



Studying Modern Languages – Portuguese at St Anne's College

The Literature and Culture of the Portuguese-Speaking World

The Portuguese language is spoken on four continents by over 250 million speakers. A complex and still fraught legacy of imperial expansion that started in the fifteenth century, the Portuguese language (and therefore its related literatures) covers a vast and varied terrain. The following papers introduce aspects of the geographic and historical range of literature written in Portuguese, which can be studied either by those who can read Portuguese already or who want to explore this fascinating world through translation. The more specialized options, centring on Dr Park's dual research interests in Portuguese Modernism and the early modern period, explore textual culture alongside both the visual/performing arts and the material culture of the periods concerned.

Courses are taught by fortnightly tutorials in St Anne's and students can attend a range of lectures provided by the Sub-Faculty of Portuguese. Courses on early modern topics take advantage of rare book collections in Oxford and objects held in the Ashmolean museum.

An Introduction to the Literature of the Lusophone World: Questioning the Canon

*available either for Portuguese speakers or in translation

One, two, or three terms

This course offers a whistle-stop tour of some of the Lusophone world's key writers, from the sixteenth century to the present day. Whilst we will look at some canonical figures, we will reflect on how and why these figures have been so celebrated and whether their works wholly fit with the ideological agendas that have often claimed them as important. The course will also take in marginalised voices to throw the canon into new light.

Writers covered might include: Gil Vicente, Luís de Camões, Fernando Pessoa, Machado de Assis, Clarice Lispector, Lídia Jorge, José Saramago, Luís Bernardo Honwana, Mia Couto, Pepetela, Paulina Chiziane.

Empire and its Discontents: An Alternative Introduction to the Literature of the Portuguese Discoveries

*available either for Portuguese speakers or in translation

One or two terms

In the fifteenth and sixteenth centuries, Portugal was at the forefront of world history. It sent ships further than any other nation, establishing a vast, global empire. Though nationalist sentiments, particularly during Salazar's dictatorship in the twentieth century, have tended to laud this period as a Golden Age and cast it as the epoch of seemingly unending triumphs of technology, conquest, and conversion, writers at the time were often perturbed by what was happening and gave expression to this anxiety in a variety of forms. This course re-visits, then, some of the most celebrated texts in Portuguese history and explores the shadier side of the discoveries that they expose. We will read plays by the father of modern theatre, Gil Vicente, the poetry of Portugal's national bard, Camões, and the early modern bestseller, Mendes Pinto's *Peregrinação*. We will also turn, however, to shipwreck stories to hear tales about lives lost at sea, consider the moral backlash against the untrammelled expansion of trade found in satirical poetry of the period, listen to the voice of a black African envoy to Portugal and his view on cultural differences, and try to see where women's experiences of these male-dominated imperial activities may be found. Alongside literature we will look to the visual and material culture of the period, exploring some of the collections at the Ashmolean museum and rare books held in Oxford libraries. This course gives you a Renaissance you can (quite literally) touch and feel in all its complexity.

The Shock of the New: Portuguese Modernism(s)

*available either for Portuguese speakers or in translation

One or two terms

This course explores the dizzying culture of the first decades of the twentieth century. Painting, dance, music, literature, journalism all fed into each other, as artists raced to find new modes of and media for expression — this is reflected in the material studied for this course which surveys how Portuguese writers responded to the buzz of modern life, travelled around Europe and beyond seeking new sensations to inspire their art, and tried to come to terms with their place in a new and rapidly-changing world. Two key scandals in Portugal during this period were the publication of António Botto's homoerotic poetry and the release of the Modernist magazine *Orpheu* whose writers were called mad by the mainstream press. Writers like Florbela Espanca and Judith Teixeira were also breaking taboos by asserting their place as women poets in a literary world dominated by men. All serve as case studies to measure the cultural turbulence of this fascinating period.