***Approaches to Society and Culture: Aspects of Nation and Identity***

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Classes: Tue 10:15-11:45 am and 12.30-14:00 pm, Sophianum Csapody

Welcome to the lecture surveying English-speaking societies and cultures. The focus of this course will be nation and identity. We will start out from approaches to the concept of nation, and will seek to understand the ways in which some major factors have shaped the sense of a nation and national identities in Britain and the US.

**Organization of the course**

This is a lecture course in which the presentation of theoretical material will alternate with text discussion classes. The course will conclude with a mini-conference on 12 May, where the course participants will present their research projects. A few tutorials are inserted in the schedule where the project plans and the subsequent stages of the project will be discussed individually.

**Requirements and assessment of the course**

* Attendance of the course.
* Reading the assigned texts for the discussion classes.
* Submitting a seminar paper of 10-15 pages analysing an aspect of the research project. The seminar papers have to be written according to the formal and editorial standards of the MA thesis guidelines of the Department:

<https://btk.ppke.hu/uploads/articles/15981/file/Guidelines%20to%20the%20MA%20Thesis%20on%20Literary%20and%20Cultural%20topics%281%29.pdf>

The submission deadline of the first draft papers is 21 April.

* The ppt presentation of research project at the mini-conference of the last session (12 May). The projects have to be related to issues of nation and national identity in the British/American context. The deadlines of the internal phases of the project in progress (submission of project plan, submission of the outline of the presentation and submission of a draft) will be indicated in the schedule below.
* The assessment of the ppt presentation will be based on the following parameters:

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| ***Aspects of assessment*** | ***Maximum point*** |
| **I. Project** | **20** |
| 1.1 Presenting research question and outlining the problem, thesis | 5 |
| 1.2 Structure | 5 |
| 1.3 Methods and use of scholarly literature | 4 |
| 1.4 Relevance | 3 |
| 1.5 Conclusions | 3 |
| **II. Oral Delivery** | **10** |
| 2.1 Fluency, pace, pauses, emphases | 4 |
| 2.2 Grammar and appropriacy | 4 |
| 2.3 Audience involvement (contact) | 2 |
| **III. PPT Design** | **10** |
| 3.1 Esthetic | 2 |
| 3.2 Visibility of text | 2 |
| 3.3 Balance of text and images | 2 |
| 3.4 ppt text (spelling, grammar, style) | 4 |
| **IV. PPT Structure and Use of Quotes** | **10** |
| 4.1 Cover and contents pages | 4 |
| 4.2 List of sources | 2 |
| 4.3 Overall organization | 2 |
| 4.4 Correct use of sources (indication of the source of quotes, correct quotation marks) | 2 |
| **total** | **50** |

* The final result will be the average of the seminar paper grade and the presentation result. Active participation in the class discussions and the responses to the assigned readings will also be considered.

**Schedule**

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| Feb 10 | 10.15 (am) | Presentation of the course and the requirements, introductory discussion of an expository text (Julian Barnes: *England, England*, excerpts) |
| 12.30 (pm) | Lecture: The problem of the Nation in British and US Contexts |
| Feb 17 | 10.15 (am) | Discussion of assigned reading: Anthony D. Smith, *National Identity.* Reno: University of Nevada Press, 1991, Chapter 1: “National and Other Identities,” pp. 1-18; Chapter 2: “The Ethnic Basis of National Identity,” pp. 19-42. |
| 12.30 (pm) | First discussion of individual projects |
| Feb 24 | 10.15 (am) | Lecture: American Identity: Historical Roots and Contemporary Challenges |
| 12.30 (pm) | Discussion of assigned reading: Samuel Huntington, *Who Are We?* Simon & Schuster, 2004. Ch. 1. “The Crisis of National Identity” and Ch. 3. “Components of American Identity” |
| March 3 | 10.15 (am) | Lecture: The Discourse of the Crisis of British Identity |
| 12.30 (pm) | Discussion of assigned reading: Linda Colley, “Britishness and Otherness: An Argument,” *Journal of British Studies* 31 (1992): 309-29 (JSTOR) |
| March 10 | 10.15 (am) | Lecture: British National Identity and Devolution |
| 12.30 (pm) | Second discussion of individual projects - first outlines |
| March 17 | 10.15 (am) | Lecture: Americans and Immigrants: The Boundaries of National Identity |
| 12.30 (pm) | Discussion of assigned text: to be announced |
| March 24 | 10.15 (am) | Lecture: British National Identity and Immigration |
| 12.30 (pm) | Discussion of assigned reading: Salman Rushdie, “The New Empire within Britain,” in Salman Rushdie, *Imaginary Homelands*  http://www.english.ccsu.edu/hegglund/206/rushdie\_empire.htm |
| **March 31 and April 7 Spring Break** | | |

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| April 14 | 10.15 (am) | Lecture: Race and America |
| 12.30 (pm) | Third discussion of individual projects – work-in-progress |
| April 21 | 10.15 (am) | Lecture: British National Identity and Religion |
| 12.30 (pm) | Discussion of assigned reading: Steve Bruce, “Religious Culture in Contemporary Britain,” in David Morley and Kevins Robins, eds., *British Cultural Studies*. Oxford: OUP, 2001, pp. 195-206. |
| April 28 | 10.15 (am) | Multiculturalism in Britain v. USA  Discussion of assigned readings:  (1) Egedy Gergely, “A multikulturalizmus dilemmái: Nagy-Britannia példája,” *Polgári Szemle* 2/6 (2006);  <http://epa.oszk.hu/00800/00890/00016/EPA00890_Polgari_Szemle_111.html>  (2) Diana Owen, “American Identity, Citizenship, and Multiculturalism” (2005)  <http://www.civiced.org/pdfs/germanPaper0905/DianaOwen2005.pdf> |
| 12.30 (pm) | Individual discussion of seminar papers |
| May 5 | 10.15 (am) | Lecture: The American Civil Religion: Myth or Reality? |
| 12.30 (pm) | Discussion of assigned reading: Richard V. Pierard, “The Role of Civil Religion in American Society” in Derek H. Davis, *The Oxford Handbook of Church and State in the United States.* OUP 2010, pp. 479–496. |
| May 12 | 10.15 (am) | Mini-conference |
| 12.30 (pm) | Mini-conference |

*Enjoy the course!*