

History and Culture of the British Isles

Code: 100217
ECTS Credits: 6

Degree	Type	Year	Semester
2500245 English Studies	FB	1	1
2501902 English and Catalan	OB	2	A
2501907 English and Classics	OB	2	A
2501910 English and Spanish	OB	2	A
2501913 English and French	OB	2	A

Contact

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Use of languages

Principal working language: english (eng)
Some groups entirely in English: Yes
Some groups entirely in Catalan: No
Some groups entirely in Spanish: No

Prerequisites

There are no specific requirements for this subject BUT a level of B2 English is essential for students of English Studies and C1 for students from Combined Degrees as they take the subject in their second year. Students should be able to understand and follow theoretical discussions of historical and cultural texts. They should also be able to interact with native speakers and express their ideas and opinions without effort.

Objectives and Contextualisation

The subject History and Culture of the British Isles provides an introduction to the main events and figures of British and Irish history and culture. The main purpose of this subject is to prepare students to understand British and Irish society, which will help them to follow the remaining subjects in their degree.

After taking this subject students will be able to

- Show that they have understood a variety of texts
- Use the historical and cultural resources of any library
- Express an informed critique of any cultural or historical text they may read.

Skills

English Studies

- Demonstrate they know a wide variety of texts in English language of any mean (oral, written, audiovisual) and recognising implicit meanings.
- Identify the main literary, cultural and historical currents in the English language.
- Produce clear and well structured and detailed texts in English about complex topics, displaying a correct use of the organisation, connection and cohesion of the text.

- Rewrite and organize information and arguments coming from several sources in English and presenting them in a coherent and summarised way.
- Utilising new technologies in order to capture and organise information in English and other languages, and applying it to the personal continued training and to the problem-solving in the professional or research activity.
- Working in an autonomous and responsible way in a professional or research environment in English or other languages, in order to accomplish the previously set objectives.

English and Catalan

- Demonstrate they know a wide variety of texts in English language of any mean (oral, written, audiovisual) and recognising implicit meanings.
- Identify the main literary, cultural and historical currents in the English language.
- Produce clear and well structured and detailed texts in English about complex topics, displaying a correct use of the organisation, connection and cohesion of the text.
- Rewrite and organize information and arguments coming from several sources in English and presenting them in a coherent and summarised way.

English and Classics

- Demonstrate they know a wide variety of texts in English language of any mean (oral, written, audiovisual) and recognising implicit meanings.
- Identify the main literary, cultural and historical currents in the English language.
- Produce clear and well structured and detailed texts in English about complex topics, displaying a correct use of the organisation, connection and cohesion of the text.
- Rewrite and organize information and arguments coming from several sources in English and presenting them in a coherent and summarised way.

English and Spanish

- Demonstrate they know a wide variety of texts in English language of any mean (oral, written, audiovisual) and recognising implicit meanings.
- Identify the main literary, cultural and historical currents in the English language.
- Produce clear and well structured and detailed texts in English about complex topics, displaying a correct use of the organisation, connection and cohesion of the text.
- Rewrite and organize information and arguments coming from several sources in English and presenting them in a coherent and summarised way.

English and French

- Demonstrate they know a wide variety of texts in English language of any mean (oral, written, audiovisual) and recognising implicit meanings.
- Identify the main literary, cultural and historical currents in the English language.
- Produce clear and well structured and detailed texts in English about complex topics, displaying a correct use of the organisation, connection and cohesion of the text.
- Rewrite and organize information and arguments coming from several sources in English and presenting them in a coherent and summarised way.

Learning outcomes

1. Analysing and interpreting texts in English in a basic level about the history of the British Isles.
2. Applying the acquired methodologies of work planning to work in an environment in the English language.
3. Applying the acquired scientific and work planning methodologies to the research in English.
4. Applying the information in English that is available on the Internet, in databases, etc. to the work and/or research environments.
5. Carrying out oral presentations in English about topics related to the history of the British Isles.
6. Demonstrating a basic comprehension of the diachronic and thematic evolution of the history of the British Isles.
7. Demonstrating a basic comprehension of the nature and main features of the culture and civilization of the British Isles.

8. Distinguishing the main ideas from the secondary ones and summarising the contents of texts in English about the history of the British Isles.
9. Localising secondary academic sources in the library or on the Internet related to the history of the British Isles.
10. Locating and organising relevant information in English that is available on the Internet, in databases, etc.
11. Participating in face-to-face and virtual debates in English about topics related to the history of the British Isles.
12. Summarising the content of primary and secondary sources about the history of the British Isles.
13. Write short argumentative essays or text comments in English on topics related to the history of the British Isles.

