

**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

**External teachers**

Christina Howes  
Clara Roman  
Francesca Blanch  
Joan Curbet

**Prerequisites**

There are no specific requirements for this subject BUT a level of B2/C1 English is essential. 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.

## Competences

### 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.

### 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. Carrying out oral presentations in English about topics related to the history of the British Isles.
3. Demonstrating a basic comprehension of the diachronic and thematic evolution of the history of the British Isles.
4. Demonstrating a basic comprehension of the nature and main features of the culture and civilization of the British Isles.
5. Distinguishing the main ideas from the secondary ones and summarising the contents of texts in English about the history of the British Isles.

6. Localising secondary academic sources in the library or on the Internet related to the history of the British Isles.
7. Participating in face-to-face and virtual debates in English about topics related to the history of the British Isles.
8. Summarising the content of primary and secondary sources about the history of the British Isles.
9. 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, Wales and Northern Ireland)
- 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	2, 7
In class text reading and debate	8	0.32	8
Lectures	30	1.2	3, 4, 5
Type: Supervised			
Participation in virtual debates	12	0.48	3, 4, 7
Tutorials	9	0.36	5
Type: Autonomous			

Bibliography resources practice	15	0.6	6
Individual reading	30	1.2	1, 8
Individual study	12	0.48	3, 6

## Assessment

Assessment for this course is based on the following:

- Midterm exam (or exam 1) = 30%
- Final exam (or exam 2) = 40%
- Oral exam = 15%
- Participation in class discussions and debates (and contributions to our virtual campus) = 15%

### ASSESSMENT:

- This subject follows the system of continuous assessment.
- All the exercises are **COMPULSORY**.
- All students are required to: study the compulsory book for this subject, watch the recommended films, and contextualize the suggested texts for this course. Any indication that a student has not completed his/her work in this respect will affect his/her assessment in a negative way.
- An exam not taken by the student will count as "No Avaluable," that is to say: as a 0 in that part.
- Completion of any of the assessment exercises excludes the possibility of obtaining a "No Avaluable" (Not Assessable) as a final mark.
- Students have the right to review their exercises (including reassessment) with their teacher in a personal tutorial on the set dates, never after the next assessment activity has already been done. Students lose this right if they fail to collect their exercise within the period announced by the teacher.
- The minimum pass mark for the whole subject is 5.
- The student's command of English will be taken into account when marking all exercises and for the final mark, too. In fact, "English" will count 25% of all the exercises.

### REASSESSMENT:

- Re-assessment for this subject requires a content-synthesis test, for which the following conditions are applicable
1. The student must previously have submitted a minimum of two-thirds of the course-assessment items, that is the two written exams.
  2. The student must previously have obtained an average overall grade equal to or higher than 3.5.
  3. The maximum grade than can be obtained through re-assessment is 5

**VERY IMPORTANT:** Plagiarism in any of the exercises will automatically lead to **FAILING (0/10)** the exercise, which cannot be reassessed. If the student plagiarizes a second time, s/he will fail the course. **PLAGIARISM** means copying a text (and this includes a single sentence) from unidentified sources and pretending it is part of one's own production (**THIS INCLUDES COPYING SENTENCES OR FRAGMENTS FROM THE INTERNET, WHICH ARE INCLUDED WITHOUT ANY CHANGES TO THE TEXT THAT IS PRESENTED AS ONE'S OWN**) and it is a serious academic offence. Students must learn to respect others' intellectual property and to always identify the sources they use. It is absolutely necessary for students to become entirely responsible for the originality and authenticity of their texts.

## Assessment Activities

Title	Weighting	Hours	ECTS	Learning Outcomes
Attendance and participation in class, participation in online	15%	23	0.92	1, 6, 7

debates

Exam 1	30%	1.5	0.06	3, 9, 8
Exam 2	40%	1.5	0.06	4, 9, 8
Oral presentation	15%	0.5	0.02	1, 5, 2

## 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.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)