



COURSE UNIT (MODULE) DESCRIPTION

Course unit (module) title	Code
English-Speaking Countries and their Civilization	

Academic staff	Core academic unit(s)
Coordinating: Assist. Dr. Edita Valiulienė	Šiauliai Academy

Study cycle	Type of the course unit
First cycle studies	Compulsory / Individual studies (except English Philology students)

Mode of delivery	Semester or period when it is delivered	Language of instruction
Face-to-face	Spring semester	English

Requisites	
Prerequisites: English language skills (C1)	Co-requisites (if relevant):

Number of ECTS credits allocated	Student's workload (total)	Contact hours	Individual work
5	135	56	79

Purpose of the course unit		
The course aims at providing knowledge of English-speaking countries and their culture, developing analytic skills and critical thinking regarding the connection of history, culture and language development, the issues of English language variation and global use, increasing the awareness of cultural contexts in intercultural communication.		
Learning outcomes of the course unit	Teaching and learning methods	Assessment methods
Students will gain knowledge of Great Britain, the United States of America and other English-speaking countries, their socio-cultural context (geography, history, social, political, legal structures, education system, culture, traditions, mentality, self-awareness and everyday communication).	Interactive lecture, analysis of audio-video material, discussion, information search and analysis, mind mapping, literature analysis	Examination
Students will be able to distinguish the most prominent features of English-speaking cultures, compare them with each other and with Lithuanian culture, and understand the importance of cultural aspects in intercultural communication.	Discussion, information search and analysis, exercises	Group project, examination
Students will be able to analyze and critically evaluate the links between history, culture and language, understand the diversity of the English language and the cultures it represents, the global and variant nature of the English language, and the importance of tolerance and respect in multicultural communication.	Discussion, information search and analysis, literature (press) analysis	Problem essay, presentation, group project

Students will be able to work in pairs and groups, having motivation to achieve common goals, sharing and presenting information.	Work in pairs and groups, role-play, group project development	Group project
Students will be able to plan their time and meet deadlines, critically and responsibly evaluate their achievements and abilities.	Information search and analysis, individual homework (essay, presentation), preparation for the examination	Problem essay, presentation, group project, examination

Content	Contact hours							Individual work: time and assignments	
	Lectures	Tutorials	Seminars	Workshops	Laboratory work	Internship	Contact hours, total	Individual work	Tasks for individual work
1. The spread of the English language and the concept of English-speaking countries. Civilization studies. The role of history and culture in foreign language learning and intercultural communication.	2			2			4	7	Literature analysis
2. Great Britain and the United Kingdom. Geographical and political concepts. The role of the UK in today's political world. England, Scotland, Wales, Northern Ireland: geography, national symbols, customs, language.	2		2	4			8	8	Analysis and review of news articles (making a presentation)
3. The key events in the historical and political development of the UK. The role of the Royal Family. Economy. Political and legal system. Education and culture. Social aspects.	2		2	4			8	7	Literature analysis
4. British colonial rule and its legacy. From British Empire to Commonwealth.	1			3			4	7	Literature analysis
5. The United States of America. Geography, the most important historical events. Economy. Political and legal system. Education and culture. Social aspects. Customs, traditions, language.	2		2	4			8	8	Development of a group project (on a chosen country), information search, literature analysis
6. The Republic of Ireland. Geography, the most important historical events. Economy. Political and legal system. Education and culture. Social aspects. Customs, traditions, language.	1		2	3			6	8	
7. Australia. Geography, the most important historical events. Economy. Political and legal system. Education and culture. Social aspects. Customs, traditions, language.	1		2	3			6	8	
8. Canada. Geography, the most important historical events. Economy. Political and legal system. Education and culture. Social aspects. Customs, traditions, language.	1		2	3			6	8	
9. The use of English and its variation in different parts of the world. National varieties, accents, dialects. English as a lingua franca in the global world.	2			2			4	8	Essay, literature analysis
10. Preparation for the examination			2				2	10	Revision of the course material
Total	14		14	28			56	79	

Assessment strategy	Weight %	Deadline	Assessment criteria
Individual homework (essay, presentation)	40%	A specified time during the semester	Problem essay and presentation of a chosen topic, based on the analysis and critical evaluation of relevant material. Assessment criteria: 1. Content (2 points): depth of analysis, elaboration, critical thinking, clear, consistent and logical argumentation. 2. Lexical expression and accuracy of speech (1 point): lexical diversity, fluency of speech, accuracy of lexical and grammar structures, pronunciation. 3. Delivery (1 point): visuals, persuasiveness and clarity of the presentation, contact with the audience (for the presentation); the structure and formal requirements, accuracy of writing (for the essay).
Group project	20%	The end of the semester	Group project – presentation of a chosen English-speaking country (the symbols, customs, traditions and their use in today’s culture). Assessment criteria: 1. Content (1 point): depth of analysis, elaboration, relevance to the task, clear, consistent and logical argumentation. 2. Lexical expression and accuracy of speech (0,5 point): lexical diversity, fluency of speech, accuracy of lexical and grammar structures, pronunciation. 3. Delivery (0,5 point): visuals, persuasiveness and clarity of the presentation, contact with the audience; the overall quality and integrity of the presentation as a groupwork.
Examination	40%	The examination session	A written test consisting of 20 open-ended and closed-ended questions.

Author (-s)	Publishing year	Title	Issue of a periodical or volume of a publication	Publishing house or web link
Required reading				
John Oakland	2020	British Civilization. An Introduction		Routledge
David Mauk, John Oakland	2017	American Civilization. An Introduction		Routledge
Nemira Mačianskienė	2009	English for Intercultural Communication, p. 27–73		Kaunas, VDU
Recommended reading				
John Scotney	2016	Ireland - Culture Smart!: The Essential Guide to Customs and Culture		Bravo Limited
Barry Penney, Gina Teague	2016	Australia - Culture Smart!: The Essential Guide to Customs and Culture		Bravo Limited
Diane Lemieux	2010	Canada - Culture Smart!: The Essential Guide to Customs and Culture		Kuperard
John McCormic	2012	Contemporary Britain		Basingstoke: Palgrave Macmillan.
Izabella, Penier	2014	An Outline of British and American History		http://dspace.uni.lodz.pl:8080/xmlui/handle/11089/5278
David Crystal	2003	English as a Global Language		Cambridge University Press

Jennifer Jenkins	2009	World Englishes. Resource Book for Students.		Routledge, Taylor & Francis group, London and New York.
Andrew Whittaker	2009	Speak the Culture: Britain		Thorogood, London
	2007	Customs and Lifestyle in the English-speaking world		Mary Glasgow Magazines