

Guide to Course

Contemporary Britain

Second term of 2021-2022

Course description

- This course aims to provide a social and cultural background of Britain in the 20th and early 21st century to English language teaching. The selected materials cover such topics as the nations of Britain and their sentiments, Britain during and after the Two World Wars, problems of overseas territories, national organizations and their new character, ivory tower and its financial pressure, with the purpose to help facilitate the learners' language acquisition and enhance the learners' cultural and historical awareness.

Teaching goals

- Read and try to understand the reading materials by checking out dictionaries and references
- Learn culture-bound words and expressions, capitalized terms associated with names of people, places, institutions and events
- Obtain a general knowledge of British history, culture and society in the 20th to 21st century with a critical insight
- Develop an understanding to the relevance of Britain to the western and world culture with a critical insight
- Develop cultural and historical awareness
- Improve command of English in listening, reading, translation, answering questions, writing and speaking

Reading materials

- Selected reading for 14 chapters, one chapter for each week according to the sequence
- Printed copy is required for each participant

Reference Books

available in the University Library

- 肖惠云(主编). *Contemporary British Culture and Society*. 上海外语教育出版社. 2013.
- 常俊跃等. *Introduction to British Society and Culture*. Peking UP, 2010.
- Richard Musman. *Britain Today*. UK: Longman Group Ltd. 1982
- *History of Britain and Ireland*, DK publishing, 2013.

Websites

- <https://Int.xmu.edu.cn> (for University course)
- <https://projectbritain.com/>
- www.gov.uk
- <https://www.royal.uk/>
- www.cam.ac.uk

In-class task

Usual tasks for each class

- Students sign in class
- Students oral presentation
- Question-answer session
- Lecture
- Home assignments
- Preview tasks

Additional tasks for some classes

- Excise, quiz (noticed in previous class)
- Homework review and comment
- Group work on some chapters or on writing

After-class tasks

Listening and oral task

- Two pieces of listening each week, listen for full understanding and prepare for check in class
- Available on <https://Int.xmu.edu.cn> (for University course)
- Prepare and rehearse oral presentation for each class

Reading and homework

- One chapter each week, come to class with questions
- Finish and improve homework, if required

Exercise & quiz

- Of listening tasks assigned for each week
- Of words and terms in each chapter
- Of preview or review tasks for each class

Writing task: summary

- Learn to write summary based on the reading materials
- Guideline of “Writing a summary”
- Writing practice
- Expected improvement

Basic requirements

- Full attendance to each class
- Good efforts in listening, previewing and reviewing the reading materials
- Skip neither homework nor exercise nor quiz

Grading and Evaluation

- I. Performance in-class and off-class 50%
 - In-class exercise and quiz
 - Homework required to hand in
 - Oral presentation
- II. Final exam 50% (detailed in independent PPT)
 - Listening comprehension
 - Words & terms
 - Question and answer
 - Translation
 - Writing

Others

in separate files

- Schedule
- Arrangement of final examination