**English in International Relations**

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

Sessions: 14 Feb (8:30-12:30), 28 Feb (8:30-12:30) and 18 April (13:15-17:15)

**The purpose** of this seminar is twofold: to enhance your awareness of international and global issues and to study and practice varieties of English in international communications. The concept of international relations will be understood in its broadest meaning, including international academic, cultural, diplomatic and commercial interactions where English is the common language of the partners. An important aspect of our topic is the transmission of the Hungarian cultural heritage abroad in English.

**Methods**

Classes will be task-oriented. We will work on various exercises in the classes, which will help you to prepare for the Proficiency essay, to develop your argumentative and writing skills and to raise your awareness of various stylistic registers in English. On 18 April everyone will present a reading on international relations.

**Requirements and assessment**

* 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.
* Delivering a ppt presentation on 18 April on the basis of one reading chosen from a list of secondary literature for presentation (below). The presentation is a prerequisite for the achievement of the course.
* Submitting the portfolio of assigned written exercises in two phases: the first group of assignments has to be brought for the class of 28 February, the second group has to be submitted by 16 May. The submission of the portfolio by the deadline is a prerequisite for the achievement of the course.
* The final grade of the seminar will be the weighted average of the ppt presentation (40%) and the portfolio (60%).

**Description of the ppt presentation**

You will have to present one of the following works on international relations from the list below. The presentation cannot exceed 15 minutes and has to be illustrated with a ppt slide show. You may decide to present only one key area of the book, but even in that case, you have to provide a very brief introduction to the structure and the major emphases of the book, as well as its author’s approach to the theory of international relations. The presentation will be assessed according to the following parameters:

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| ***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 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** |

List of works for presentation:

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

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. The first group of written assignments has to be brought in printed form for the class of 28 February. The rest has to be submitted in one word document as an e-mail attachment sent to my address ([tamas.karath@gmail.com](mailto:tamas.karath@gmail.com)). The submission deadline is 16 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 exercises:

(1) To be presented in the class of 28 February:

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

1.2 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. The heading of the essay must also indicate the name of the publisher, as well as the concrete contact person (with existing e-mail address) 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.

1.3 Submit a letter of motivation for any chosen (and existing) academic scholarship of your choice. Indicate the availability of the scholarship application on the internet. The language, style and form of the letter have to conform to the application requirements.

(2) To be submitted by 16 May in an e-mail attachment

2.1 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).

2.2 Prepare the program plan of a Hungarian cultural week for the foreign representation you have chosen in the previous point. Present the list of the full programs with the names of invited guests, artists, ensembles, groups, etc. and write a two-paragraph promotion for each program. The first paragraph should outline the major achievements of the invited guests and their role in shaping contemporary Hungarian cultural life, while in the second paragraph you should argue for the choice of the particular guest.

2.3 Imagine that you have the opportunity to deliver a 30-minute lecture on “Hungary Today” for a foreign audience in English. Specify your audience and the context of the lecture, then choose the focus of your talk and prepare a ppt slide show for that. The slide show has to be comprehensible on its own without actually listening to your talk.

**In-class activities**

14 Feb – Discussion of course contents and requirements; mapping the context of “English in International Relations” for us

Focus: Scholarly and academic relations and cooperation

Tasks: Erasmus application; Exploring and assessing the international relations of our Faculty, IRUN

28 Feb – Discussion of the first part of the portfolio: tasks to be submitted for this class (CV and the home essay)

Focus: Communication styles across cultures (Gudykunst and Ting-Toomey)

Tasks: Analyzing media comments of the same event across cultures; raising awareness of global issues at home and abroad

18 April – Transmitting the Hungarian cultural heritage abroad, soft power

Tasks: UNESCO, ppt presentations