

English: Cultural History (A703038)

Course size *(nominal values; actual values may depend on programme)*

Credits 4.0

Study time 120 h

Course offerings in academic year 2024-2025

Lecturers in academic year 2024-2025

de Groote, Brecht

LW22

lecturer-in-charge

Jooken, Lieve

LW22

co-lecturer

Offered in the following programmes in 2024-2025

crdts

offering

Teaching languages

English, Dutch

Keywords

Cultural history, United Kingdom, United States

Position of the course

The purpose of English: Cultural History is to offer students a broad overview of political, social and cultural developments in the history of the United Kingdom and the United States. The focus of the course is not merely factual and encyclopedic. Classes are intended to foster students' interpretative skills and their capacity for understanding and giving a well-argued account of themes and developments in the periods studied.

Exchange students may take up this course unit. They may also select one of the two modules of the course unit; in that case the one module equals 3 credits. No prior knowledge of Dutch is required for this module.

Contents

The unit of study English: Cultural History (E2CG) consists of the following parts:

- United Kingdom (E2CG_GB)
- United States (E2CG_VS)

E2CG_GB This sub-unit gives a partly chronological partly thematic survey of the history of British society, politics, and culture from the Celtic Age until the beginning of the twentieth century. The emphasis is on gaining insight into the evolution of political and social structures as well as into the history of ideas that have underpinned the culture(s) of the United Kingdom. Classes also draw on a selection of primary sources.

E2CG_VS This sub-unit focuses on the political, social and cultural history of the United States from the colonial period until shortly before the present. The emphasis is on acquiring historical knowledge in order to extend students' understanding of both historical and current social and cultural patterns typical of American society. A number of historical or current texts will equally be discussed.

Students are required to read a selection of literary and/or non-fiction works.

Initial competences

The final objectives of the English study units of the first bachelor year.

Final competences

- 1 Having a command of English at C1 level of the Common European Framework of Reference for Languages for comprehension (listening and reading) and writing skills. [B.1.2, assessed]
- 2 Having knowledge and understanding of the cultural and institutional context of the United Kingdom and the United States and of the intercultural relations and differences, and

- applying these in the interpretation and production of written and oral text. [B.1.5, assessed]
- 3 Having a critical understanding of the different sources, heuristic methods and relevant instruments for research in the area of British and American cultural history. [B.2.2, not assessed]
 - 4 Having a strong language awareness in English and developing a sensitivity to the similarities, differences and interactions between cultures. [B.3.1, assessed]
 - 5 Being able to reflect critically on their own thinking, learning, decisions and actions. [B.3.3, not assessed]
 - 6 Displaying intellectual curiosity and a lifelong learning attitude. [B.3.4, not assessed]
 - 7 Adequately interpreting, analysing, assessing and interpreting written communication concerning topics of British and American cultural history. [B.6.1, assessed]

Conditions for credit contract

Access to this course unit via a credit contract is determined after successful competences assessment

Conditions for exam contract

Access to this course unit via an exam contract is unrestricted

Teaching methods

Lecture, Independent work

Extra information on the teaching methods

Lectures discuss course topics in a critical and interactive manner.
Students are asked to read texts critically and complete the reading task (two works of fiction or non-fiction) individually. CultuurKit exercises on Ufora supports reading practice.

Study material

None

References

- Ackroyd, P. (2004). *Albion*. London: Vintage.
- Brogan, H. (2001). *The Penguin History of the United States of America*. Penguin.
- Burke, P. (2008, 2nd edition). *What is Cultural History?* Cambridge: Polity Press.
- Campbell, K.L. (2017). *A history of the British Isles*. London: Bloomsbury.
- Cannon, J. (ed.) (1997). *The Oxford Companion to British History*. Oxford: Oxford University Press.
- Davies, N. (2000). *The Isles – A History*. London: Macmillan.
- Jenkins, Philip (2012). *A History of the United States*. Macmillan.
- Jones, Maldwyn A. (1995). *The Limits of Liberty: American History 1607-1992*. Oxford University Press.
- Kearney, H. (1989). *The British Isles: A History of Four Nations*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press.
- Marr, A. (2007). *A History of Modern Britain*. London: Macmillan.
- Mauk, D., A. T. Tønnesen, & J. Oakland. (2021). *American Civilization*. 8th edition. Routledge.
- McDowall, D. (2001). *An Illustrated History of Britain*. Harlow: Longman.
- Oakland, J. (2019). *British Civilization. An introduction*. London: Routledge.
- O'Driscoll, J. (2009). *Britain. The Country and its People*. Oxford: Oxford University Press.
- Oxford Guide to British and American Culture*. (2005). Oxford: Oxford University Press.
- Schama, S. (2003). *A History of Britain*. 3 vols. London: BBC. & BBC video, 6 vols.
- Wierzbicka, A. (2010). *Experience, Evidence and Sense: the Hidden Cultural Legacy of English*. Oxford University Press.

Course content-related study coaching

E2CG_GB: office hours by appointment
E2CG_VS: office hours by appointment

Assessment moments

end-of-term assessment

Examination methods in case of periodic assessment during the first examination period

Written assessment with open-ended questions

Examination methods in case of periodic assessment during the second examination period

Written assessment with open-ended questions

Examination methods in case of permanent assessment

Possibilities of retake in case of permanent assessment

not applicable

Extra information on the examination methods

Written examination (100%) E2CG_GB (45%) / E2CG_VS (45%) / Reading list (10%)

The examination of both modules consists of discursive, interpretative questions (short essay) and questions that assess students' knowledge of facts and references. A list of pointer questions is distributed in the course of the semester. In addition, students' comprehension of the two fiction or non-fiction works which they selected for their individual reading task is evaluated.

Calculation of the examination mark

Students pass the examination if they obtain a final grade of at least 10/20 and if the mark obtained for either the UK or US module is not lower than 8/20. The final grade is automatically updated to 9/20 if a mark lower than 8/20 is obtained for one of the two modules. Partial resit exemption is granted if 10/20 is obtained for one module. The same exemption applies to the reading list.

Facilities for Working Students

Class attendance is not compulsory, the examination can be rescheduled, feedback can be obtained via email or during office hours by appointment.

Addendum

E2GC