A HISTORY OF THE BRITISH PEOPLE, 
THEIR CULTURE & CIVILISATION

In the course, we will study capital aspects of the social and economic and political development of the British society, as well as significant works of art (literature, painting, music, architecture) representing a diversity of forms of expression from key historical periods. We approach these works as creative expressions of their historical and cultural contexts to build a better-informed understanding of British culture and creativity. This introductory course is expected to lay a solid foundation for understanding and appreciating Britain’s rich diversity and creative achievements.

PREREQUISITES

The History of the British People, Their Culture and Civilisation is an introductory course and students with university entry-level thinking, reading, writing & communication skills (First Certificate /Teofel) should be well prepared to succeed in this course. No previous coursework in British culture and civilisation is required, although such background is, of course, valuable.

LEARNING OBJECTIVES

Regular class attendance, active engagement with primary historical documents and British creative works, participation in seminar discussion and small group activities, completion of written assignments (essays and dissertation), progress tests and Final Examination (with self-evaluation) are designed to help the students achieve the following key course learning goals:

Knowledge:
- recall and recognise specific information (name, describe, define, identify)
- comprehend and digest cultural information (compare, contrast, comment, argue)
- know basic terminology of the subject
- analyse aspects of British civilisation with an understanding of the component parts and their relationships

Skills:
- read and interpret content of passages from historical documents, newspapers, magazines (locating the main idea, finding details, determining patterns of writing, drawing conclusions and making inferences, reading critically, separating fact from opinion, determining cause and effect, determining the meaning of civilisation terms from the context of the passage;
- read and interpret graphics: maps, tables, and graphs;
- synthesise information, taking an overview;
- apply the basic terminology of the subject in their analyses;
- evaluate their own knowledge, understanding and competence critically;
- communicate their opinions, the results of their independent research efficiently, either in written (essay, summary), or oral form (oral presentation);
- transfer their knowledge and skills to other domains (communication, interpersonal, quantification, analytical, synthesis, problem solving, evaluation skills).

Attitudes:
- take a serious interest in the subject.
CONTENT AND STRUCTURE

- **Britain’s Prehistory. (250,000-2,500 BC)** The Stone Age: Megalithic monuments (Stonehenge). The Bronze Age: the Beaker folk. The Iron Age: the Celts.


REQUIRED READING

For each course or seminar studied, the students should consult these volumes for the relevant article: other books also contain pertinent material (see Useful Reading below). More detailed and specific reading lists will be included in individual lectures handouts; the organiser of the course will advise you on appropriate background, critical and theoretical texts that you should consult.

**USEFUL READING (RECOMMENDED)**

5. Bindman, D. *Encyclopaedia of British Art.* (London: Thames & Hudson, 1985);
8. Burgess, A. *English Literature. Survey for students.* (Routledge, 1987);
19. James, B. And Kavanagh, D. *British Politics Today.* Routledge, 1991;
24. Marwick, R. *Culture in Britain since 1945.* (Oxford: Basil Blackwell, 1991);
34. Somerset Fry, Peter and Fiona. *The History of Ireland*. (London and New York: Routledge, 1991);

**LECTURE TIMETABLE**

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**SEMINARS TIMETABLE**

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**N.B.** Page references are to *British Civilisation*, 3rd edition by John Oakland, Routledge 1996.

**ASSESSMENT OF BC**

Attendance at all lectures and seminars is expected. Essays and project work must be handed to the course organiser by the assigned date. It is essential that work be completed on time to allow for marking and return within three weeks. Late work will be penalised with 20 (out of 100) marks per week, and no written comments or discussion can be expected. Seriously late written work (three weeks) will be zero-marked and not re-set. Work will be discussed individually with each student (after submission).

Class performance is measured by a combination of two factors: written work: two essays, the dissertation, and two class tests.

A satisfactory class performance, which includes completion of all written work, leads the students to having “duly performed” the work of the course. This permits them to sit the June exam, or re-sit it in September. A student may be refused a “DP” if you (s)he failed to complete and hand in written work or missed seminars without proper explanation.

**SITTING EXAMS**

The February examination will cover British Civilisation studied during the semester (courses and seminars). The purpose of the examination is to enable students to demonstrate their width and depth of
reading, the ability to develop an argument and support it with illustrations. It is not the purpose of the exam to encourage the students merely to write out class essays for a second time, or simply to transcribe notes taken in lectures that have vague connection with the question set.

Sitting the February examination is a compulsory part of the course, and no student can sit it without having completed their written work by the deadlines set by the tutor, without reasonable explanation. These may be regarded as not having fulfilled the requirements of the course and so not allowed to sit the examination.

The final examination has two sections, as follows:

**Written Examination (180 minutes)**
- a multiple choice test (60 minutes/80 questions)
- a summary (30 minutes/120 words)
- an essay (90 minutes/800 words).

**Oral examination (20 minutes)**
- Oral presentation
- Definition of 3 fundamental concepts

**PASSING BC**

A successful pass in the course will be judged by performance in the written work, preparation and participation in the seminars, and by formal examination. At the end of the semester all students will be assigned an overall mark, which will be an aggregate of the February examination (40%), two essays (20%), two progress tests (20%) and the project work (20%).

All forms of assessment, as well as the deadlines are compulsory. Getting passing grades in the essay tests, as well as for seminar work is a pre-requisite for admission to the February examination. Students should complete all the specified work of the British Civilisation class that falls due during the semester, and must be handed to the tutor by the assigned date.

Students failing the June examination, make take the September ‘re-sit’.

**EVALUATION**

To improve the quality of the teaching done in this course, the following forms of survey will be used:
- Coursework and examination results (periodically and after the final examinations);
- Interviews (during the weekly meeting with the students);
- Class discussion (1-2 times per semester);
- Students’ evaluation of the course (see annex 1);
- Self-evaluation checklist (courseware checklist, teaching/learning activity checklist, formal lecture, active lecture, small group teaching, students assessment, evaluation checklist, SWAIN and RAIN, see annexes 2-9);
- Course log-book (to keep starting with the 1999-2000 academic year);
- Evaluation by colleagues (classroom observation, micro-teaching) to be done 2-3 times/semester.

**STUDY SKILLS**

To improve their study and academic writing skills, the students should read the following books: