

**The Language Centre, School of Languages, Linguistics and Film  
Queen Mary university of London  
EAL5600 and EAL5610 Morphology of British Culture**

Semester: 1 or 2

Level: 5

Credit value: 15 credits

**Module convenor:**

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**Module teacher:**

Chris Mansfield

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**Scheduled: Mondays 12.00 – 2.00pm**

**Pre-Requisite:**

Open to Erasmus and Study Abroad students with native or advanced non-native English.

**Assessment:**

Assessment for this module is by coursework and oral exam. Coursework should be prepared and submitted according to the guidelines found in the SLLF Student Handbook for Undergraduate Students. Instructions for all assessment items will be distributed separately.

<b>Task</b>	<b>Due Date</b>	<b>Percentage of final result</b>
1000 word text analysis in English answering questions on the texts taught in weeks 1 - 4	Sunday 26 <sup>th</sup> October 2014 at 23.55 (QMPlus electronic submission only)	15%
15 minute Oral Exam offering a summary and critical analysis on one of the set texts (including musical and filmic texts) from weeks 5 – 11. You must choose a text <b>NOT</b> dealt with in your 3000 word essay.	Week 12 of semester: dates and times to be confirmed	25%
3000 word essay in English dealing with at least four of the texts (including musical and filmic texts) taught in weeks 1 – 11 of the module. Your essay must <b>NOT</b> deal with the text chosen for your oral exam.	You must submit a one page draft outline of your essay in class on Monday 1 <sup>st</sup> December 2014. This outline will make clear which texts you have chosen for your essay. The outline will not be marked but will be corrected and you will receive feedback. It will be handed back to you in class on Monday 8 <sup>th</sup> December. The final due date for the essay is Sunday 11 <sup>th</sup> January at 23.55 (QMPlus electronic submission only)	60%

All students must ensure that they obtain a copy of the School handbook and follow the School's guidelines and regulations in all matters regarding this module. Students must note that failure to do so may result in de-registration from the module, which may have a significant impact on their overall degree classification

### **Description:**

This module is designed to introduce advanced non-native and native speakers of English to British cultural history from the late Victorian era until the present. Key aspects covered will be the following themes:

- the British understanding of culture;
- the discourses of Empire;
- British culture during the World Wars;
- the class system;
- post-war British popular culture;
- the migrant experience in post-war Britain;
- contemporary discourses of 'Britishness' in relation to multiculturalism, the European Union and devolution.

### **Skills Developed in this Course:**

This course will help you to develop your reading, writing and speaking skills in the English language. You will be exposed to a wide range of writing in the English language, including: the literary essay; the political speech; poetry; the novel; song-writing; film; journalism. You will also be expected to write a text analysis and an essay, as well as giving an oral presentation. These exercises will require you to refine and polish your written and spoken English. Discussions in seminars will also help you to practise expressing ideas and arguments in English.

### **How the Course is Taught:**

The course is taught in a weekly two hour seminar on Mondays between 12:00 and 2:00pm. The first half of the seminar will consist of an informal lecture; in the second half of the seminar, there will be open class discussions and group exercises. In order that you be able to contribute to class discussion, it is vital that you do the reading for each week before you come to class.

### **Readings, Course Materials and QMPLus:**

The pre-class readings for each week are available online as pdf (Adobe Acrobat Reader) documents, which you can download from QMPlus for this course. Course materials (including the course outline, assessment items, weblinks etc) will also be posted on QMPlus. You will need to be registered with the College for this course before being able to log into its QMPlus pages.

### **Using the Library:**

When you write your essays, you will be expected to do research using sources beyond those available on QMPlus for the course. You are therefore strongly encouraged to use resources found in the library. A list of references can be found in the bibliography below.

### **Books which You Should Buy:**

- Monica Ali, *Brick Lane* (London: Doubleday, 2003). This is the only novel on the course, taught in week 10, but also discussed in other weeks. Cost: around £6-8.

### **Other Books which Might be Useful:**

- Kenneth O. Morgan, *Twentieth-Century Britain: A Very Short Introduction* (Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2000). This book provides a useful overview of twentieth century British politics and culture. Cost: around £5-7.
- Rebecca Stott, et al, eds., *Making Your Case: A Practical Guide to Essay Writing* (Harlow: Longman, 2001). This is a useful guide to essay writing. Cost: around £15.

- John Peck, *The Student's Guide to Writing: Grammar, Punctuation and Spelling* (Houndmills, Basingstoke: Palgrave Macmillan, 2005). A comprehensive guide to university level writing in English. Cost: around £11.
- Rebecca Stott and Peter Chapman, *Grammar and Writing* (Harlow: Longman, 2001). Another useful guide to English grammar and writing. Cost: around £11.

