



Universitat de Lleida

# DEGREE CURRICULUM

# **HISTORY AND SOCIETY OF THE UNITED KINGDOM**

Coordination: SANTAULARIA CAPDEVILA, MARIA  
ISABEL

Academic year 2018-19

## Subject's general information

<b>Subject name</b>	HISTORY AND SOCIETY OF THE UNITED KINGDOM			
<b>Code</b>	101120			
<b>Semester</b>	1st Q(SEMESTER) CONTINUED EVALUATION			
<b>Typology</b>	<b>Degree</b>	<b>Course</b>	<b>Character</b>	<b>Modality</b>
	Bachelor's Degree in English Studies	3	COMPULSORY	Attendance-based
<b>Course number of credits (ECTS)</b>	6			
<b>Type of activity, credits, and groups</b>	Query has returned no results			
<b>Coordination</b>	SANTAULARIA CAPDEVILA, MARIA ISABEL			
<b>Department</b>	ENGLISH AND LINGUISTICS			
<b>Important information on data processing</b>	Consult <a href="#">this link</a> for more information.			
<b>Language</b>	English			
<b>Office and hour of attention</b>	Despatx 2.18. Horari a determinar. Tel. 973 70 2209			

Teaching staff	E-mail addresses	Credits taught by teacher	Office and hour of attention
SANTAULARIA CAPDEVILA, MARIA ISABEL	isantaularia@dal.udl.cat	0	

## Subject's extra information

Please, take into account that this subject 'has expired' and, as a consequence, you will be evaluated based on the contents you studied last year (SEE CONTENTS). You can attend the new degree's classes even though you will notice that some aspects have changed and will not be part of your exam.

If you did not have the chance to take the Liverpool trip last year, you can join this year. However, you have to take into account there will be no assessment activity related to the trip.

## Learning objectives

The objective of the course is to understand British history, society and major institutions. Through introductory lectures, an analysis of some artistic productions, a field trip to Liverpool (optional) and practice from a textbook formulated for learners of English, the course will offer a comprehensive panoramic view of contemporary British society and the history that has produced it.

## Subject contents

### SYLLABUS:

From: O'Driscoll, James. *Britain for Learners of English*. Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2009 (+ workbook):

- Unit 20 "Food and Drink" + exercises
- Unit 23 "Holidays and Special Occasions" + exercises
- Unit 21 "Sport and Competition" + exercises
- Unit 22 "The Arts" + exercises
- Unit 8 "The Government" + exercises
- Unit 9 "Parliament" + exercises
- Unit 14 "Education" + exercises
- Unit 16 "The Media" + exercises

**GETTING STARTED:** Introductory class developing a momentous issue or event related to contemporary Britain. This year's topic is: Of quicksands and bedrocks: The monarchy in the UK in times of uncertainty. This is aimed at considering the popularity and stability of the monarchy in the United Kingdom in times of turmoil (take into account that, in the past five years, the United Kingdom has been shaken by the Scottish referendum, the Brexit Referendum and, among others, the release of the Chilcot or Iraq Inquiry).

**UNIT 1: The United Kingdom and the Four Nations. Situating the country geographically and politically:** Geographical and political introduction to the United Kingdom and the four nations that constitute it.

**UNIT 2: The pre-eminence of England: England vs. British and other (national identities):** An introduction to the difference between English and British and an analysis of the reasons that account for the supremacy of England over the other three nations and the (sometimes conflicted) relations between them. Emphasis will also be placed on the issue of national identity in the United Kingdom. **Discussion on:**

- *Braveheart* (Mel Gibson, 1995). (Film)

**UNIT 3: A fast-forward into history. From prehistory to the Medieval Period:** An overview that goes from the

prehistory of the peoples of Great Britain and the different invasions to the creation of England as a country, covering the games of thrones involving various royal houses that ruled the country and its expansion on the island to incorporate Wales.

**UNIT 4: The 16<sup>th</sup> century. The Elizabethan Period:** An analysis of one of the most successful eras in the history of England: the reign of Elizabeth I. **Discussion on:**

- *Shakespeare in Love* (John Maden, 1998). (Film)

**UNIT 5: The 17<sup>th</sup> and 18<sup>th</sup> centuries. From the Stuarts to the Hanovers with a republican interlude:** The history of the royal houses that ruled England after the Tudors (paying attention to the brief period during which England was a republic) and the expansion of England to become the United Kingdom (with Scotland and later Northern Ireland).

**UNIT 6: The 19<sup>th</sup> century. The Victorian Period:** An analysis of one of the most influential periods in the United Kingdom: the reign of Queen Victoria and the Industrial Revolution. **Discussion on:**

- *Hard Times* (BBC, 1994). (Film)

**UNIT 7: The British Empire:** An overview of the origins and development of the British Empire, as well as of its demise. **Discussion on:**

- *King Solomon's Mines* (J. Lee Thompson, 1985). (Film)

**UNIT 8: The 20<sup>th</sup> century. Significant socio-political figures and events:** An overview of the 20<sup>th</sup>-century key historical events and their protagonists.

- *The King's Speech* (Tom Hooper, 2010). (Film)

## Development plan

### Please note:

You should attend at least one tutorial session (see office hours or e-mail me for an appointment) both to clarify any doubts you may have and to confirm you are informed about the date of the exam and you intend to attend it.

## Evaluation

### PLEASE NOTICE:

- You will have to take one exam to pass the subject.
- The date of the exam is the one that is established in the official calendar.
- The exam will have questions on units 1 to 8 as well as a quiz on the units covered in the book by O'Driscoll (see contents).
- Remember that exams containing more than five serious mistakes can be failed.

## Bibliography

Bracewell, Michael. *England Is Mine: Pop Life in Albion from Wilde to Goldie*. London: Flamingo, 1998.

Bryson, Bill, ed. *Icons of England*. London: Black Swan, 2010.

Bryson, Bill. *Notes from a Small Island*. London: Black Swan, 1993.

Danziger, Nick. *Danziger's Britain: A Journey to the Edge*. London: Flamingo, 1997.

Dargie, Richard. *A History of Britain: The Key Events That Have Shaped Britain from Neolithic Times to*

*the 21<sup>st</sup> Century*. London: Arcturus, 2007.

Jenkins, Simon. *A Short History of England*. London: Profile Books, 2012.

Lang, Seán. *British History for Dummies*. Chichester: Wiley, 2008.

Maoconie, Stuart. *Pies and Prejudice: In Search of the North*. London: Ebury Press, 2008.

Morgan, Kenneth O. *The Oxford History of Britain*. Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2010.

Mount, Harry. *How England Made the English*. London: Penguin, 2013.

Oakland, John. *British Civilisation: An Introduction*. London and New York: Routledge, 2011.

O'Farrell, John. *An Utterly Impartial History of Britain: Or 2000 Years of Upper Class Idiots*. London: Black Swan, 2007.

O'Farrell, John. *An Utterly Exasperated History of Modern Britain: Or 60 Years of Making the Same Stupid Mistakes as Always*. London: Black Swan, 2009.

Paxman, Jeremy. *The English: A Portrait of a People*. London: Penguin, 1999.

Richards, Jeffrey. *Films and British National Identity: From Dickens to Dad's Army*. Manchester and New York: Manchester University Press, 1997.

Story, Mike and Peter Childs, eds. *British Cultural Identities*. London and New York: Routledge, 2013.

Wilson, A.N. *Our Times: The Age of Elizabeth II*. London: Arrow, 2008