

First-Year Portuguese Course at Oxford

Reading List

Please read the following document carefully as it contains essential information for the first-year course.

Language Resources

It is important to use reliable language resources for your language work. *Reverso* and *Linguee* may seem to offer a shortcut, but they use databases of ‘translated’ texts that were often translated by machine, so are not very useful for translation and writing homework at university level. They are therefore mostly to be avoided. *WordReference* is a popular resource, particularly for French and Spanish, but this is very limited for Portuguese and it uses dictionaries that are out of copyright to populate its database so does not always offer the most useful or up-to-date usages.

Recommended online dictionaries are:

Priberam [European Portuguese and Brazilian Portuguese]
(<https://dicionario.priberam.org/>)

Michaëlis [Brazilian Portuguese] (<https://michaelis.uol.com.br/>)

At Oxford, you will have access to the *Oxford Portuguese Dictionary* through the library search engine, SOLO, but you may wish to get your own paper copy of it or the *Collins Portuguese Dictionary*. For European Portuguese, there are the large Porto Editora dictionaries (separate volumes of Inglês-Português and Português-Ingês).

Useful grammar books:

Ana Sofia Ganho, and Timothy McGovern, *Using Portuguese: A Guide to Contemporary Usage* (Cambridge University Press, 2004)

Amélia Hutchinson et al., *Portuguese: An Essential Grammar* (Routledge, 2019)

Carla Oliveira, and Maria Luísa Coelho, *Gramática aplicada: português para estrangeiros* [two books: one for levels A1, A2, and B1, and a second for B2 and C1] (Texto editors, 2019)

Isabel Coimbra Leite, and Olga Mata Coimbra, *Grámica ativa* [two volumes] (Lidel, 2012) [This will be supplied as part of the course]

John Whitlam and Agripino S. Silveira, *Modern Brazilian Portuguese Grammar: A Practical Guide* (Routledge, 2022)

Cristina Sousa, *Intermediate Portuguese: A Grammar and Workbook* (Routledge, 2024)

These books will be available in Oxford libraries in hardcopy or ebook.

Literature

You will start reading literary texts in the Portuguese language as soon as you arrive in Oxford. During the first year there will be two introductory courses to literature written in Portuguese (known as Paper III and Paper IV) on which you will be examined at the end of the first year. The aim of these two papers will be to acquire some understanding of what literature is, of the various ways in which literary texts convey meaning in a given social or political context, and of what effect they have on the reader. These will introduce you to Portugal, Brazil, and Portuguese-speaking Africa in a range of time periods.

The best way to prepare for this part of the course is to read as many of the set texts as possible before arriving. You may want to start by reading them in English translation, but it is very good for kickstarting your Portuguese language skills to try reading bits in the original alongside the translation and start making vocabulary lists. It will be very slow progress in the beginning, but anything you do now will pay dividends in the future.

Paper III: ‘An Introduction to Twentieth Century Lusophone Literature’.

These are the books that you will be studying first. We hope that you will form your own opinions about these works, and do not expect you to read criticism on them beforehand. The set texts are:

Clarice Lispector, *Laços de família* (any edition)
(translated as *Family Ties*, by Giovanni Pontiero for University of Texas Press; or included in Lispector’s *Complete Stories*, translated by Katrina Dodson, for Penguin)

Lídia Jorge, *O Vale da Paixão* (Lisbon: Dom Quixote)
(translated as *The Migrant Painter of Birds*, published by Harvill).

Alda Lara, *Poemas* (Porto: Vertente)
(no translation; a selection of poems will be made available when you arrive in Oxford)

Paper IV: ‘An Introduction to Drama’

Gil Vicente, *Auto da barca do inferno* and *Auto da Índia*
We recommend that you use the bilingual edition by A.J. Lappin, *Three Discovery Plays* (Aris & Phillips, 1997)

João Cabral de Melo Neto, *Morte e vida severina* (any edition)

Ariano Suassuna, *Auto da compadecida* (any edition)

Ana Luísa Amaral, *Próspero Morreu* (Lisbon: Caminho)
(This text is currently out of print but we will arrange for you to have copies when you arrive in Oxford)

Further Information

The libraries in Oxford have copies of all the primary texts in Portuguese (and where they don't, we will supply photocopies), so you do not need to purchase them.

If you find it useful to have your own copy (for instance, to annotate with vocabulary or to highlight particularly interesting features of the texts), the following are suggestions of bookshops that offer international delivery:

Livraria Travessa [Brazil] (<https://www.travessa.com.br/>)

NB if they ask for a CPF number, you can usually fill this box with zeros.

Bertrand [Portugal] (<https://www.bertrand.pt/>)

Almedina [Portugal] (<https://www.almedina.net/>)

NB if you are asked for a NIF number, you can usually fill this box with zeros.

Wook [Portugal: ebooks] (<https://www.wook.pt/>)

Copies on Amazon or Abebooks tend to be much pricier than Portuguese or Brazilian bookshops, so please compare prices if you do decide to acquire your own copies.