

CURS 1999-2000

ENGLISH SEMINAR B1

(6 credits)

PROFESSORS:

Olivia Fox	Room 2015
Stephen Keady	Room (TBA)
Renée O'Brate	Room 1006

CLASS HOURS: Wednesday 8.30-10.30; Friday 11.30-13.30**PROGRAMME**

Apart from developing foreign languages skills, translators and interpreters must, amongst other things, have a good background knowledge of the culture and society within which the language they are learning operates if they are to successfully negotiate extralinguistic references in oral and written texts.

AIMS

The aims of this course are therefore to:

- a) increase your general knowledge of British institutions and traditions; increase your understanding of important aspects of the British way of life; and develop an analytical approach to topics of particular interest to the British today.
- b) reinforce language skills such as listening and reading comprehension through the presentation of videos and the reading of articles in books, newspapers and magazines; develop writing skills through summary and essay writing; and encourage oral communication through group discussions and oral presentations in class.
- c) develop your ability to document yourselves effectively, analyse and evaluate ideas, reason and present arguments coherently

CONTENT

The specific content of the course will be selected from the following eight topics and will consist of video presentations in association with readings from *Britain in Close-Up*. The appropriate chapters are cited.

- **Government and Politics**
- Video: *The Monarchy / Order, Order / Question Time / The Politics of Equal Opportunity*
- Reading: Chapters 2 and 3

- **The Legal System**
- Video:
- Reading: Chapter 4

- **A Social Profile**
- Video: *Lifestyles, Work and the Family / Essential History of the UK*
- Reading: Chapter 7

- **The Importance of Not Being British**
- Video: *Question of National Identity*
- Reading: Chapter 9

- **Educating the Nation**
- Video: *Learning to Fail / Class Action*
- Reading: Chapter 1

- **The Media: Press, Radio and Television**
- Video:
- Reading: Chapter 12

- **A Nation's Health and Well-Being**
- Video:
- Reading: Chapter 16

- **Ethnic Minorities**
- Video: *Migration, Prejudice and Ethnicity / Ethnic Minorities - First and Second Generations*

METHODOLOGY

This will include preparatory exercises, analysis and summary of videos; group work and class discussions based on videos and readings; reading assignments including those mentioned for each unit and other sources of documentation; written assignments; oral presentations on a topic agreed upon with the teacher.

EVALUATION

Regular assignments will be given and progress will be assessed throughout the semester. Assignments will not be accepted from students who do not attend class regularly. The final examination will consist of three exercises – a reading comprehension, a written summary of a text, and an essay. All three parts will carry the same number of marks.

REQUIRED READING

McDowall D. 1993 *Britain in Close-up*. London. Longman.