

Identification	Subject (code, title, credits)	ENGL326, British Studies, 3KU/6ECTS
	Department	English Language and Literature
	Program (undergraduate, graduate)	Undergraduate
	Term	Spring 2026
	Instructor	Khadija İsmayılova
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	Phone:	
	Classroom/hours	Mon. 11:50/ 13:40
	Office hours	
Prerequisites		
Language	English	
Compulsory/ Elective	Compulsory	
Required textbooks and course materials	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Oxford History of Britain by Kenneth O. Morgan, Oxford University 2021 • ‘Britain: The Country and its People’ by James O’Driscoll, Oxford 2009 • ‘An Illustrated History of Britain’ by Mc Dowal, Longman 2006 • 'British Culture: An Introduction' by David P. Christopher 2015 • ‘British Civilization’ by John Oakland, Routledge 2019 • Internet resources 	
Course website	-	
Course outline	This course is focused on social and cultural life of modern Britain. By presentation of the various topics for reading and analysis on history, political life and culture, the course enables the students to understand contemporary British society, way of life of the British and their mentality.	
Course objectives	The course has a double aim. On the one hand it was designed to introduce the students certain important aspects of British civilization, that is, basic cultural phenomena including the political, educational and welfare systems of Great Britain, its rich linguistic, ethnic and religious variety, its media institutions and links to the international community. On the other hand, the course aims to improve the students’ language skills. Prior to the seminars, concise chapters of James O’Driscoll’s textbook entitled <i>Britain</i> are to be read to secure that class discussions will be as productive as possible. The discussions involve exercises on the vocabulary and comprehension questions concerning the assigned reading among which you will find various forms of prose texts, poetry, newspaper articles, iconic British feature films, video reports, documentaries, cartoons and charts.	
Learning outcomes	<p>Upon the successful completion of this course, the students will acquire a broad knowledge of key historical developments in Britain and have a clear understanding of the sociological phenomena that have shaped contemporary Britain and the identity of its peoples. They will also:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Gain a fresh perspective on contemporary Britain. • Understand the attitudes and beliefs that shape Britain’s character. 	

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Discover the history and cultural background to British society and institutions such as the NHS and the BBC. • Find out about people's daily lives from charts, graphs, and extracts from popular fiction and newspapers. • Use the questions at the end of each chapter to consider what they have read and to make comparisons with their own culture. • Improve their English by using specific vocabulary and reading variety of texts • Understand the academic vocabulary associated with the course • Explain and 'feel' the UK and the Republic of Ireland with the eyes of each nation forming them. 		
Teaching methods	Lecture		
	Group discussion		+
	Experiential exercise		+
	Case analysis		
	Simulation		
	Course paper		
	Others		+
Evaluation	Methods	Date/deadlines	Percentage (%)
	Midterm Exam	April	30
	Class Participation	Till final exam	5
	Activity	Till final exam	5
	Assignment and quizzes	Till final exam	10
	Project/ Presentation	Till final exam	10
	Final Exam	June	40
	Total		100
Assessment/ Policy	<p>Assessment</p> <p>The most interesting part of this Syllabus is Assessment part because here you can find answer to such questions like FOR WHAT and HOW you can get your pre-examination points. So, read the following part carefully, please.</p> <p>Class participation and activity.</p> <p>This course cannot be successful without your regular participation. Besides, you will be expected to contribute to discussions in each class, demonstrating an enquiring approach to the topic under discussion. You are also expected and highly encouraged to ask questions, make comments, or disagree with what your fellow students or instructor is saying. Following these rules, you can get 10 points (5 – participation, 5 – activity).</p> <p>Assignment and quizzes</p> <p>Assignments and quizzes play an important part in your semester grade. You are expected to do all assignments given by the instructor and exercises from your student's book and workbook on time. Besides, you will write 2 quizzes during the semester (1 before, and 1 after midterm exam). In case you succeed, you can get 15 points.</p> <p>All above mentioned makes 35 points maximal. The rest 65 points you can get at midterm and final exams. (30 points at midterm and 35 points at final respectively)</p>		

Course policies

Full-time students are expected to attend all elements of their courses unless they are sick or have permission of their School Dean. In general, to be eligible for taking exams students should not miss more than 30% of the class hours. In addition, the students are expected to be in the classroom ready to work at the appointed hour. It is the students' responsibility to be on time, ready and attentive. Continuing and unexcused absence or lack of participation may lead to withdrawal from the course. All forms of cheating and plagiarism are strictly banned. If 25% plagiarism is found in a submitted assignment, the student gets no point for it. If the student submits the assignment later than due time, 25% of the grade for that assignment is subtracted. The student whose behavior is disruptive either to the instructor or other students will be removed from the team.

Tentative Schedule

Week	Date/Day (tentative)	Topics	Textbook/Assignments/ Reading
1		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Introduction to the course. • Country and people: The four nations 	'Britain: The Country and its People' pp. 8-14
2		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Prehistoric Britain. The Celts. The Roman Britain. • The Germanic invasions: The Anglo-Saxons 	'Britain: The Country and its People' pp. 15-17
3		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Vikings and the Norman conquest 	'Britain: The Country and its People' pp. 17-19
4		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The medieval period. The Tudors. • The sixteenth century 	'Britain: The Country and its People' pp. 20-21
5		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The seventeenth century. The Stuarts. The Civil War. • The eighteenth century 	'Britain: The Country and its People' pp. 22-25
6		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The nineteenth and twentieth centuries 	'Britain: The Country and its People' pp. 26-31
7		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Identity: What is Britishness? Other ethnic identities. Class, social and everyday contacts 	'Britain: The Country and its People' pp. 43-57
8		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Attitudes: Stereotypes and change. A multicultural society. Conservatism. • Quiz 1 	'Britain: The Country and its People' pp.58-68
9		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Revision of Topics 1 - 8 • Midterm Examination 	
10		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Monarchy. The role of the Monarch. • The Government. The Cabinet. The Prime Minister 	'Britain: The Country and its People' pp. 80-91
11		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Parliament: The party system in Parliament. 	'Britain: The Country and its People' pp. 92-98

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • International relations: British people and the rest of the world. The British state and the rest of the world. Transatlantic relations. European relations. Relations inside Great Britain. 	'Britain: The Country and its People' pp. 113-118
12		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Social Institutions in Britain. Education. Religions. Languages in Britain 	'Britain: The Country and its People' pp. 121-140
13		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Media in Britain. The two types of national newspaper. The characteristics of national press. 	'Britain: The Country and its People' pp. 151-160
14		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Habits and customs of the British. Food and drink in Britain. Eating habits and attitudes. Shopping and shops. • Sports and competition in Britain. Social importance of sport. 	'Britain: The Country and its People' pp. 183-199
15		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Holidays and special occasions in Britain. • Revision of Topics 9 - 14 • Quiz 2 	'Britain: The Country and its People' pp. 207-215
16		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Final examination 	