### Learning Outcomes:

This course aims to:

- enhance comprehension of the cultural contexts in which British culture and society have developed from the late Victorian era until the present;
- develop an awareness of key issues in British culture from the late Victorian era until the present, including: class, the British Empire, the distinction between 'high' and popular culture, questions relating to historical and contemporary British identities;
- introduce advanced non-native speakers of English to a wide variety of writing in English across the following genres: the literary essay; the political speech; poetry; the novel; song-writing; film; journalism.

### Skills:

This course will enable you to:

- differentiate between specific cultural tendencies, eras and regional characteristics in British culture;
- engage critically with the discourses of British culture past and present;
- analyse with confidence a wide variety of complex texts in English;
- engage in advanced essay writing in English;
- engage in small group public speaking in English.

### Attributes:

This course aims to develop the following attributes:

- an awareness of the relationships between history, culture and national identity in historical and contemporary Britain;
- an appreciation of the different styles and genres of writing in English.

### Module Schedule:

Seminar Topics, Due Dates, and Readings for Each Week

Week: (Date)	Topic
1: (22/09/2014) In-class reading	<b>Introduction to the module</b> (CM) George Orwell: "A Nice Cup of Tea" Raymond Williams: "Culture" in <i>Keywords</i> (1976)
2: (29/09/2014) Pre-class reading	<b>British Understandings of Culture: Arnold and Eliot</b> (CM) Matthew Arnold: excerpts from <i>Culture and Anarchy</i> (1869) T. S. Eliot: excerpts from "Notes Towards a Definition of Culture" (1943)
3: (06/10/2014) Pre-class reading	<b>Discourse of Empire Around 1900</b> (CM) Joseph Chamberlain: "The True Conception of Empire" (1897) Rudyard Kipling: "The White Man's Burden" (1899)
4: (13/10/2014) Pre-class reading	<b>Britain and the World Wars</b> (CM) Rupert Brooke: "The Soldier" (1914) Wilfred Owen: "Dulce et Decorum Est" (1920) Winston Churchill: "Speech to the House of Commons" 4 <sup>th</sup> June, 1940
	<b>TEXT ANALYSIS COURSEWORK DUE SUNDAY 26<sup>TH</sup> OCTOBER 2014 AT 23.55 (QPLUS ELECTRONIC SUBMISSION ONLY)</b>
5: (20/10/2014) Pre-class reading	<b>Industrialisation, Culture and Class</b> (CM) D.H. Lawrence: "Nottingham and the Mining Country" (1930) George Orwell: excerpts from "The English People" (1943)
6: (27/10/2014)	<b>The Beatles and the Stones: Class and Post-War Popular Culture</b> (CM)

Pre-class reading	Hanif Kureishi: "Eight Arms to Hold You" (1991) The Beatles, Sgt Pepper's Lonely Hearts Club Band (1967) Shane Meadows (director), <i>This is England</i> . (2006)
7: (03/11/2014)	<b>READING WEEK: NO CLASSES</b> <b>Directed reading will be given</b>
8: (10/11/2014) Pre-class reading	<b>Class and Race in Thatcher's Britain (CM)</b> Shane Meadows (director) <i>This is England</i> (2006) Shane Meadows "Under My Skin", <i>The Guardian</i> , April 21 (2007)
9: (17/11/2014) Pre-class reading	<b>The Migrant Experience in Northern England: Bradford (CM)</b> Hanif Kureishi: " <i>Bradford</i> " (1986) Paul Harris "Bradford Under Siege After Day of Race Riots" <i>The Observer</i> , July 8 (2001) Gavron, S. (dir) <i>Brick Lane</i> (2007)
10: (24/11/2014) Pre-class reading	<b>Contemporary Discourses of 'Britishness' 1: The Multiculturalism Debate in East London (CM)</b> Monica Ali: <i>Brick Lane</i> (2003) Sunder Katwala: "The Truth of Multicultural Britain" <i>The Observer</i> , November 21, (2001)
11: (01/12/2014) Pre-class reading	<b>Contemporary Discourses of 'Britishness' 2: Britain in the contexts of Europe and devolution (CM)</b> Roger Scruton: excerpts from <i>England: An Elegy</i> (2001) Timothy Garton Ash: " <i>Is Britain European?</i> " (2001) Gordon Brown: " <i>The Future of Britishness</i> " (2006)  <b>Submit draft outline of essay in class</b>
12: (08/12/2014)	<b>Oral exam</b> held in the last week of semester. Dates and times to be fixed
11/01/2015: 23.55	<b>Submission of 3000 word essay:</b> QMPlus electronic submission only

**Assessment deadline summary:**

26 <sup>th</sup> October 2014, 23.55:	Electronic submission of 1000 word text analysis (QMPlus)
1 <sup>st</sup> December 2014:	Hard copy submission of 3000 essay outline in class
8 <sup>th</sup> December 2014:	Oral exam (dates and times to be scheduled)
11 <sup>th</sup> January 2015, 23.55:	Electronic submission of 3000 word essay (QMPlus)