

Summary

Job title	Departmental Lecturer in American Literature
Division	Humanities
Department	Faculty of English
Location	The Stephen A Schwarzman Centre for the Humanities, Woodstock Road, Oxford
Grade and salary	Grade 8: £48,235-£51,059 per annum
Hours	Full time
Contract type	Fixed-term (3 years)
Reporting to	Chair of the Faculty Board
Vacancy reference	117817

The role

A 3-year fixed-term teaching and research appointment in American literature is available for an outstanding academic at an early stage of their career. We especially encourage applications from candidates working in Asian American literature, Latinx literature, Native American and Indigenous literatures, and/or poetry. The appointee will be expected to play a key role in the delivery of the Faculty's MSt in English and American Studies and of undergraduate teaching in American literature. The purpose of the role is to cover the teaching of Professor Lloyd Pratt while he is on research leave funded by the Leverhulme Trust.

It is anticipated that the appointee will take up the post on 1 September 2025.

Responsibilities

1. To deliver up to 36 hours of Faculty lectures or classes in American literature. It is expected that this will include teaching Paper 6 option courses in American literature for final year undergraduates, as well as teaching C (option) courses on the MSt in English and American Studies, and potentially co-teaching the core course (A Course) on the MSt in English and American Studies.
2. To deliver up to 6 hours of tutorial teaching or equivalent Faculty duties.

3. To undertake examining duties for the MSt course and relevant undergraduate papers as required.
4. To supervise undergraduate dissertations as required.
5. To offer dissertation supervision for the MSt as required.
6. To contribute to the planning and running of the American Literature Research Seminar (ALRS) and other American literature events, and to attend and participate in the ALRS and other American literature events in the Faculty and at the Rothermere American Institute.
7. To participate in the work of departmental committees developing academic strategies and policies as required.
8. To pursue independent research in the area of American Literature.

The successful candidate will be likely to be at an intermediate stage between immediate post-doctoral work and a permanent academic post. The appointee will be expected to have published, or have concrete plans for publishing, research articles for publication in peer-reviewed journals of record in American literature or to be committed to the production of a monograph or edition; and to present their research at academic conferences. They will also be encouraged to work with the Humanities Divisional Research Development team to identify sources of research income, develop proposals, and make funding applications.

Further information on the undergraduate and graduate syllabi is available in the Appendices.

Selection criteria

Essential selection criteria

- To have a doctorate in American literature or a closely related field.
- To have a strong research and publication record, appropriate to their career stage, in American literature.
- To have experience of delivering undergraduate lecturing and teaching in American literature.
- To possess sufficient specialist knowledge in American literary studies to supervise independent research projects and to deliver teaching in the field of American literary studies at undergraduate and master's level.
- Ability to undertake pastoral responsibilities, and excellent interpersonal skills.
- Excellent organisational skills and a willingness to contribute to the Faculty's administration.

Desirable selection criteria

- Experience of examining and assessing in American literature.
- Experience of delivering graduate teaching and supervision in American literature.

English Faculty

The Faculty of English Language and Literature is the largest English Department in the UK and has a very distinguished research record. We have been ranked top in the QS World Rankings in its subject since 2016 and our teaching has been graded 'Excellent' in every Quality Assurance review. The English Faculty's teaching and research covers literature in English from works in Old English of the 7th century to the current period of what has been called global English. The spread of historical expertise places the Faculty in a unique position to speak authoritatively about the long history of the literatures and languages of the British Isles, as well as the diaspora and interchange of literatures and languages that emerged from them. Students have opportunities to trace the development of literature from early manuscripts to current digital and hybrid forms; they benefit from a distinctive experience of close personal supervision with leading academics, in turn developing their own communities and identities as critics and researchers.

The Faculty currently has 80 permanent members of academic staff, including 9 statutory Professors. This is in addition to a further 100 or so members teaching in the colleges and temporary members of staff. A list of Faculty members and their research interests is available on the website. For more information, please visit: www.english.ox.ac.uk. There are currently approximately 900 undergraduate students (with roughly 260 admitted each year to the single honours school and a further 20 to joint honours school programmes). The Oxford English Faculty has the largest graduate school in the country, with approximately 90 Masters students, and a further 150 graduate research students.

