you are not sure of, now might be a good time to tackle them. Do you know how to use a colon, for example? Or a semi-colon?

- G. J. Fairbairn and C. Winch, *Reading, Writing and Reasoning. A Guide for Students* (Open University Press, 1996)
- D. Collinson, et al., *Plain English* (Open University Press, 1992).

For a classic short guide on the importance of writing clearly, see George Orwell's essay 'Politics and the English language' (1947), which is available in a number of collections of his essays.

Do not forget to inform the Academic Registrar by 1st September about the courses you have chosen for next term. If you are late with this, we may not be able to arrange the teaching you want. If you have any queries, please do not hesitate to write to us. More detailed information about courses and examinations (for all three years) will be made

available to you when you arrive in Oxford in the autumn. We look forward to meeting you then.

SAM GARTLAND (classical period)
JOHN WATTS (medieval period)
KATHERINE PAUGH (modern period)
MICHAEL JOSEPH (modern period)
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