



## 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 other cultures, 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	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 for the presentation and group project, preparation for the examination	Presentation, group project, examination

Content	Contact hours						Individual work: time and assignments		Tasks for individual work
	Lectures	Tutorials	Seminars	Workshops	Laboratory work	Internship	Contact hours, total	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.	1		2	2			5	6	Reading (Siemund et al 2012 and/or other sources), preparation for the discussion
2. Great Britain and the United Kingdom. Geographical and political concepts. The Commonwealth. The key events in the historical and political development of the UK. The role of the Royal Family. Economy, political system. Education and culture. Social aspects.	2		2	4			8	9	Analysis and review of news articles (making a presentation)
3. England, Scotland, Wales, Northern Ireland: geography, national symbols, customs, language.	2		2	3			7	9	Information search and analysis for the development of a group project (the symbols, customs and traditions of a chosen country and their use in today's culture), reading and tasks from Mauk, Oakland 2017, Scotney 2016, Penney, Teague 2016, Lemieux 2010 and/or other sources
4. The United States of America. Geography, the most important historical events. Economy, political system. Education and culture. Social aspects. Customs, traditions, language.	2		1	4			7	9	
5. The Republic of Ireland. Geography, the most important historical events. Economy, political system. Education and culture. Social aspects. Customs, traditions, language.	2		2	3			7	9	
6. Australia. Geography, the most important historical events. Economy, political system. Education and culture. Social aspects. Customs, traditions, language.	2		1	4			7	9	
7. Canada. Geography, the most important historical events. Economy, political system. Education and culture. Social aspects. Customs, traditions, language.	2		1	4			7	9	
8. 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.	1		1	4			6	9	Reading and tasks from Siemund et al 2012, Penney, Teague 2016 and/or other sources
9. Preparation for the examination			2				2	10	Revision of the course material
<b>Total</b>	<b>14</b>		<b>14</b>	<b>28</b>			<b>56</b>	<b>79</b>	

Assessment strategy	Weight %	Deadline	Assessment criteria
Presentation: news review and analysis	30%	A specified time during the semester	<p>Presentation of the UK news on a chosen topic, based on the analysis, critical evaluation and comparison of news coverage in different sources (news websites).</p> <p>Assessment criteria:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Content (5 points): quality and depth of analysis, critical thinking, clear, consistent and logical argumentation.</li> <li>2. English language use (3 points): lexical diversity, accuracy of lexical and grammar structures, pronunciation, fluency of speech.</li> <li>3. Delivery (2 points): visuals, persuasiveness and clarity of the presentation, contact with the audience.</li> </ol>
Group project	20%	The end of the semester	<p>Group project – presentation of a chosen English-speaking country (the symbols, customs, traditions and their use in today's culture).</p> <p>Assessment criteria:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Content (5 points): quality and depth of analysis, relevance to the task, clear, consistent and logical argumentation.</li> <li>2. English language use (3 points): lexical diversity, accuracy of lexical and grammar structures, pronunciation, fluency of speech.</li> <li>3. Delivery (2 points): visuals, persuasiveness and clarity of the presentation, contact with the audience; the overall quality and integrity of the presentation as a groupwork.</li> </ol>
Examination	50%	The examination session	A written test consisting of open-ended and closed-ended questions covering the topics of the course.

Author (-s)	Publishing year	Title	Issue of a periodical or volume of a publication	Publishing house or web link
<b>Required reading</b>				
John Oakland	2020	British Civilization. An Introduction		Routledge
David Mauk, John Oakland	2017	American Civilization. An Introduction		Routledge
Peter Siemund, Julia Davydova, Georg Maier	2012	The Amazing World of Englishes. A Practical Introduction		Mouton de Gruyter
<b>Recommended reading</b>				
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		<a href="http://dspace.uni.lodz.pl:8080/xmlui/handle/11089/5278">http://dspace.uni.lodz.pl:8080/xmlui/handle/11089/5278</a>
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
Nemira Mačianskiė	2009	English for Intercultural Communication		Kaunas, VDU
	2007	Customs and Lifestyle in the English-speaking world		Mary Glasgow Magazines
		News websites and official websites of the institutions in English- speaking countries		