



ICP
INSTITUT
CATHOLIQUE
DE PARIS

L'esprit grand ouvert sur le monde

CONTEMPORARY BRITAIN: CULTURE AND SOCIETY

Bachelor in English and American Language, Literature and History
Faculty of Liberal Arts

Course information

Bachelor year 3 12 HOURS
Fall Semester 2 ECTS
Lectures (CM)
Professor: Olivier Litvine (PhD)
Course Code: FDL_AN_L3_S5_CM_APPRO_CULT_GB_US

Course description

Contemporary Great Britain: culture and society
This module examines contemporary British culture and society, exploring key cultural and social trends in the twenty-first century. The diversity of British society will be considered, along with the implications of that diversity for British culture. Topics include national and regional identities, multiculturalism, religious pluralism, popular culture and the media. The module follows chronologically from the study of twentieth century Britain in L2. It will be studied in parallel to “Contemporary Britain: Politics and Economics”, which focuses on British politics and economics in the twenty-first century.

Learning Objectives

To arrive at a fine understanding and an informed awareness of the complexities of some key issues at the heart of contemporary British society before and after Brexit ((and the Pandemic). Topics broached will be : The various facets of multiculturalism; The North/South divide in England; The slowly evolving binary structure of Northern Irish identity; Britishness, Scottishness and Englishness; The lasting popularity of the print media and the BBC as a public service; The rapidly increasing secularisation of British society, the question of Islam, and the key institutional role of the Church of England; The changing nature of music and sport as main vectors of popular culture.

Course Prerequisites

To show an interest in social and cultural issues or to be ready to develop the same.

Method of Instruction

Students will be given documents to read before the class. A PowerPoint presentation will help the students identify the key points of the class.

Assessment and Final Grade

Two assessments will be held in class (MCQ questions, definitions, short essay or textual commentary), each counting for 50% of the final grade. An optional reading report on a contemporary work of fiction related to one of the topics studied will be counted as a bonus.

Course Requirements

Compulsory reading: Chapters 11 (The New Millennium) & 12 (From Crash to Brexit) in K. O. Morgan (ed.), *The Oxford History of Britain: 2021 edition* (OUP, 2021).

A list of resources will be made available at the start of the course.