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Curricular Unit

English Culture (5.5 ECTS) – 45 hours

Study cycle to which the curricular unit belongs (with academic semester and scholar year)

BA in Foreign Applied Languages / 1st Semester / 2014-2015

Responsible academic staff member and lecturing load in the curricular unit

Maria Alexandra Ambrósio Lopes

Learning outcomes of the curricular unit

Learning goals:

1. to discuss the concepts of "culture", "identity" and "national culture";
2. to reflect on the conditions and consequences of different representation models;
3. to analyze the sociocultural geography of (post-)colonial England, discussing its assumptions and constraints;
4. to promote the debate on literary, cinematic and artistic representations of "London" from diverse points of view.
5. Acquiring skills:
6. autonomous reflection on the concepts of "culture", "identity" and "representation";
7. ability to research issues and topics related to study of culture, in general, and of English culture in particular;
8. ability to produce informed opinions and coherent texts on the debated topics;
9. ability to think critically.

Syllabus

Britannia revisited — (re)figurations & defigurations on a global space

As a multidisciplinary geography and a place of enquiry into the cultural tenets informing British thought, the syllabus aims to:

1. discuss the concepts of "culture", "identity" and "space" in the framework of a plural England;
2. debate the diversity of worldviews and the ways in which these interact with the urban space in the creation of a culture as a ongoing translating act;



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3. reflect upon the images and expectations which (post-)colonial Great Britain generates in intellectuals and artists who, coming from every corner of the empire, unmistakably transform British cultural geography;
4. inquire the ways in which identity narratives are construed in dialogue with space in the context of multicultural England, and particularly the city of London.

Books:

- CONRAD, Joseph (1973), *Heart of Darkness*, Harmondsworth: Penguin [1902]
- KELMAN, Stephen (2011), *Pigeon English*, Londres, Berlim, Nova Iorque e Sydney: Bloomsbury.
- KUREISHI, Hanif (1977), *Love in a Blue Time*, Londres e Boston: Faber and Faber [selection of short stories].
- PHILLIPS, Caryl (2011), «Colour me English», in *Colour me English. Selected Essays*, London: Harvill Secker, pp. 3-17.
- SELVON, Sam (2006), *The Lonely Londoners*, London et. al.: Penguin [1956].

Films:

- *Mixed Britannia* (BBC 2, 2012)
- *A Passage to India* (film, 1984)
- *London River* (film, 2010), de Rachid Bouchareb

Teaching methodologies (including evaluation)

Teaching: The teaching methodology rests on the articulation of expository moments led by the teacher, previously scheduled students' oral interventions and overall participation. During weekly office hours, students will benefit from an individualized support given by the teacher in the preparation of their work.

The system of evaluation consists in the continuous assessment of students, including careful preparation of selected readings and quality class participation.

Evaluation takes into account the following aspects:

- Oral presentation: 20%
- Two tests: 20% + 30%
- Participation + take-home assignments + travelogue: 10%+20%

Evidence of plagiarism will result in the student's exclusion from the evaluation process.



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Main bibliography

- ANDERSON, Benedict (2006), *Imagined Communities. Reflections on the Origin and Spread of Nationalism*, Londres: Verso Books.
- BARKER, Chris (2012), *Cultural Studies. Theory and Practice*, Los Angeles, London, New Delhi, Singapore, Washington DC: Sage.
- FERGUSON, Niall (2002), *Empire. The Rise and Demise of the British World Order and the Lessons for Global Power*, Nova Iorque: Basic Books.
- GILROY, Paul (2004), *After Empire: Multiculture or Postcolonial Melancholia*, Londres e Nova Iorque: Routledge.
- GRAY, Ann, MCGUIGAN Jim (eds.) (1997), *Studying Culture. An Introductory Reader*, Londres, Nova Iorque, Sydney, Auckland: Arnold.
- GUPTA, Suman (2009), *Globalization and Literature*, Cambridge/Malden: Polity Press.
- HAMNETT, Chris (2005), *Unequal City: London in the Global Arena*, Londres e Nova Iorque: Routledge.
- HANSEN, Randall (2000), *Citizenship and Immigration in Post-War Britain*, Oxford, New York: Oxford University Press.
- LONGHURST, Brian, SMITH, Greg, BAGNALL, Gaynor, CRAWFORD, Garry, OGBORN, Miles (2008), *Introducing Cultural Studies*, Harlow, London, New York, Boston: Pearson Longman.
- MODOOD, Tariq (2007), *Multiculturalism*, Cambridge e Malden: Polity.
- PANAYI, Panikos (2010), *An Immigration History of Britain. Multicultural Racism since 1800*, Harlow, London, New York, Boston: Pearson Longman.
- PAXMAN, Jeremy (2011), *Empire. What Ruling the World Did to the British*, Londres: Viking.
- PHILLIPS, Trevor, PHILLIPS, Mike (2009), *Windrush: The Irresistible Rise of Multiracial Britain*, Londres: HarperCollins.
- RUSHDIE, Salman (1992), *Imaginary Homelands. Essays and Criticism 1981-1991*, Nova Iorque e Londres: Penguin Books.
- RYAN, Michael (2010), *Cultural Studies. A Practical Introduction*, Chichester: Wiley-Blackwell.
- SAID, Edward (1993), *Culture and Imperialism*, Londres: Vintage.
- SANDHU, Sukhdev (2004), *London Calling: How Black and Asian Writers Imagined a City*, Londres: Harper Perennial
- SPIVAK, Gayatri Chakravorty (2012), *An Aesthetic Education in the Era of Globalization*, Cambridge, MA/London: Harvard University Press.
- WINDER, Robert (2004), *Bloody Foreigners*, Londres: A Little, Brown Book.