

All French students at New College will be studying four papers in first year (Prelims). (French Sole students study others, detailed on pages 3-4; those not reading French Sole can ignore those pages.) The first two are language papers: Paper I (French Grammar, Translation, and Summary) and Paper II (Unprepared and Prepared Translation into English); these will be explained to you in more detail when you arrive.

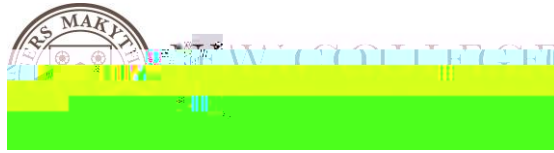
The literary element of the Prelims course in French is made up of two papers, numbered III and IV. These papers will be taught in 2024-25 by Dr Holly Langstaff and Dr Thom Murphy. For Paper III, you read four short texts, and write commentaries on these as course work; a 5-hour online open-book examination. Paper IV is an introduction to the study of prose fiction, for which you read four longer works; you write an essay about any three of them in an online open-book examination at the end of the year.

The set texts for each paper are listed below, and it is *essential* to have read these before you arrive at College in Michaelmas. We have suggested which editions we think most useful. In all cases, you should buy serious scholarly editions by reputable French publishers (this usually means Gallimard or Garnier-Flammarion). Do *not* buy cheap, print-on-demand versions, which are often inaccurate and incomplete.

Paper III: Short Texts

Olivier Guichard, ed. *Essais I*, recommended edn: *Essais: 'Des cannibales' et 'Des coches'*, ed. by Michel Tarpinian (Paris: Ellipses, 1998)

Jean Racine, *Phèdre*, recommended edn: *Phèdre*



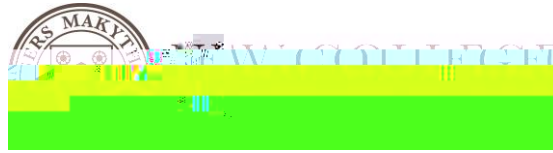
Students taking the French Sole course take French papers I-IV along with other students studying French. In addition, they take the three papers described below. A brief outline is given here, and for each paper your lecturers/seminar tutor will also provide you with topic-specific reading lists and essay titles.

Introductory reading:

- Michael Temple and Michael Witt (eds), (British Film Institute, 2004).
A detailed introduction to French cinema as an industry.
- David Bordwell and Kristin Thompson, (McGraw Hill, various editions). A very useful introduction explaining all the technical terms that are used to analyse a film.

This paper will introduce you to four twentieth- and twenty-first century French film directors. We discuss the concepts of realism, documentary and avant-garde cinema and introduce the basic tools of film analysis.

In your essay writing you will be able to engage with the directors' ideas and with their particular way of realising them. The films under discussion involve a wide range of themes such as love, power, gender relations and autobiography. Each director has a different style of filmmaking. The focus of the course is the question of how the film medium represents contemporary reality. We will look at the way each of these directors uses devices of storytelling to present a particular point of view upon the world.



(1925); Alfred Hitchcock: (1935); Michelangelo Antonioni (1967);
Claire Denis: (1999).

This paper will introduce you to four twentieth-century literary critics. In your essay writing you will be able to engage with their ideas about literature and with their particular way of expressing them. You will be encouraged to apply these ideas to your own reading of texts.

The prescribed authors (note the recommended editions) are:

- Paul Valéry, 'Questions de poésie' and 'Poésie et pensée abstraite', in part of (Gallimard, Bibliothèque de la Pléiade) [both essays are available electronically on Canvas, accessible via Single Sign-On once you get to Oxford]
- Jean-Paul Sartre, (Folio) [Sections I and II only]
- Roland Barthes, (Seuil)
- Hélène Cixous, 'Le rire de la Méduse' in , ed. by Frédéric Regard (Galilée). [essay available electronically on Canvas, accessible via Single Sign-On]

The teaching for this paper takes place in Hilary Term (second term), in weeks 5-8 and Trinity Term weeks 1-4, in a combination of lectures and seminars. You will be required to submit to your seminar tutor an essay on three of the authors, and to do a seminar presentation on the fourth.

This paper will introduce you to four thinkers from the seventeenth to the twentieth centuries. In both essay and commentary writing you will be able to engage with their ideas and with their particular way of expressing them.

The prescribed texts (note the recommended editions) are:

- René Descartes, edited by Laurence Renault (Garnier-Flammarion)
- Jean-Jacques Rousseau, (Folio)
- Simone de Beauvoir, (Folio), vol. I, 'Introduction'; 'Mythes'; II, 'La femme mariée'; 'La mère'. (NB Both the French 'Idées' collection and the English translation have sections missing and cannot be relied upon)
- Aimé Césaire, (Présence Africaine).

The teaching for this paper takes place in Michaelmas Term weeks 5-8 and Hilary Term