American Literature

American literature is considered in its long historical and broad international contexts at Oxford. We have particular strengths in nineteenth-, twentieth-, and twentieth-first-century American and African American literature, American modernism, transatlantic studies, history of the book in America, literary biography, and American theatre. The Faculty of English has also recently strengthened its ties to modern languages faculty working on the multilingual literatures of the Americas. Our work in American literature receives significant support from the Rothermere American Institute for the study of American literature, history, and politics. The RAI's Esmond Harmsworth Lecture in American Arts and Letters has been given by some of America's most eminent writers, including Richard Ford, Joyce Carol Oates, C.K. Williams, Tobias Wolff, Marilynne Robinson, Jennifer Egan, Lydia Davis, and Hilton Als. The RAI also hosts research seminars, classes, and conferences in American literature and is home to a thriving community of graduate students. Recent conferences include Post45, Queer Black Performance, and Political Histories of Modern Reading. The regular American Literature Research Seminar (ALRS) brings scholars and critics from across the world to the RAI to present ground-breaking and influential work. Over the past decade, the ALRS and the Faculty have sponsored speakers including Branka Arsić, Nancy Bentley, Stephen Best, Daphne Brooks, Elizabeth Dillon, Jonathan Elmer, Malik Gaines, Paul Gilroy, Jacqueline Goldsby, Fiona Green, Jared Hickman, Hsuan Hsu, Kara Keeling, Tavia Nyong'o, Sarah Rivett, Shirley Samuels, Elisa Tamarkin, Kyla Wazana Tompkins, Bryan Wagner, Kenneth Warren, Cindy Weinstein, Dagmawi Woubshet—and many others.

Humanities Division

The Humanities Division is one of four academic divisions in the University of Oxford, bringing together the following faculties: Classics; English; History; Linguistics, Philology and Phonetics; Medieval and Modern Languages; Music; Asian and Middle Eastern Studies; Philosophy; Theology and Religion; the

Ruskin School of Art. The Division has over 500 members of academic staff, approximately 4,100 undergraduates (more than a third of the total undergraduate population of the University), 1,000 postgraduate research students and 720 students on postgraduate taught courses.

The Division offers world-class teaching and research, backed by the superb resources of the University's libraries and museums, including the famous Bodleian Libraries, with their 11 million volumes and priceless early book and manuscript collections, and the Ashmolean Museum of Art and Archaeology. Such historic resources are linked to cutting-edge agendas in research and teaching, with an increasing emphasis on interdisciplinary study. Our faculties are among the largest in the world, enabling Oxford to offer an education in Arts and Humanities unparalleled in its range of subjects, from music and fine art to ancient and modern languages.

The Humanities Division has embarked on a major building project on the Radcliffe Observatory Quarter, following the recent announcement of the £150 million gift to create the [Stephen A. Schwarzman Centre for the Humanities](#).

The Schwarzman Centre will serve as a dynamic hub dedicated to the Humanities. The building will bring together seven Humanities faculties, the Humanities Divisional Office, a new library and significant cultural and public engagement spaces in a space designed to encourage experiential learning and bold experimentation through cross-disciplinary and collaborative study. The Faculty of English Language and Literature will move to the Schwarzman Centre upon the completion of the project.

For more information please visit www.humanities.ox.ac.uk.

About the University of Oxford

Welcome to the University of Oxford. We aim to lead the world in research and education for the benefit of society both in the UK and globally. Oxford's researchers engage with academic, commercial and cultural partners across the world to stimulate high-quality research and enable innovation through a broad range of social, policy and economic impacts.

We believe our strengths lie both in empowering individuals and teams to address fundamental questions of global significance, while providing all our staff with a welcoming and inclusive workplace that enables everyone to develop and do their best work. Recognising that diversity is our strength, vital for innovation and creativity, we aspire to build a truly diverse community which values and respects every individual's unique contribution.

While we have long traditions of scholarship, we are also forward-looking, creative and cutting-edge. Oxford is one of Europe's most entrepreneurial universities and we rank first in the UK for university spin-outs, and in recent years we have spun out 15-20 new companies every year. We are also recognised as leaders in support for social enterprise.

Join us and you will find a unique, democratic and international community, a great range of staff benefits and access to a vibrant array of cultural activities in the beautiful city of Oxford.

For more information, please visit www.ox.ac.uk/about/organisation.

How to apply

Applications are made through our online recruitment portal. Information about how to apply is available on our Jobs website <https://www.jobs.ox.ac.uk/how-to-apply>.

Your application will be judged solely on the basis of how you demonstrate that you meet the selection criteria stated in the job description.

As part of your application you will be asked to provide details of two referees and indicate whether we can contact them now.

