



Course Title: British Life and Business

Instructor: Anya Nikulina

Course Objectives:

The course serves as the anchor of a study programme in London, offering students an opportunity to place what they are learning in their other courses into a larger, contemporary context. It also enables students to appreciate more of what they observe during their stay in Britain.

The course provides a comprehensive examination of British Culture and Life as well as looks at the economic history of Britain and the impact of its success onto today's life & culture. The course will examine the issues of politics, monarchy, parliament and democracy in England. The significance of the British Empire in the development of multiculturalism is also discussed. The students will study the role of media in Britain, as well as look case studies and specifics regarding life in Britain. The course will examine the country's economic history and the reasons behind today's economic success. Students will get an opportunity to learn outside the classroom environment during special class trips. The first part of the course will focus on issues related to political, cultural, and social issues; while the latter parts will focus on economic history and development.

Course Learning Outcomes:

- To have an overview of the geographical, political, geographical and socio-economic context that underlies Britain
- Students will gain the understanding of the significance of the British Empire in the development of multiculturalism
- Students will understand the role of media in Britain
- Gain understanding of the country's economic history and the reasons behind today's economic success.
- Students will be able to recognize cultural differences, and appreciate their role in both creating barriers and in providing creative opportunities in international business environment

Due to the evolving situations, the topics, co-curricular activities and the readings used for this course are subject to change. An updated outline and schedule is given to students at the start of each course.

Required Text:

John Oakland, *British Civilization* (Routledge. London 2002)

Topics covered will include:

- Introduction to the Course
- The People of the UK (history, geography, overview of the UK)
- Nationality & identity debate; diversity & multiculturalism
- Class & Power (the Monarchy, Parliament, Party System)
- Education System
- The Media (Press, Radio, TV, Digital, Media Bias)
- Britain & Foreign Relations (the EU, the Empire & Commonwealth, the US, N. Ireland Peace)
- Economic History (Age of Mercantilism, Industrial Revolution, from global power to recession and back...)
- Economic History (20th century, the EU, Thatcher Era, Major Years)
- Economy Today (21st Century, the EU, the Blair Decade)
- Review & Final exam

Co-curricular activities will include:

- **Docklands Walking tour**

Docklands is the area of the old Port of London which closed in the early 70's, leaving 8 sq miles of land for re-development, chiefly as an overspill for financial services from the nearby City. Much modern architecture, the UK's tallest building and lots of landscaped waterside developments. The trip helps contextualise for general UK economic change and development issues.

Instructional Methods:

The Instructor serves as a resource person in the class. Concepts will be introduced through lectures, supported by video cases and slides of key issues. These will be supplemented with handouts & additional readings from the lecturer. Students are advised to read all assigned chapters and extra readings or handouts prior to coming to class. These will be used as the basis for discussion.

Attendance Policy:

The attendance requirement is set by the FIE and home university. In the event of an absence, you are responsible for all material missed. Make-up exams may be set in extreme emergencies only. As a courtesy to your

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classmates, make every effort to arrive at class on time. 10% of your grade will come from attendance & participation.

Assessment Plan:

The course will be assessed in three parts. Student participation and attendance are vital to a learning process. Thus, reading and preparing before you come to class is important. In addition, there will be 2 short assignments based on the analysis and critique of articles from the British Press. Students will also prepare a group presentation which to be presented at one of the sessions (this will be determined at the beginning of the course). A Mid-term and final exam will take place during the scheduled class time.

Attendance & Participation	= 10%
Presentation	= 10%
Group Project	= 20%
Mid-Term Test	= 20%
Critiques	= 20%
Final Assignment	= 20%

20% Attendance, Presentation and Participation

Attendance registers will be kept for all scheduled classes. Unauthorised absence will affect your grade.

As part of your grade for this component, you will be given a date for a short presentation (c10 minutes) on a subject to be agreed in advance with your instructor. In addition the faculty will distribute a schedule to structure class discussion around required reading assignments from the texts. Students should try to keep abreast of British current affairs by reading any of the daily newspapers (Guardian, Independent, Financial Times, Times, Telegraph etc) and watching TV news and current affairs programs such as Channel 4's evening news (7.00pm daily) or BBC2's 'Newsnight' (10.30pm daily).

20 % Critiques of British newspapers and media

The purpose of the exercise is to puncture the American "cultural bubble" that can surround students studying in London. This will help individuals to immerse themselves in the concerns of people who live in London, not the USA. It is an opportunity to see how the media encourages people to view issues from the perspective of their own nationality above all others. This exercise will raise ethical issues concerning political bias, sensationalism, objectivity and responsibility. FIE faculty will determine the timing and precise nature of the required exercises for their respective groups.

20% Group Project

Students will work in groups of 4-5 students on a Key/Important Financial or Trade Institution, for example the Bank of England, the London Stock Exchange, the Lloyds Market, etc. The presentation should take a form of a

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“educational session”. Topics will be assigned in class no later than week 6. All groups will present on the same date, which will be specified at a later date (due to class trips which are still not fully scheduled)

20% Mid-Semester Test and 20% Final Exam

To be held in the usual classrooms on the appropriate dates scheduled in advance. The questions and format of the exam will be determined by faculty as appropriate and will be based on the topics covered in classes, field trips and readings from the text.

Grading Criteria of the Written Assignments

Grade of A:

- Treatment of topic that indicates some originality of thinking (not simply a recapitulation of other sources), and captures the reader's attention through clear organization of ideas and engaging presentation (perhaps showing humour, questioning of received judgement of others, metaphor, illuminating quotes). If the paper were only heard, not read, it would hold the listener's attention because of careful, precise & imaginative use of vocabulary.
- An emphasis on analysis rather than descriptive or emotive content
- A paper that is very well-organized in general outline and that develops a coherent answer to the question posed. Analytical assertions made in the answer should be backed up by strong supporting evidence drawn from the knowledge acquired through classes, reading assignments & field trips.
- Only minor errors in the mechanics or conventions of the English language, including format for citations

Grade of B:

- Treatment of topic that reflects substantial breadth, depth and a prose style which is simple to follow and easy to read. There should be no confusion as to the meaning of the vocabulary and language employed.
- An emphasis on the descriptive or emotive content rather than analysis
- A paper that is well-organized in general outline and that provides an identifiable answer to the question posed. General analysis and supporting evidence which demonstrates an accurate understanding, but lacking the detail and clarity of the A paper
- Essays should indicate an ability to work from ideas that are general to points which are specific, and show some progression of material & thoughts in developing an answer
- Few errors in the mechanics or conventions of the English language

Grade of C:

- Treatment of topic that reflects some breadth as well as depth and detail, but without presenting an answer that is consistently clear to the

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reader

- Generally well-organized, but lacking good development of ideas
- Analysis and supporting evidence which demonstrates only partial understanding and contains occasional factual errors
- Regular but minor errors in the mechanics or conventions of the English language

Grade of D or F:

- Inadequate or minimal treatment of topic (the reader is left asking many questions about the topic and/or the understanding shown)
- Poor organization (lacks focus, rambles and fails to develop ideas)
- Regular and serious errors in the mechanics or conventions of the English language (errors in punctuation, spelling, syntax)

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