UNIVERSITÀ
DEGLI STUDI DI MILANO-BICOCCA

COURSE SYLLABUS

Anglo-Saxon Culture

2627-2-F7602M011-F7602M011-1

Learning objectives

The aim of this course on English speaking cultures is to give students practice in listening to and speaking a current, idiomatic form of English while familiarizing with the variegated profiles of the main English-as-first-language societies of today, so that they are aware of what the cultures in question have in common and how/why they differ in quite important ways. In this way students are encouraged to indepth differences and be aware the delicate areas which can have effects on both personal and work relations. The countries examined will be those in the British Isles as well as one-time colonies and the present Commonwealth, without neglecting the North American continent with the US and Canada and their 250 million or so native speakers of English. Students will perceive the ties between history and culture, the weight of the past on the present, what has made these peoples what they are today.

Contents

Lessons will cover subjects like the development of traditions, institutions and innovations as well as relations within and between power blocks. They will offer a kaleidoscope of snapshots into history, geography, beliefs and practices, all of which affect national identities 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. 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, accessed in hardcopy. 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. The oral follows based on the written and general oral skills, including the listening units.

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

Sustainable Development Goals

QUALITY EDUCATION | GENDER EQUALITY | DECENT WORK AND ECONOMIC GROWTH | SUSTAINABLE CITIES AND COMMUNITIES