UNIVERSITÀ
DEGLI STUDI DI MILANO-BICOCCA

COURSE SYLLABUS

Anglo-Saxon Culture

2122-2-F7601M057-F7601M051M

Learning objectives

The aim of this course on English speaking cultures is to provide the variegated profiles of the main English-as-first-language societies of today, in an attempt to familiarize students with what the cultures in question have in common and how/why they differ. The countries examined will be the ones forming the UK as well as those of the ex-Empire and present Commonwealth, without neglecting the North American continent with the US and Canada and their 250 million or so native speakers of English.

Contents

Lessons will cover subjects like the development of traditions, institutions and innovations as well as relations within and between power blocks. The lessons will offer a kaleidoscope of snapshots into history, geography, beliefs and practices, all of which going to affect national identity to a greater or lesser degree.

Detailed program

Among the topics discussed in detail will be: names and places; sounds and spellings; monarchy and governance; Church and nation; Ireland and Scotland; Empire and Commonwealth; Cultural tourism from Shakespeare to Elvis. Current affairs may cause program variations.

Prerequisites

Pass in English language at first degree level or equivalent.

Teaching methods

Traditional lectures

Assessment methods

The exam is in two parts - a written and an oral. The written, which lasts 75 minutes, is in this period of uncertainty accessed only online. It consists of 60 Cloze test items (putting in the missing word) on the basis of the texts read and discussed in class. The candidates need to show they have acquired an active knowledge of the contents of the lessons. A brief oral follows.

Textbooks and Reading Materials

All the course material is available on the E-Learning platform. The nine or so units are dedicated to the topics developed in the various lessons. They are followed by a revision section with the *Memory Bank* and *Facts and Figures*, which summarize the salient facts and figures. The last two units contain a mock paper and an analysis of possible mistakes.

Back up material can be accessed via: The British Council LearnEnglish. For online listening and reading, access : Sky Breaking News London; BBC 6 minute English; Youtube; the videos and articles published byGuardian Online.

Semester

first semester

Teaching language

English