Content

This course is an introduction to the main historical and cultural events of Britain and Ireland from the early Celts to the present day, although the emphasis is on the modern and contemporary era. Among the topics discussed are:

- The country (people, geography, infrastructures, communications, cultural practices)
- The people (the early invasions, immigration, ethnic groups, identities)
- The evolution of the institutions of the British Isles (Parliament, the Monarchy, the Church)
- The formation of the United Kingdom (England, Scotland and Wales)
- Ireland (history, relations with England, its mythology)
- Medieval Britain
- Early Modern Britain
- The Industrial Revolution
- The Expansion of the British Empire
- The 19th century and social reforms
- The 20th century (the two world wars, demographic changes, cultural phenomena)

Methodology

The teaching methodology is based on:

- Guided activities (30%, 1.8 cr.)
- Supervised activities (15%, 0.9 cr.)
- Autonomous activities (50%, 3cr.)
- Assessed activities (5%, 0.3 cr.)

Activities

Title	Hours	ECTS	Learning outcomes
Type: Directed			
Group seminars	7.5	0.3	5, 11
In class text reading and debate	8	0.32	4, 12
Lectures	30	1.2	7, 6, 8
Type: Supervised			
Participation in virtual debates	12	0.48	7, 6, 11

Tutorials	9	0.36	2, 3, 8
Type: Autonomous			
Bibliography resources practice	15	0.6	2, 3, 4, 9, 10
Individual reading	30	1.2	1, 12
Individual study	12	0.48	6, 9

Evaluation

Assessment

- Assessment is continuous.
- Students must do ALL the exercises in order to pass the subject.
- Once students have done the oral and written exams and the essay, their final mark will be based on these items regardless of whether they do not fulfill the remaining requirements.
- The level of English will be taken into account.

IMPORTANT: Total or partial plagiarism from any other source in any assessed activity will automatically be considered as a FAIL.

Reassessment

- Only students who have done the four main assessment activities and have obtained a final mark of between 4.0-4.9 have the right to be reassessed.
- Class participation and the speaking exam cannot be reassessed.
- The maximum grade in the reassessment exam is 5.
- Students who pass the course cannot do the reassessment exam in order to get a higher mark.

Approximate dates for assessment activities

- Exam 1 - Mid-course (annual course - February, semester course - November)
- Essay - Annual course - January, semester course - December
- Exam 2 - Last day of class (annual course - May, semester course - January)
- Speaking exam - Annual course - June, semester course - January

Evaluation activities

Title	Weighting	Hours	ECTS	Learning outcomes
Class attendance and participation in in-class and virtual debates	10%	20	0.8	2, 11
Essay	20%	2	0.08	1, 7, 6, 9, 13, 12
Exam 1	20%	2	0.08	6, 12
Exam 2	40%	2	0.08	7, 8, 12
Oral presentation	10%	0.5	0.02	2, 3, 4, 5, 10

Bibliography

Obligatory textbook:

Grant, R.G. et al., History of Britain and Ireland. the Definitive Visual Guide. London: Dorling Kindersley, 2013.

Secondary reading:

Black, Jeremy, A History of the British Isles, London: Palgrave, 2012. 3rd edition

Bogdanor, Vernon, Devolution in the United Kingdom, Oxford: OUP, 2001.

Dargie, Richard, A History of Britain. London: Arcturus, 2007

Duffy, Séan et al, Atlas of Irish History, Dublin: Gill & Macmillan, 2000.

Ferguson, Niall, Empire. How Britain Made the Modern World, London: Penguin, 2004.

Gilbert, Martin, The Routledge Atlas of British History, 4th edition, London: Routledge, 2007.

Lacey, Robert, GreatTales from English History, London: Little, Brown, 2003.

Lang, Sean, British History for Dummies, John Wiley & Sons, 2004

Oakland, John, British Civilization , 7th edition, London: Routledge, 2010.

Mulholland, Marc, Northern Ireland: A Very Short Introduction, Oxford UP, 2003.

Paseta, Senia, Modern Ireland: A Very Short Introduction, Oxford Paperbacks, 2003.

Strong, Roy, The Story of Britain, Pimlico, 1998.

Websites:

www.bbc.co.uk/history

<http://www.islandguide.co.uk/history/nations1.htm>

<http://www.britishmuseum.org/>

<http://www.icons.org.uk/introduction>

DVDs

Simon Schama - a History of Britain (BBC)

David Starkey - Monarchy (Channel 4)

Andrew Marr - The Making of Modern Britain (BBC)

Andrew Marr - The History of Modern Britain (BBC)