



NEW COLLEGE
UNIVERSITY OF OXFORD

23 June 2026

Dear Student,

Congratulations on your offer of a place to read German at New College! We very much look forward to seeing you in Oxford in October and hope you are excited to embark on this new chapter in your life.

Today, we write with some information on your language and literature classes during your first year. This will help you to get hold of the books and to read the literary texts before you arrive in October. We strongly recommend that you peruse all of the literary works once before arriving in Oxford. The pace of teaching and learning will gather momentum quickly during your first term, and your day-to-day workload will make it impractical to read each work as you come to study it. You'll also find that you get a lot more out of the texts on a second and even third reading, so allowing yourself the time for that luxury is an excellent idea.

You will have to purchase (or very long-term borrow) physical copies of all of the texts. Kindle versions and e-books are not acceptable. Where possible you should buy the recommended editions, since this makes group work much easier, and in all cases you should buy an edition by a reputable German publisher, as indicated; random and print-on-demand editions from the internet will often be defective.

All the **poetry** we will be reading can be found in this anthology (post A-level candidates only for the first year, but also recommended for Beginners for the entire course):

Deutsche Gedichte 1500 Gedichte von den Anfängen bis zur Gegenwart, edited by Hans-Joachim Simm.
Frankfurt am Main: Insel 2009, ISBN 3458174400.

The prescribed **dramas** are (post A-level candidates only):

Frank Wedekind, *Frühlings Erwachen* (1891) Stuttgart: Reclam 1991, ISBN 3150079519

Bertolt Brecht, *Der gute Mensch von Sezuan* (1943) Frankfurt am Main: Suhrkamp 2024
(BasisBibliothek 25), ISBN: 978-3-518-18825-5

Thomas Bernhard, *Heldenplatz* (1988) Frankfurt am Main: Suhrkamp 2023, ISBN:3518389742]

Dea Loher, *Unschuld* (2003) Stuttgart: Reclam 2022, ISBN: 3150142059]

The prescribed **prose texts** are (all candidates):

Theodor Fontane, *Irrungen, Wirrungen* (1888) Frankfurt am Main: Suhrkamp 2006 [Suhrkamp BasisBibliothek 81], ISBN 9783518188811

Franz Kafka, *Die Verwandlung* (1912/1915) Stuttgart: Reclam 2021, ISBN 3150161096

Elfriede Jelinek, *Die Liebhaberinnen* (1975) Reinbek: Rowohlt 2008, ISBN 978-3499124679

Language Learning

Post-A-level students need the following works as reference works and for their language training:

Martin Durrell, *Hammer's German Grammar and Usage* (7th edition) London: Routledge, ISBN 9780367150266.

Martin Durrell, Katrin Kohl, Claudia Kaiser, *Practising German Grammar* (4th edition) London: Routledge 2017, ISBN 9781315643373

Beginners' German students also need these two sets of materials for their language training:

Kurs DaF A1–B1: Deutsch für Studium und Beruf. Kursbuch mit Audios und Videos inklusive Lizenzschlüssel allango (24 Monate). Hybride Ausgabe allango. Stuttgart: Klett, ISBN 978-3-12-676844-3.

Kurs DaF A1–B1: Deutsch für Studium und Beruf. Übungsbuch mit Audios und Videos. Stuttgart: Klett, ISBN 978-3-12-676845-0.

Martin Durrell, Katrin Kohl, Claudia Kaiser, *Essential German Grammar* (3d edition) London: Routledge 2025, ISBN 978-1032590165.

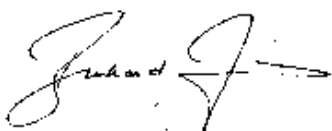
Thematischer Basiswortschatz. Stuttgart: Klett Verlag 2016. ISBN 978-3125195073.

It is also highly recommended that you get hold of a comprehensive **bi-lingual dictionary**, for example *Collins German Dictionary* (Complete and Unabridged). Current edition.

Please, find more information on what to prepare for your language classes and on the overall course structure of your first year in the handbook that will be uploaded on the same New College page later in the summer.

If you have any questions, please don't hesitate to get in touch with me.

Happy reading, and I look forward to seeing you in October.



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