

English: Area Studies (A703323)

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

Credits 4.0

Study time 120 h

Course offerings and teaching methods in academic year 2024-2025

A (semester 1)

Dutch, English

Gent

lecture

independent work

Lecturers in academic year 2024-2025

de Groote, Brecht

LW22

lecturer-in-charge

Diels, Ella

LW22

co-lecturer

Offered in the following programmes in 2024-2025

	crdts	offering
Master of Science in Teaching in Languages(main subject Applied Language Studies)	4	A
Master of Arts in Interpreting: a combination of at least two languages(main subject Dutch, English, French)	4	A
Master of Arts in Multilingual Communication: a combination of at least two languages(main subject Dutch, English, French)	4	A
Master of Arts in Translation: a combination of at least two languages(main subject Dutch, English, French)	4	A
Master of Arts in Interpreting: a combination of at least two languages(main subject Dutch, English, German)	4	A
Master of Arts in Multilingual Communication: a combination of at least two languages(main subject Dutch, English, German)	4	A
Master of Arts in Translation: a combination of at least two languages(main subject Dutch, English, German)	4	A
Master of Arts in Interpreting: a combination of at least two languages(main subject Dutch, English, Italian)	4	A
Master of Arts in Multilingual Communication: a combination of at least two languages(main subject Dutch, English, Italian)	4	A
Master of Arts in Translation: a combination of at least two languages(main subject Dutch, English, Italian)	4	A
Master of Arts in Interpreting: a combination of at least two languages(main subject Dutch, English, Russian)	4	A
Master of Arts in Multilingual Communication: a combination of at least two languages(main subject Dutch, English, Russian)	4	A
Master of Arts in Translation: a combination of at least two languages(main subject Dutch, English, Russian)	4	A
Master of Arts in Interpreting: a combination of at least two languages(main subject Dutch, English, Spanish)	4	A
Master of Arts in Multilingual Communication: a combination of at least two languages(main subject Dutch, English, Spanish)	4	A
Master of Arts in Translation: a combination of at least two languages(main subject Dutch, English, Spanish)	4	A
Master of Arts in Interpreting: a combination of at least two languages(main subject Dutch, English, Turkish)	4	A
Master of Arts in Multilingual Communication: a combination of at least two languages(main subject Dutch, English, Turkish)	4	A
Master of Arts in Translation: a combination of at least two languages(main subject Dutch, English, Turkish)	4	A
Exchange Programme Applied Language Studies	4	A

Teaching languages

English, Dutch

Keywords

English; Area studies

Position of the course

This unit of study continues and extends the historical and cultural insights acquired in bachelor courses on UK and US cultural history. The Master's course broadens students' knowledge of British and American society, political organisation and culture. Topical issues and news items are regularly addressed in class and contextualised in their historical and cultural context. In addition, students expand their terminological command of concepts, cultural references and social phenomena. They are also required to read works of fiction or non-fiction from a selective list of titles linked to topics covered in class.

Exchange students may take up this course unit. They may also select either the UK or the US unit; one module is worth 3 credits. No prior knowledge of Dutch is required for this course.

Contents

The unit of study English: Area studies (E4MO) consists of the following parts:

- United Kingdom (E4MO_GB)
- United States (E4MO_VS)

E4MO_GB The UK sub-unit covers developments in recent British society from the mid-twentieth century onwards. Topics are introduced thematically and focus on: discussions of British identity and unionism, Brexit, devolution, Thatcherism, the 'Troubles' in Northern Ireland, postcolonial society, education, and the impact of social class and class awareness. Class discussion is based on a selection of relevant publications and topical fragments from a range of (audio-visual) media.

E4MO_VS The US sub-unit focuses on recent societal and cultural developments in the United States. Relevant primary texts and sources will be read critically to support course contents. Classes will situate current developments in their historical context. In a series of thematic classes, the most important debates which continue to dominate American society will be examined: the role of America in the world and its "exceptionalism", race problems, the "culture war", the origins and development of the two-party system, etc.

Students are also required to a selection of fiction or non-fiction works as part of the self-study section of this course.

Initial competences

Students:

- are familiar with important concepts and realia from the cultural history of the language area;
- can retrieve information about the language area's cultural history, drawing on appropriate sources;
- can frame the language area's current affairs in a cultural and historical context.

Final competences

- 1 Having a command of English at C1/C2 level of the Common European Framework of Reference for Languages for comprehension (listening and reading), and writing skills. [MVtc.1.1, assessed]
- 2 Having advanced knowledge of the cultural and institutional backgrounds of English language areas and based on that knowledge, critically reflecting on social developments and intercultural transfers in the UK and the US. [MVtc.1.3, assessed]
- 3 Reflecting on new developments within the general context of British and American language and culture critically, and placing them in a broad social and intercultural context. [MVtc.3.1, assessed]
- 4 Judging and acting with the necessary dose of critical self-reflection in (inter)cultural contexts [MVtc.3.3, not assessed]
- 5 Displaying an intellectual curiosity and a commitment to lifelong learning. [MVtc.3.4, not 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

Thematically focused lectures are supported by PowerPoint presentations and lecture notes. Articles and other texts discussed are also uploaded Ufora. Students are expected to read all materials critically and also engage with their individual reading task of two fiction or non-fiction works. CultuurKIT practice on Ufora supports the individual reading task.

Study material

None

References

- Anderson, B. (2006). *Imagined communities: reflections on the origin and spread of nationalism*. London: Verso.
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- Green, S. (2017). *Brexit and the British. Who are we now?* Haus Curiosities.
- Hall, S. (1997). *Representations: cultural representations and signifying practices*. Sage publications.
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- Reynolds, David (2010). *America, Empire of Liberty*. Penguin.
- Rosen, A. (2003). *The transformation of British life 1950-2000*. Manchester University Press.
- Said, E. (1978). *Orientalism*. Pantheon Books.
- Scruton, R. (2017). *Where we are. The state of Britain now*. London: Bloomsbury.
- Skinner, J. (2016). *Anglo-American cultural studies*. Tübingen: A. Francke Verlag.
- Storry, Mike & Peter Childs (eds.). (2013, 4th edition). *British cultural identities*. London: Routledge.
- Thompson, E.P. (1963). *The making of the English working class*. London: Vintage.
- Verhagen, Frans (2017). *Geschiedenis van de Verenigde Staten*. Boom.
- Williams, Jan & Chris Teasdale. (2005). *Welcome to Britain: A celebration of real life*. Headline Book Publishing Ltd.

Course content-related study coaching

Office hours and, if necessary, study-progress sessions

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%)

E4M0_GB (45%) / E4M0_VS (45%) / Reading list (10%)

The examination of both modules consists of discursive, interpretative questions (short essay) and questions that assess knowledge of facts and references. A list of pointer questions is distributed in the course of the semester.

In addition, students' comprehension of the 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 neither the UK nor the US module is assessed 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 condition applies to the reading list questions.

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

E4M0