Information for first-year students of Spanish at Hertford/St Peter’s

Congratulations on your recent exam results! Once the celebrations have started to die down, please read the information below in preparation for your arrival in Oxford in October.

Overleaf is a basic outline of the four papers that make up the first-year Spanish course at Oxford. The syllabus is the same for students at all colleges, but some of the information given is particular to Spanish at Hertford and St Peter’s (e.g. the order in which you will study the literature). Paper I is taught centrally by native speakers of Spanish. Classes and tutorials for Papers II–IV are given in College (i.e. by me). The libraries at Hertford and St Peter’s have copies of all of the texts prescribed for the literature papers and a good number of dictionaries, vocabulary/grammar books, etc. However, before you come up, it is worth investing in a decent dictionary (monolingual ones are the best but they are prohibitively expensive, so a Collins, Oxford, etc. bilingual dictionary is a safe bet), a detailed grammar (e.g. Butt and Benjamin’s *A New Reference Grammar of Modern Spanish*, which is dauntingly detailed but which contains everything you’ll ever need to know), and your own copies of the prescribed literature texts. The best places to start in terms of ordering books are Blackwell’s, Grant & Cutler, Amazon, AbeBooks, etc. It is worth shopping around, as prices might vary considerably. If you have difficulty getting hold of texts before October, please let me know and I will try to help out (NB: asterisked texts for Paper IV are currently out of print, so copies will be provided at the end of the first term).

In the first term (Michaelmas), in addition to our weekly language work, we will study the first two texts on Paper III: Calderón’s play *El médico de su honra* and Cervantes’s short story ‘Rinconete y Cortadillo’. It is a good idea to read these before coming to Oxford, as doing so will enable you to concentrate on secondary reading and essay technique during term. NB: Golden Age Spanish is difficult, so do not worry if you find yourself itching for translations (reading Calderón/Cervantes in English and then working through them in Spanish with a dictionary is one way of approaching them if you find them impenetrable at first). You won’t be expected to understand every last bit of the originals the second you arrive in Oxford!

If you have any problems/queries/etc. between now and October, please do not hesitate to get in touch. The best way to do so is via email (oliver.noblewood@hertford.ox.ac.uk).

See you in October,

ONW
18 August 2014
I A language paper consisting of: (i) a prose translation from English into Spanish; and (ii) 20 sentences testing grammar covered in the course of the year.

II A language paper consisting of two passages of unseen translation from Spanish into English.

III A literature paper based on the study of four texts which encompass different periods, genres, and countries. (a) & (b) will be studied in the first term, (c) & (d) at the start of the third term:

   b) Miguel de Cervantes, ‘Rinconete y Cortadillo’, from Vol. 1 of the *Novelas ejemplares* (ed. H. Sieber, Cátedra) [you should also read the prologue]
   d) Mario Vargas Llosa, *La fiesta del Chivo* (Punto de Lectura)

IV A literature paper based on the study of the evolution of the Spanish ballad tradition. This paper will be studied in the second term:

   b) *Lope de Vega, Lírica* (ed. J. M. Blecua, Clásicos Castalia), poems 1–2, 6–10, 125–26
   c) Luis de Góngora, *Romances* (ed. A. Carreño, Cátedra), poems 3, 10–11, 15–16, 18, 23, 27, 48, 52, 58, 79
   f) Antonio Machado, ‘La tierra de Alvar González’, in *Campos de Castilla* (see above)
   g) Federico García Lorca, *Romancero gitano* (ed. Mario Hernández, Alianza)