**English in International Relations**

Lecturer: Zsuzsa Horváthné Tóth /zsuhtoth(at)gmail.com/

Sessions: 5 April (14:15-18:15), 13 April (13:15-17:15) and 18 May (13:15-17:15)

Classroom: Sop. 109

**The purpose** of this seminar is twofold: to enhance your awareness of international and global issues and to study and practise varieties of English in international communications. An important practical aspect of the seminars is to investigate those linguistic devices that may help us to formulate our ideas in an appropriate way (i.e., by choosing the right language/register/structure in view of the target audience). The main topic for seminar presentations (13 April and 18 May) is the transmission of the Hungarian cultural heritage (arts and science) abroad in English.

**Methods**

Classes will be task-oriented. We will work on various task types in the classes (including both written and oral exercises). These aim to help you to prepare for the Proficiency essay as well as to develop your argumentative and writing skills and raise your awareness of various stylistic registers in English.

**Requirements and assessment (1 ppt presentation – project work, 2 portfolio assignments)**

1. Attending all the three sessions. The absence from one session will be tolerated only in case of urgency which you must prove with official documents.
2. Delivering **a ppt presentation** on 13 April and 18 May. For further details, see the list of secondary literature for presentation (below). The presentation is a prerequisite for the achievement of the course.
3. Submitting **the portfolio** of assigned written exercises in two phases: the first group of assignments has to be brought for the class of **13 April**, the second group has to be submitted by **8 May**. The first series of portfolio assignments must be a preparation for your project work as well. The submission of the portfolio by the deadline is a prerequisite for the achievement of the course.
4. The final grade of the seminar will be based on the average of the ppt presentation (40%) and the portfolio (60%).

**In-class activities**

5 April– Discussion of course contents and requirements; register and target audience, (word-level) linguistic devices

13 April – Discussion of the first part of the portfolio, ppt presentations (Team 1), sentences and structures, text and context: written discourse

18 May – Submission of the second part of the portfolio (deadline: 8 May),

ppt presentations (Teams 2-4), text and context: spoken discourse, conversation: some ground rules, course evaluation

**Description of the ppt presentation: Hungarian cultural week**

Your task is to organise and describe the program of a cultural week in two different “styles” (i.e., registers): first, your *target audience* is a group of (foreign) professionals, and then, your ppt is addressed to secondary students. At the end of your ppt presentations *a list of glossary representing both types of vocabulary* is to be supplemented. The presentations must be prepared in groups of 2-3. Students’ initials are given below.

**Arts (13 April):**

Team 1/ Music (folk, classical, modern):K.Zs.-J.Á.

**Science and Technology (18 May):**

Team 2 / Outstanding achievements, great inventions and inventors: P.Z.-M.E.(S.Sz.?)

Team 3/ Outstanding achievements, great inventions and inventors: J. Zs.-E.Zs.

Other:

Team 4/Lifestyle/Entertainment: B.K.-A-S. K.- M.S.C

The presentation cannot exceed 15/20 minutes and has to be illustrated with a ppt slide show. Everybody is supposed to participate in the slide show, therefore max. 7-10 minutes/person is available.

The presentation will be assessed according to the following parameters:

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| ***Aspects of assessment*** | ***Maximum point*** |
| **I. Contents of the Talk** | **15** |
| 1.1 Focus | 5 |
| 1.2 Structure/Balance | 5 |
| 1.3 Relevance | 5 |
| **II. Oral Delivery** | **15** |
| 2.1 Fluency, pace, pauses, emphases | 5 |
| 2.2 Appropriacy: Good (in)formal language | 3 |
| 2.3 Grammar | 5 |
| 2.4 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** |

Recommended readings for presentation:

Brown, Chris (with Kirsten Ainley). *Understanding International Relations.* New York: Palgrave, 2005 (Sophianum Library shelf-mark: 286.578)

Carter, Ronald, Goddard, Angela, Reah, Danuta, Sanger, Keith and Bowring, Maggie. *Working with Texts. A Core Book for Language Analysis.* London and New York: Routledge, 1997

Dougherty, James E. *Contending Theories of International Relations: A Comprehensive Survey.* New York: Longman, 2001 (Sophianum Library shelf-mark: 292.605)

Melissen, Jan. *The New Public Diplomacy: Soft Power in International Relations.* Basingstoke: Palgrave Macmillan, 2007 (Sophianum Library shelf-mark: 288.840)

O’Neill, Kate. *The Environment and International Relations.* Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 2009 (Sophianum Library shelf-mark: 288.309)

Reeves, Julie. *Culture and International Relations: Narratives, Natives and Tourists.* London: Routledge, 2007 (Sophianum Library shelf-mark: 287.229)

Xintian, Yu. *Cultural Factors in International Relations.* Washington: The Council for Research in Values and Philosophy, 2004 (Piliscsaba Library shelf-mark: 274.431)

**Description of the portfolio**

The portfolio consists of two parts. Preferably both written assignments have to be prepared in a printed form for the classes of 13 April and 18 May. Alternatively, they can be submitted as an e-mail attachment (sent to my address, [see](mailto:tamas.karath@gmail.com) above). The deadline is

8 May. Each new task has to start on a new page. Otherwise, the format and editing of the portfolio must conform to the formal requirements of the BA thesis as described in the Department guidelines:

<https://btk.ppke.hu/uploads/articles/135506/file/BA%20thesis%20guide_Literary%20and%20cultural%20topics-2013%281%29.pdf>

The portfolio will consist of the following four exercises:

(1) To be submitted by 13 April

1.1 Choose one of Hungary’s foreign representations whose task is to transmit Hungarian culture. Explore their cultural programs of the past few months (depending on the representation, the time span may range from 3 to 6 months). Discuss in a free essay your overall impression of the programs (types of programs, aspects of culture transmitted, the ways in which the image of Hungary is shaped, major emphases in the program, fields of culture prioritized). (max. 150 words)

2.2 Preliminary research: as a group, prepare the program plan of a Hungarian cultural week for the foreign representation you have chosen above. Present the list of the full program with the names of invited guests, artists, ensembles, groups, etc. (your team can hand in the same program), but as a team-member, you are expected to write a two-paragraph promotion for one of the programs only, ie., your individual promotions should be different. The first paragraph should outline the major achievements of the invited guest(s) and their role in shaping contemporary Hungarian cultural life, while in the second paragraph you should argue for the choice of the particular guest.

(2) To be submitted by 8 May (via e-mail):

2.1 Edit your CV (American style or Europass) for a real or imagined purpose (MA entrance exam, job application, etc.)

2.2 Write a 350-word (Proficiency) essay in which you want to convince a foreign (concrete and existing) publisher to publish the English translation of a Hungarian literary work. In the essay you have to clearly formulate the cultural and marketing profits the publisher may gain from the eventual publication of the book. You should also present very strong points for the author and for the imagined audience to whom the book may appeal. Your recommendation should also demonstrate your awareness of the reception of Hungarian literature in the target community (British, American, French, Belgian, Scandinavian, etc. depending on your publisher). You have to specify the publisher to whom you are writing. At the end of the essay, you have to indicate the URL of the publisher. This task implies some background research on the internet, exploring potential publishers of translations of Hungarian literature and their marketing profiles.