

RQ12 FRENCH AND COMPARATIVE LITERATURE

joint hon information guide 2017

PROGRAMME SPECIFIC INFORMATION, PRELIMINARY READING LIST AND INDUCTION TIMETABLE
FOR FIRST YEAR STUDENTS 2017/18

All students take 120 credits in total each year.

ALL first year students of **French and Comparative Literature** will be registered for **120 credits** of compulsory and core modules and have no choices to make for module registration.

Full information regarding the modules you have to take is listed in the programme regulations here:
http://sllf.qmul.ac.uk/media/sllf-migration/sllf/RQ12_French_and_Comparative_Literature_2017.pdf

You will also need to consult these regulations in subsequent years.

Further details about the SLLF modules and what they entail can be found in the full version of our Module Directory which you can access here: <https://qplus.qmul.ac.uk/course/view.php?id=4516>

Preliminary Reading List

FRENCH

FRENCH YEAR 1 preliminary reading list

Dictionaries

We expect you to have a good bilingual dictionary of your own and recommend one of the following:

- *Oxford-Hachette French Dictionary*
- *Collins Robert French Dictionary*

As you progress in your course it will also become important for you to own a monolingual dictionary, and we recommend:

- *Petit Robert*
- *Nouveau Petit Larousse*

The following is also a rich source to help expand your vocabulary:

- J. Rey et al., *Le Mot et l'idée 2* (Paris: Ophrys, 1991)

Grammars

It's important to have a good grammar book that you personally find accessible and will therefore use throughout your studies. A number of books are on the market, and you may want to compare extracts from them before deciding – you could try searching for “French grammar” on Amazon, and then using the Look Inside option to see how different books are organized. We particularly recommend the following:

- G. Price, *A Comprehensive French Grammar* (Oxford: Blackwell Publishing, 1997)
- J. Morton, *English Grammar for Students of French: The Study Guide for Those Learning French* (Ann Arbor: Olivia and Hill Press, 2013).

Compulsory reading for FRE4201 French Foundations

Semester 1

Materials will be provided for the two semester 1 blocks (the introductions to **Linguistics** and to **Literature**).

Semester 2

Materials for the first semester 2 component (**Mai '68**) will be provided. For the second block (**Frantz Fanon**), you will need to purchase the following book:

- Frantz Fanon, *Peau noire, masques blancs* (Paris: Editions du Seuil, 2015 [first published 1952])

The best way to order your books is online, from [amazon.co.uk](https://www.amazon.co.uk) or [amazon.fr](https://www.amazon.fr). Prices on amazon.fr for books published in France tend to be lower than on the UK site, though shipping costs are a little higher. You could also look at [abebooks.co.uk](https://www.abebooks.co.uk), which is an online portal for second-hand book dealers. It's often possible to find lower prices this way, but take care to ensure that the edition you're ordering is the right one.

Reading and listening for fun

We strongly recommend that you start reading/listening to/watching as much French material as you can, well before you join us in September, to give yourself a head start. Why not spend some time over the summer getting to know a bit more about French literature and culture? Try the superb overview of literature in John D. Lyons' *French Literature: A Very Short Introduction* (Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2010). Explore some of the lively new fiction writers who have made an impact in France in recent years. Try Faïza Guène's *Kiffe kiffe demain* (Paris: Hachette, 2004) for a great story and an example of vibrant everyday language. Get addicted to the character of Adamsberg, the Chief Inspector in Fred Vargas' detective novels. Learn about the history and diversity of the French language in *The Story of French* by Jean-Benoît Nadeau and Julie Barlow (London: Portico, 2008). You may also enjoy reading a general book about society and politics in France, such as John Ardagh's *France in the New Century* (London: Penguin, 2000). Explore French newspapers and magazines online (try *Le Monde* and *L'Express*). Browse the French

Institute's online multimedia library (www.culturetheque.org.uk) for free e-books, audiobooks, lectures, films and documentaries.

If you enjoy graphic novels, you could try Marjane Satrapi's *Persepolis*, Joann Sfar's *Le Chat du Rabbín*, or David B.'s *L'Ascension du Haut Mal*. For keen filmgoers, there's a wealth of films to explore. A starting-point might be *Time Out's* list of the 100 best French films – the countdown begins at <https://www.timeout.com/paris/en/film/the-100-best-french-films-100-81>. Particular suggestions – check details online to see if you might enjoy them – are *Caché* (Michael Haneke, 2005); *Les Amants du Pont Neuf* (Leos Carax, 1991); *Les Parapluies de Cherbourg* (Jacques Demy, 1964); and *Bande de filles* (Céline Sciamma, 2014).

Finally, you may want to explore the French-speaking world more widely, looking at work by authors from other countries (e.g. Anne Hébert from Canada, or Amélie Nothomb from Belgium), or discovering earlier historical periods (e.g. through Colin Jones's *The Great Nation: France from Louis XV to Napoleon*, or Barbara Tuchman's *A Distant Mirror: The Calamitous 14th Century*).

COMPARATIVE LITERATURE

COMP LIT YEAR 1 preliminary reading list

Semester 1 compulsory modules

COM4201 The Scene of Learning Set Texts

Herman Hesse, *Unterm Rad* (The Prodigy) (1905)
Alan Sillitoe, 'Mr Raynor the School Teacher' (1959)
Margaret Bonham, 'The English Lesson' (1948)
Barry Hines, *A Kestrel for a Knave* (1968)
R. K. Narayan, *The English Teacher* (1945)
Peter Weir, *Dead Poets Society* (1989)
Daniel Pennac, *Chagrin d'école* (School Blues) (2007)
Willy Russell, *Educating Rita* (1980)
Mike Newell, *Mona Lisa Smile* (2003)

NB: *Unterm Rad* will be studied in English translation. It is expected that post- A-level students of German will read the text in the German original. Similarly, *Chagrin d'école* will be studied in English translation. Post- A-level students of French should read the original text.

