The History and Culture of Great Britain (RDVB) Course description

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Office hours: Wed 10.30-11.15; Thurs 12.15-13.00 (R207)

COURSE OBJECTIVES: The objectives of the course are threefold. The priority is to familiarize students with the principal events and people of old and modern British history. The second purpose of the course is to provide information about British geography, culture, and customs. Finally, at the same time, the course aims at helping students practice language skills (speaking, reading, writing, and listening) through various interactive exercises.



TENTATIVE SYLLABUS:

- 1. Introduction to the course (requirements, Great Britain terminology)
- 2. Geography I (climate, famous and historical cities, famous and historical cities)
- 3. Geography II (Stonehenge); presentations
- 4. History I (700 AD-BC 1066): main historical events and kings; Magna Charta; presentations
- 5. History II (1066-1603): main historical events and kings (the War of the Roses, Tudor dynasty); presentations
- 6. Mid-term test
- 7. History III: (1603-) (the Bonfire Night, The Great Fire of London, Victorian age); presentations
- 8. History IV: the 20th century and present UK (*the British Empire the Scottish Independent Memorandum, Brexit*); presentations
- 9. Scotland (history, geography, culture); presentations
- 10. Wales (history and culture); presentations
- 11. Culture and religion; presentations
- 12. End-of-term test
- 13. Missed tests (Mid-term/End-of-term test)/ presentations (if necessary)

ASSESSMENT BASED ON:

- Class attendance: no more than <u>two</u> absences are excused. If you are sick, submit a doctor's note in the very next lesson you are able to attend, and your absence will be deleted. If you have more than two uncertified absences, you have to <u>retake</u> the course.
- ❖ Active participation during the lessons: with some cooperative and competitive individual or group exercises, you can collect extra points, which will be added to your final mark.

- ❖ Mid-term test and end-of-term test: based on the worksheets distributed at the beginning of each lesson and on the PPTs, which are available at Moodle. For each test, you can obtain 40 points (altogether 80 points).
- ❖ Presentation: you have to prepare a 15-minute presentation (PPT or Prezi; min. 15 slides) about one of the topics below. You have to use min. two books (can be online too) and 3 other sources. The last slide has to contain your sources. Using Wikipedia is not allowed. You can collect 20 points for the presentation (information: 10 points; literature: 5 points; visuality: 5 points).

Important! If you do not attend the lesson in which you have to present, there is no second chance to prepare your presentation in another lesson. Exception: submitting a doctor's note. In this case, you will hold your present in the last (thirteenth) lesson.

PRESENTATION TOPICS:

Lesson 3 (Geography II): Capitals (London, Edinburg, Cardiff, and Belfast); other famous cities (optional); national parks in the UK

Lesson 4 (History I): King Arthur

Lesson 5 (History II): Robin Hood; VIII Henry and his wives

Lesson 7 (History III): Oliver Cromwell; Queen Victoria; the British Empire

Lesson 8 (History IV): Princess Diana; Margaret Thatcher: the Iron Lady; the Royal Family; terrorism; multiculturalism (ethnic groups, migration)

Lesson 9 (Scotland): Loch Ness Monster

Lesson 10: Welsh celebrities

Lesson 11: Education (e.g. famous universities); Festivals; Holidays; Cuisine.

EVALUATION: In order to pass the course, you have to collect a minimum of 50 points. If you obtain less than 50 points, you have two more opportunities to improve your mark by retaking a test during the exam period. The 'retaker' test will cover all the topics of the term.

GRADING SCALE: 100-90%=A; 89-80=B; 79-70=C; 69-60=D; 59-50=E; 49-0=F

RECOMMENDED LITERATURE:

- Lengyel-Marosi, Renáta. Culture and History of Great Britain. A textbook for university students of English as a foreign language. Komárno: J. Selye University Faculty of Education, 2021. Online.
- Burn, W.E.: A Brief History of Great Britain. New York: Facts on File Inc., 2010.
- Dargie, R.: A History of Britain. Arcturus, 2009.
- Harvey P. Jones R.: Britain Explored. Longman, 2002.
- Higgins, M.-Smith C. Storey J. (eds.): *The Cambridge Companion to Modern British Culture*. Cambridge University Press, 2010.
- McDowall, D.: An Illustrated History of Britain. London: Longman, 1989.
- Morgan, R.W: History of Britain from the Flood to A.D. 700. London: The Marshall Press, Ltd., 1933.
- Sheerin, S. Seath J. White G.: Spotlight on Britain. Oxford University Press, 1990.
- Online sources (www.history.com, www.youtube.com, www.biography.com, www.bbc.com)

Feel free to contact me if you have any questions. Enjoy the course!