**Anglo-American History and Culture Module**

**British History – Witnesses, Sources and Reuses**

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

Classes: Thu 12.30-2.00 pm, Amb 210

**The aim** of this seminar is to revisit themes and issues of British history with a focus on witnesses and sources. The seminar is built on the survey course of British History (BBNAN12500) and wishes to extend the historical and cultural awareness of students with the close reading and discussion of selected primary sources from various periods of British history. The discussions will seek to answer questions how keepers of historical records select and relate (close) contemporary events, how they contribute to the shaping of a sense of history, how historical records become part of the cultural heritage of a community/nation, and finally, how earlier narratives of the past are reused and transformed by later periods.

**Methods**: This is predominantly a discussion seminar combined with team work. The cornerstones of the course are the primary sources (home readings) of British history that everyone has to prepare for the class. The discussions will be preceded by introductions to the context of the sources and their authors, while the team work classes following the discussions of texts will elaborate on the social and cultural history of the period related to the respective primary source. Thus the course will be made up of cycles including three types of classes:

(1) Introductory presentations to the source texts and their authors, eventually films

Unless there is an in-class movie, everyone is expected to sign up for a short introductory ppt presentation; presentation topics are indicated in the syllabus.

(2) Group discussion of the primary sources (home readings)

These classes will be based on the home readings; everyone is expected to read the text individually and thoroughly for the class.

(3) Team work

Each cycle will conclude with a team competition for which 3-4 students have to prepare a 45-minute quiz. The tasks of the quiz must be based on the assigned secondary literature indicated below in the syllabus.

**Requirements**

(1) Regular presence: you cannot miss more than three classes.

(2) Preparation of home readings

(3) Power point presentation of an introductory topic (graded)

(4) Co-teaching in team work: preparing a quiz for the team competitions. Three members of the winning team receive extra 2% which will be added to their term test result, if they score better than 50% in the test. The best two quizzes will be awarded with an extra 5/3% which will be added to the test score, if they pass the 50% mark.

(5) End-of-term test (graded). The contents of the test will be based on the home readings and any two of the secondary readings of your own choice.

**Assessment**

The course assessment is based on the two graded components in the following way:

* ppt presentation (30%)
* end-of-term test (70%); the test result will be modified by the quiz achievements as described above (in section Requirements #4). Part of the test will be an exercise sheet with questions related to two films you are expected to see for the last class.
* in case of averages 1.5/2.5/3.5/4.5 the participation in the class discussions will decide the final grade

**Syllabus and readings**

12 Feb – Introduction of the course

19 Feb – Origins: Bede and the Anglo-Saxon Chronicles

Presentation topics (1): Bede and the *Ecclesiastical History*

(2) The Anglo-Saxon Chronicle(s)

(3) The religion of the Anglo-Saxons

(4) The Vikings in England (8th-11th c.)

26 Feb – Reading sources: Bede

(1) Bede, *The Ecclesiastical History of the English People* Book I, Chapters 22-28, Book II, Chapters 9-14

<http://legacy.fordham.edu/Halsall/basis/bede-book1.asp>

(2) The Anglo-Saxon Chronicles, 1066 and 1137 (in Parts 5 and 7)

<http://omacl.org/Anglo/>

5 March – Team work: The Anglo-Saxon period

Secondary reading: John Blair, *The Anglo-Saxon Age*: *A Very Short Introduction*. Oxford University Press, 2000 (Library shelf-marks: 260.464, 464/1 and 464/2)

12 March – Reformations and restorations (1534-1689)

Presentation topics: (1) Acts of religious reform in 16th-century England (Act of Supremacy, Act of Uniformity)

(2) Puritans in England, 1553-1674

(3) Catholics in England, 1559-1689

(4) The Glorious Revolution and the Bill of Rights

19 March – Reading sources

(1) The Act of Uniformity, 1559

<http://history.hanover.edu/texts/engref/er80.html>

(2) Samuel Pepys’ *Diary* extracts of the years 1660 and 1666 at:

<http://www.pepys.info/>

(3) The Bill of Rights, 1689

<http://www.fordham.edu/Halsall/mod/1689billofrights.asp>

26 March – Team work: Tudor and Stuart Britain (2 quizzes)

Secondary readings: (1) John Guy, *The Tudors: A Very Short Introduction*. Oxford University Press, 2000 (Library shelf-marks: 276.598 and 598/1)

(2) John Morrill, *Stuart Britain: A Very Short Introduction.* Oxford University Press, 2000 (Library shelf-marks: 276.596)

2 April – **Easter holidays**

9 April – **Easter holidays**

16 April – Great orators of the 20th century: Churchill, Thatcher and Blair

Film: The King’s Speech

23 April – Reading sources

(1) Winston S. Churchill, [“Iron Curtain” Speech](http://www.fordham.edu/Halsall/mod/churchill-iron.asp), 1946, excerpts

<http://www.fordham.edu/Halsall/mod/churchill-iron.asp>

(2) Thatcher, “The Brugge Speech”

<http://www.margaretthatcher.org/document/107332>

(3) Tony Blair’s speech on education

<http://www.theguardian.com/politics/2001/may/23/labour.tonyblair>

30 April – Team work: 20th-century Britain

Secondary reading: Kenneth O. Morgan, *Twentieth-Century Britain: A Very Short Introduction.* Oxford University Press, 2000 (Library shelf-marks: 276.595 and 595/1)

7 May – **Preparation week, no class**

Please watch the following films: Elizabeth: The Golden Age (2007, dir. Shekhar Kapur); The Iron Lady (2011, dir. Phyllida Lloyd)

14 May – **End-of-term test**

**🏵🏵🏵🏵🏵**

Assessment of ppt presentations:

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| ***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** |