English Speaking Countries: Cultures and Societies

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| *Angol* | *nyelvű népek kultúrája BMNAT10600M* |

**Lecturer**: Balogh Beatrix

**Time and place**: Monday 14.15-15.45 BTK Z Rm 214

**Availability**: On Mondays by appointment or via email: trixiebalogh@yahoo.com

**Purpose** of the course is to present a survey of the largest and culturally most significant English-speaking countries and to explore what historical and cultural features link them today, and what distinctive features set them apart. Students will also become familiar with key terminology, basic concepts, and cultural shortcuts that are necessary for fluent discourse on these social-cultural matters as well as for understanding the English-speaking world beyond the two countries – the United Kingdom and the United States – that are studied more extensively in the BA program.

**Format and Requirements:** It is a lecture course with interactive elements. The course concludes with a written test in the exam period, but class attendance is required in line with seminar-attendance policies (Prepare for each class. You may miss 3 classes during the semester.). Since there is no single coursebook that would cover the material of the course, the end-term test is based on the lecture notes, in-class discussions, and texts assigned from various sources.

**End-term test:** will most likely feature gapped sentences, multiple choice questions, concept definitions, and short essay questions.

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|  | date | Lecture and Discussion topics |
| Sept 16 | | Introduction, goal orientation, syllabus, requirements  English-speaking countries: what connects them?  *Images and stereotypes: discussion* |
| Sept 23 | | Brief historical overview of British Empire, Commonwealth, and beyond  *Political and cultural traditions; Political and cultural links today* |
| Sept 30 | | Australia: History and political traditions, Government today  *Set text: pp 88-116 of Cultural Relations; “Understanding Australia” ABC* |
| Oct 7 | | Australia: Cultural features and society  *Hidden cultural curriculum in EFL classroom*  *Set text: pp 116-134 of Cultural Relations; “The Bridge” pp 52-53 in CPM* |
| Oct 14 | | Canada: a brief survey of history and immigration patterns  *Set text: pp 220-235 of Cultural Relations*  *Task sheet: Understanding Canadians, Canada’s Immigration Policy, First Nation* |
| Oct 21 | | Canada: Culture and Society  Set text: 237-258 *of Cultural Relations; task sheet: Canadian Multiculturalism* |
|  |  | Autumn break (October 28 – November 3) |
| Nov 4 | | Ireland and the Republic of Ireland: Celtic, British, and Irish histories |
| Nov 7 | | Society and Culture; Government Today, Ireland’s cultural impact |
| Nov 11 | | Brexit and Ireland: hard border and constitutional questions; Notable cultural features of other English-speaking countries outside the Anglo-American tradition |
| Nov 18 | | UK in the 21st century: current issues and developments |
| Nov 25 | | USA current issues and major trends |
| Dec 2 | | Summary and revision |

Literature and task sheets:

Jancsó-Pintér-Suba-Surányi-Szántó: *Cultural Relations,* Akadémiai, 2010; with succinct introductory texts on the four largest English-speaking countries: Britain, the USA, Canada and Australia.

Other readings will also be assigned during the course either distributed in class or as home reading available online. Excerpts for task sheets are adapted from: Laurence Brosseau, and Michael Dewing. “Canadian Multiculturalism” Library of Parliament, <https://lop.parl.ca/sites/PublicWebsite/default/en_CA/ResearchPublications/200920E>; René R. Gadacz, Zach Parrott, David Gallant “First Nations”. *The Canadian Encyclopedia*; <https://www.thecanadianencyclopedia.ca/en/article/first-nations>; “Understanding Canadians”. Simon Faber University. Engaging the world. <https://www.sfu.ca/students/isap/explore/culture/understanding-canadians.html>; “Understanding Australia” *Radio Australia—ABC*. https://www.abc.net.au/ra/australia/politics/default.htm