Purchasing texts: The short stories by Sillitoe and Bonham will be available on QMPlus. You will be required to buy the following texts:

Hermann Hesse, *The Prodigy* (London: Peter Owen, 2002)
Unterm Rad (any edition) [for students of German only]
Barry Hines, *A Kestrel for a Knave* (London: Penguin, 2000)

R. K. Narayan, *The English Teacher* (London: Vintage, 2001)
Daniel Pennac, *School Blues*, trans. by Sarah Ardizzone (London: Macle hose, 2011)
Chagrin d'école (Paris: Gallimard, 2007) [for students of French only]
Willy Russell, *Educating Rita* (London: Methuen, 2009)

Please try wherever possible to purchase these particular editions. (NB if you cannot get hold of this edition of *The Prodigy* or the Penguin Modern Classics edition, you can search for *Beneath the Wheel*, the alternative title for this text).

Ensure that you buy *Educating Rita* **the play**, and *A Kestrel for a Knave* **the novel**.

You may also want to consider acquiring:

Mona Lisa Smile (dir. Mike Newell, 2003)
Dead Poets Society (dir. Peter Weir, 1989)

COM101 Introduction to Literature Set Texts

Henry James: *The Turn of the Screw* (Penguin Classics)

Full year compulsory module

COM4205 European Literature and its Contexts Set Texts (compulsory for Single honours only)

Voltaire, *Candide*, preferably the Oxford World Classics edition, trans. Roger Pearson or the Penguin one trans. John Butt.

Georg Büchner, *Woyzeck* – preferably the Oxford World Classics edition of *Danton's Death, Leonce and Lena, Woyzeck*, ed. Victor Price

José Saramago, (1999) *Tale of the Unknown Island* (New York: Harcourt Brace)

Semester 2 compulsory modules

COM4206 Introduction to Comparison: discussion texts available through QMPLUS

COM4202 Understanding Culture: An Introduction to Cultural Theory: discussion texts available through QMPLUS

Please see below for your Welcome Week timetable

**SCHOOL OF LANGUAGES LINGUISTICS AND FILM- NEW UG STUDENTS WELCOME WEEK
PROGRAMME SEPTEMBER 2017**

French and Comparative Literature

PLEASE NOTE THIS TIMETABLE IS SUBJECT TO CHANGE UP UNTIL 18 SEPTEMBER

DAY/TIME	ACTIVITY	LOCATION	WHO?- Students
MONDAY 18 SEPTEMBER			
13.00	Check-in. Receive Welcome pack	Mason Lecture Theatre, Bancroft Building	All first year SLLF Students- single or joint honours
13.30 to 15.00	Welcome to SLLF- talks from Head of School, David Adger; Head of Administration, Jill Evans; Student Experience Manager, Rosine Smyrl	Mason Lecture Theatre, Bancroft Building	All first year SLLF Students- single or joint honours-PLEASE BRING YOUR SMART PHONE if you have one
14.30- 15.15	Campus Tours for new UG students led Student Ambassadors	depart from Masons Lecture Theatre (Bancroft Building)	All first year SLLF Students- single or joint honours
TUESDAY 19 SEPTEMBER			
10.00 - 11.00	Welcome to the department of Modern Languages	ArtsOne Lecture Theatre, ArtsOne building	All first year students of languages (French, Russian, German, Spanish, Catalan, Portuguese)
12.45 - 13.15	Welcome to students taking French	ArtsOne Lecture Theatre, ArtsOne building	All First year students of French: single or joint honours; all levels
15.00 - 16.00	ENROLMENT FOR SLLF NEW STUDENTS	ENROLMENT CENTRE, QUEENS BUILDING OCTAGON	ALL FIRST YEAR OR NEW SLLF STUDENTS who have not already enrolled
16.00- 17.00	Welcome to the department of Comparative Literature	ArtsOne Lecture Theatre, ArtsOne building	All First year student of Comparative Literature: single or joint honours

17.00 - 19.00	Welcome to SLLF Barbeque	in the courtyard near the back entrance of the ArtsOne building (or in the foyer of ArtsOne if it's raining)	all first year students, full or joint honours with SLLF, second and final year students welcome
WEDNESDAY 20 SEPTEMBER			
10.00 - 17.00	First Year Students individual meetings with Academic Advisers - Introduction, confirm module selection, personal welcome	Adviser's offices	All first year students, according to your individual appointments agreed with Advisers at Departmental Meetings
THURSDAY 21 SEPTEMBER			
14.00 - 17.00	UG VITAL INFORMATION SESSION for all first year students - SLLF QM+ Landing Page, Student handbook, SLLF UG Student Info area, introduce assignment submission, PASS, Student Services, Library, Extenuating Circumstances, writing support, academic skills support, other languages, Student's Union	Great Hall, People's Palace (next to front of the Queen's Building)	All first year students, full or joint honours with SLLF NOTE: IF YOU HAVE A LAPTOP or TABLET PLEASE BRING IT. Also, please bring your smart phone if you have one. You'll need your QM login details.

Tours of the Library will run every day during Welcome Week. Please sign up for a tour of the Library.

You will need to attend ALL of the above sessions. If you have any problems with this timetable, please contact the department on:

Email: sllf-ug@qmul.ac.uk Facebook: <http://www.facebook.com/QMULSLLF> Twitter: <https://twitter.com/sllfqmul> .

Looking forward to seeing you in September.