

English Speaking Countries: Cultures and Societies

Angol nyelvű népek kultúrája BMNAT10600M

Lecturer: Balogh Beatrix balogh.beatrix@btk.ppke.hu
Time and place: Thursday 16.15-17.45 D 312
Office hours: Tuesday 16.00-17.00

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 feature outline maps, gapped sentences, multiple choice questions, concept definitions, and short essay questions.

DATE	LECTURE AND DISCUSSION TOPICS
Feb 12	Introduction, goal orientation, syllabus, requirements English-speaking countries: what connects them? Growing prominence in Anglophone world and EFL corpus. <i>Images and stereotypes: discussion</i>
Feb 19	Brief historical overview of British Empire, Commonwealth, and beyond <i>Political and cultural traditions; Political and cultural links today</i>
Feb 26	Australia: Geography, history, and political traditions, Government today: The Westminster System <i>Set text: pp 88-116 of Cultural Relations; "Understanding Australia" ABC</i>
Mar 5	Australia: Cultural features and society; current critical issues <i>Set text: pp 116-134 of Cultural Relations; Assignment: watch an Australian film</i>
Mar 12	Canada: Geography, history of federal system, Elections <i>Set text: pp 220-235 of Cultural Relations</i> <i>Reading: Understanding Canadians; US-Canada Issues</i>
Mar 19	Canada: Culture and Society Set text: 237-258 of Cultural Relations; <i>Reading: Canada's Immigration Policy, First Nations.</i> <i>task sheet: Canadian Multiculturalism</i>
Mar 26	Ireland 1: History, Gaelic v Anglo culture. Ireland's cultural impact.
Apr 16	Ireland 2. Government Today, Gaelic Irish political terminology. Task Sheet/ Glossary Post-Brexit relations with Northern Ireland/UK.
Apr 23	English Speaking Africa and Caribbean – some shared values, diverging trajectories, Briefs
Apr 30	Current Issues in the UK and the Commonwealth
May 7	Current issues in the USA
May 14	Review and summary

Set 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. **Chapters on Australia pp 88-134 and Canada 220-258 are compulsory texts.**

Short 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>; Bill Chappel. “What's next for Canada? 5 questions will help decide the future after Trudeau”. *NPR*. Januar 9, 2025. <https://www.npr.org/2025/01/09/nx-s1-5251302/whats-next-for-canada-5-questions-will-help-decide-the-future-after-trudeau>

“Understanding Australia” Radio Australia—ABC. <https://www.abc.net.au/ra/australia/politics/default.htm> (The Washminster System);

Dáil elections in Ireland adapted from Tom Taylor. “Ireland’s Parliament Fails to Elect a New Prime Minister” *Grasswire/Europe News*. March 10, 2016. <https://grasswire.com/2016/03/10/irelands-parliament-fails-to-elect-prime-minister-taoiseach/> and from *BBC*: “Irish general election: Sinn Féin celebrate historic result” <https://www.bbc.com/news/world-europe-51441410>; Lisa O’Caroll. ‘Not if ... but when’: Sinn Féin on path to power in Ireland”. *The Guardian*. <https://www.theguardian.com/politics/2021/dec/28/sinn-fein-on-path-to-power-ireland>, Chris Page. “What happens next after Ireland’s general election?” *BBC*. December 3, 2024. <https://www.bbc.com/news/articles/cg7r93rex4po>, and will be accompanied with tasksheet and glossary. We will also review 2025 updates on proposed unity referendum.

Megan Specia. Northern Ireland Has a Sinn Fein Leader. It’s a Landmark Moment. *The New York Times*. February 3, 2024. <https://www.nytimes.com/2024/02/03/world/europe/northern-ireland-sinn-fein-michelle-oneill.html>,

Recommended literature:

Commonwealth of Australia 2018. ***Our Common Bond***. <https://immi.homeaffairs.gov.au/citizenship-subsite/files/our-common-bond.pdf>. Brief overview on Australia’s history, society, government, culture, values, and way of life with iconic images and sample test questions for Australian Citizenship Test.

Briefs on Canadian history, system of government, symbols, and regions offered on the government website for Canadian citizenship test: eg. History of Canada. <https://www.canada.ca/en/immigration-refugees-citizenship/corporate/publications-manuals/discover-canada/read-online/canadas-history.html> and other sections from: Her Majesty the Queen in Right of Canada, represented by the Minister of Citizenship and Immigration Canada, 2012 ***Discover Canada***. Citizenship Study Guide. <https://www.canada.ca/content/dam/ircc/migration/ircc/english/pdf/pub/discover.pdf>.; “A look back at 2019 Federal Elections” in *Elections Step-by-step*. <https://electionsanddemocracy.ca/canadas-elections/canadas-election-process/elections-step-step>

Bártfai-Juhász Gabriella. ***Civilisation 5-6, Civilisation 7, Civilisation Workbook 7***. Műszaki Könyvkiadó 2015. (Célnyelvi Civilizáció tantárgy angol kéttannyelvű oktatásban). How would you go about teaching this subject?

For 20th Century Irish History: “Ireland in the 20th Century” [Ireland in the 20th century - Revision 1 - KS3 History - BBC Bitesize](https://www.bbc.com/history/ireland/ireland_20th_century_revision_1_k3.shtml). BBC History for kids/dummies to acquaint you with the formative events and basic concepts. Pre-1900 history will be briefly presented in class. Make sure that you are aware of the meaning and significance of the “Plantations of Ireland” (Tudors and Stuarts).

You may also find brief overviews of Irish history in David McDowall. ***An Illustrated History of Britain***. Longman 1989. There is one copy in rm110 for a short loan and the book is also available online in pdf format. Chs 3, 11 and pp149-150 of Chapter 20.

For an overview of the country, its geography, and the basics of society and politics go to the unpretentious [Culture of Ireland - history, people, clothing, traditions, women, beliefs, food, customs, family](#) and read Orientation, History of Ethnic Relations, Social Stratification, and Political Life.