**BBLAN 23400 (and 13400): BA Module of Culture and History (Seminar): British Identity: Past and Present**

*Welcome to this course!*

Sessions: (1) 12 March, 15.00-17.15

(2) 19 March, 10.15-12.30

(3) 16 April, 11.00-12.30

(4) 16 April, 13.15-14.45

Lecturer: Karáth Tamás ([tamas.karath@gmail.com](mailto:tamas.karath@gmail.com))

The seminars will accompany the corresponding lecture on British identity, but the seminar can be taken also without the lecture course. The seminars will invite you to discuss texts—historical sources and studies—related to the changing concept of Britishness in the 20th century. Attendance of the course is mandatory; you can miss only one of the four sessions.

**Methods**

The sessions will be based on in-class discussions which all require preparation. Home readings are assigned for each class. Quizzes at the beginning of the classes will check your preparation and understanding of the home readings. In order to animate the in-class discussions, everyone will have to send at least two questions related to the respective readings. Questions have to be sent via e-mail by the Monday preceding the class.

**Sessions**

12 March – British identity in past perfect?

Readings: (1) Linda Colley, “Britishness and Otherness: An Argument.” *Journal of British Studies* 31 (1992): 309-29. *JSTOR*

(2) Egedy Gergely, “A brit identitás felbomlása?” *Századvég* 3(2007): 99-121.

19 March – Devolution and national identity

Readings: (1) Egedy Gergely, “Anglia az Egyesült Királyságban és az ‘angolkérdés.’” *Külügyi Szemle* 13 (2014): 35-50.

<http://kki.gov.hu/download/d/f9/c0000/KSZ2014_2_Egedy.pdf>

(2) Michael Rosie and Ross Bond, “National Identities and Politics after Devolution.” Radical Statistics 97 (2008) <http://www.radstats.org.uk/no097/RosieBond97.pdf>

16 April – Immigration, diversity and Britishness

Readings: (1) Enoch Powell, “Rivers of blood” speech in *Telegraph* 6 November 2008 <http://www.telegraph.co.uk/comment/3643823/Enoch-Powells-Rivers-of-Blood-speech.html>

(2) Margaret Thatcher, “Cheltenham speech”

<http://www.margaretthatcher.org/document/104989>

(3) Salman Rushdie, “The New Empire within Britain”

<http://public.wsu.edu/~hegglund/courses/389/rushdie_new_empire.htm>

(4) Islamophobia: Report of the Runnymede Trust, 1997

<http://www.runnymedetrust.org/publications/17/32.html>

**Requirements**

Non-graded:

* Class attendance (Do not miss more than one session.)
* Preparation of home readings, including the questions to be sent before the class
* First draft of a brief argumentative essay of 3 pages elaborating on one of the questions raised by the students for the in-class discussions (Deadline of online submission: 25 April)

Graded:

* 3 quizzes checking preparation
* Revised argumentative essay (Deadline of online submission: 14 May)

**Assessment of the course**

The final mark will be the average of the graded components (quizzes and revised argumentative essay).

**Academic ethics and plagiarism**

Academic research and its presentation are embedded in a large dialogue. In the process of thinking and arguing we are necessarily influenced by others: we borrow ideas from other writings and integrate them into our own. You can use others’ ideas or words in form of literal quotes or paraphrases, but you must indicate the source of quotes, paraphrased passages, and all sorts of factual information in all cases. The failure of keeping a correct record of borrowed material, either due to ignorance or to deliberate theft of ideas, is plagiarism. Papers showing evident signs of plagiarism will fail.

*Enjoy the course!*