You will be asked to upload a CV and a supporting statement. The supporting statement must explain how you meet each of the selection criteria for the post using examples of your skills and experience. This may include experience gained in employment, education, or during career breaks (such as time out to care for dependants)

Please upload all documents **as PDF files** with your name and the document type in the filename.

All applications must be received by **midday** UK time on the closing date stated in the online advertisement.

If you currently work for the University please note that:

- as part of the referencing process, we will contact your current department to confirm basic employment details including reason for leaving
- although employees may hold multiple part-time posts, they may not hold more than the equivalent of a full time post. If you are offered this post, and accepting it would take you over the equivalent of full-time hours, you will be expected to resign from, or reduce hours in, your other posts(s) before starting work in the new post.

Information for priority candidates

A priority candidate is a University employee who is seeking redeployment because they have been advised that they are at risk of redundancy, or on grounds of ill-health/disability. Priority candidates are issued with a redeployment letter by their employing department(s).

If you are a priority candidate, please ensure that you attach your redeployment letter to your application (or email it to the contact address on the advert if the application form used for the vacancy does not allow attachments).

If you need help

Application FAQs, including technical troubleshooting advice is available at:

<https://staff.web.ox.ac.uk/recruitment-support-faqs>

Non-technical questions about this job should be addressed to the recruiting department directly (recruitment@ell.ox.ac.uk).

To return to the online application at any stage, please go to: www.recruit.ox.ac.uk.

Please note that you will receive an automated email from our online recruitment portal to confirm receipt of your application. **Please check your spam/junk mail** if you do not receive this email.

Pre-employment screening

Standard checks

If you are offered the post, the offer will be subject to standard pre-employment checks. You will be asked to provide: proof of your right-to-work in the UK; proof of your identity; and (if we haven't done so already) we will contact the referees you have nominated. If you have previously worked for the University we will also verify key information such as your dates of employment and reason for leaving your previous role with the department/unit where you worked. You will also be asked to complete a health declaration so that you can tell us about any health conditions or disabilities for which you may need us to make appropriate adjustments.

Please read the candidate notes on the University's pre-employment screening procedures at:

<https://www.jobs.ox.ac.uk/pre-employment-checks>

Important information for candidates

Data Privacy

Please note that any personal data submitted to the University as part of the job application process will be processed in accordance with the GDPR and related UK data protection legislation. For further information, please see the University's Privacy Notice for Job Applicants at:

<https://compliance.admin.ox.ac.uk/job-applicant-privacy-policy>. The University's Policy on Data Protection is available at: <https://compliance.admin.ox.ac.uk/data-protection-policy>.

The University's policy on retirement

The University operates an Employer Justified Retirement Age (EJRA) for very senior research posts at **grade RSIV/D35 and clinical equivalents E62 and E82** of 30 September before the 70th birthday. The justification for this is explained at: <https://hr.admin.ox.ac.uk/the-ejra>.

For **existing** employees on these grades, any employment beyond the retirement age is subject to approval through the procedures: <https://hr.admin.ox.ac.uk/the-ejra>.

There is no normal or fixed age at which staff in posts at other grades have to retire. Staff at these grades may elect to retire in accordance with the rules of the applicable pension scheme, as may be amended from time to time.

Equality of opportunity

Entry into employment with the University and progression within employment will be determined only by personal merit and the application of criteria which are related to the duties of each particular post and the relevant salary structure. In all cases, ability to perform the job will be the primary consideration. No applicant or member of staff shall be discriminated against because of age, disability, gender reassignment, marriage or civil partnership, pregnancy or maternity, race, religion or belief, sex, or sexual orientation.

Benefits of working at the University

Employee benefits

University employees enjoy 38 days' paid holiday, generous pension schemes, flexible working options, travel discounts including salary sacrifice schemes for bicycles and electric cars and other discounts.

Staff can access a huge range of personal and professional development opportunities. See

<https://hr.admin.ox.ac.uk/staff-benefits>

Employee Assistance Programme

As part of our wellbeing offering staff get free access to Health Assured, a confidential employee assistance programme, available 24/7 for 365 days a year. Find out more

<https://staff.admin.ox.ac.uk/health-assured-eap>

University Club and sports facilities

Membership of the University Club is free for University staff. It offers social, sporting, and hospitality facilities. Staff can also use the University Sports Centre on Iffley Road at discounted rates, including a fitness centre, powerlifting room, and swimming pool. See www.club.ox.ac.uk and

<https://www.sport.ox.ac.uk/>.

Information for staff new to Oxford

If you are relocating to Oxfordshire from overseas or elsewhere in the UK, the University's Welcome Service includes practical information about settling in the area, including advice on relocation, accommodation, and local schools. See <https://welcome.ox.ac.uk/>

There is also a visa loan scheme to cover the costs of UK visa applications for staff and their dependants. See <https://staffimmigration.admin.ox.ac.uk/visa-loan-scheme>

Family-friendly benefits

We are a family-friendly employer with one of the most generous family leave schemes in the Higher Education sector (see <https://hr.web.ox.ac.uk/family-leave>). Our Childcare Services team provides guidance and support on childcare provision, and offers a range of high-quality childcare options at affordable prices for staff. In addition to 5 University nurseries, we partner with a number of local providers to offer in excess of 450 full time nursery places to our staff. Eligible parents are able to pay for childcare through salary sacrifice, further reducing costs. See <https://childcare.admin.ox.ac.uk/>.

Supporting disability and health-related issues (inc menopause)

We are committed to supporting members of staff with disabilities or long-term health conditions, including those experiencing negative effects of menopause. Information about the University's Staff Disability Advisor, is at <https://edu.admin.ox.ac.uk/disability-support>. For information about how we support those going through menopause see <https://hr.admin.ox.ac.uk/menopause-guidance>

Staff networks

The University has a number of staff networks including for research staff, BME staff, LGBT+ staff, disabled staff network and those going through menopause. Find out more at

<https://edu.admin.ox.ac.uk/networks>

The University of Oxford Newcomers' Club

The University of Oxford Newcomers' Club is run by volunteers that aims to assist the partners of new staff settle into Oxford, and provides them with an opportunity to meet people and make connections in the local area. See www.newcomers.ox.ac.uk.

Research staff

The Researcher Hub supports all researchers on fixed-term contracts. They aim to help you settle in comfortably, make connections, grow as a person, extend your research expertise and approach your next career step with confidence. Find out more <https://www.ox.ac.uk/research/support-researchers/researcher-hub>

Oxford's Research Staff Society is a collective voice for our researchers. They also organise social and professional networking activities for researchers. Find out more <https://www.ox.ac.uk/research/support-researchers/connecting-other-researchers/oxford-research-staff-society>

APPENDIX 1

BA in English Language and Literature

Outline of the first-year course (Preliminary Examination)

- Paper 1: Introduction to English Language and Literature
- Paper 2: Early Medieval Literature, c. 650-1350
- Paper 3: Literature in English 1830-1910
- Paper 4: Literature in English 1910-present day

Outline of the second- and third-year course (Final Honour School Course I)

- Paper 1: Shakespeare
- Paper 2: Literature in English 1350-1550
- Paper 3: Literature in English 1550-1660
- Paper 4: Literature in English 1660-1760
- Paper 5: Literature in English 1760-1830
- Paper 6: Special Options
- Paper 7: Dissertation

APPENDIX 2 – MSt programmes

MSt in English & American Studies

The MSt in English and American Studies is designed for students who wish to complement a Master's degree in English with postgraduate training in English and American Studies.

Students enjoy access to the research facilities of the Vere Harmsworth Library and will be invited to attend the regular programme of lectures and seminars on American cultural topics provided by the Rothermere American Institute.

A. Literature, Contexts and Approaches (Core Course)

The A Course is taught as a weekly seminar that runs over eight weeks in Michaelmas Term; it is designed to provide a solid foundation for advanced literary study, introducing students to the methods and practices of interdisciplinary study in this field.

B. Bibliography, Theories of Text, History of the Book, Manuscript Studies (Core Course)

This is a range of lectures and seminars in each of the first two terms designed to train students for advanced research.

C. Special Options

Special Option courses are one-term courses on specialist themes usually relating to the current research interests of the teacher(s).

Recent C courses have included 'Modern Irish-American Writing', 'The English and American Ode 1700–Now', 'American Renaissances' and 'Young, Old, and In Between: Age and Subjectivity in Modern African American Literature'. Students take one Special Option in each of the first two terms.

D. Dissertation

All students write a 10-11,000 word dissertation on a subject of their choice, but related to the work they have been doing over the year. For this strand, students will be required to write their dissertation on an approved topic in the field of English and American Studies (broadly conceived, and allowing scope for comparative studies).

In addition to the dissertation, students will submit three essays of 5-6,000 words – one at the end of the first term, and two at the end of the second term – relating to the B and C courses that have been taken.