

Course Unit	English Culture I		Field of study	English	
Bachelor in	Foreign Languages: English and Spanish		School	School of Education	
Academic Year	2023/2024	Year of study	1	Level	1-1
Type	Semestral	Semester	1	ECTS credits	5.0
Workload (hours)			135	Contact hours	
			T	-	TP
			36	PL	-
			TC	-	S
			E	-	OT
			O	18	
Code 8323-619-1102-00-23					

T - Lectures; TP - Lectures and problem-solving; PL - Problem-solving, project or laboratory; TC - Fieldwork; S - Seminar; E - Placement; OT - Tutorial; O - Other

Name(s) of lecturer(s) Elisabete Rosário Mendes Silva

### Learning outcomes and competences

At the end of the course unit the learner is expected to be able to:

1. Understand the concept of culture and of English culture in particular, being aware of its contribution to other cultures
2. Understand the social evolution as well as the cultural diversity in the British Isles
3. Identify the main social and cultural characteristics of the periods covered
4. Become aware of the political, cultural and social consequences of the events taking place in the periods covered

### Prerequisites

Before the course unit the learner is expected to be able to:  
Non-applicable

### Course contents

1. Territorial, political and administrative organisation of the British Isles
2. 1066 and the beginning of the formation of a nation? (myths and facts)
3. The Middle Ages: progress and turmoil
4. The Sixteenth Century in Britain: Renaissance and Reformation; the Tudor Dynasty: major achievements and failures.

### Course contents (extended version)

1. Territorial, political and administrative organisation of the British Isles:
  - Geographical and administrative distinctions
  - Monarchy and government (constitutional monarchy)
  - Life and work in 21st century Britain
2. "1066 and after? " (myths and facts). The formation of a nation:
  - Battle of Hastings: importance and symbology (the Bayeux Tapestry)
  - Norman influence in Britain
3. The Middle Ages:
  - The Feudal system
  - Relations with France, the 'Hundred Years' War
  - The Magna Carta and the (so-called) beginning of Parliament
  - Fourteenth century crises in England (The Black Death, (1348-1351; the peasants' revolt 1381)
  - The civil conflicts of late-fifteenth century: the Wars of the Roses (H. of Lancaster vs H. of York)
4. The sixteenth century:
  - The Renaissance: cultural, social and economic developments;
  - Utopian humanism in Thomas More's Utopia
  - Tudor England
  - Henry VIII and the Henrician Reformation. Edward I and the Protestant Reformation
  - The importance of the Act of Supremacy in the establishment of national identity, Erastianism
  - Religious struggle (Protestantism vs Catholicism). Reformation and Counter-Reformation (Mary I)
  - Elizabeth I and the Elizabethan Settlement
  - The Golden years; the Spanish Armada; cultural growth. Transoceanic expansion

### Recommended reading

1. Acroyd, P. (2011). Foundation: A History of England. Vol. I. Macmillan.
2. Acroyd, P. (2011). The Tudors: A History of England. Vol. II. Macmillan.
3. Kearney, H. (2006). The British Isles: A History of Four Nations. CUP (Canto Classics).
4. More, T. (2010). Utopia. Ed. and translated by George M. Lucas. Norton.
5. Weir, A. (2008). Henry VIII. King and Court. Vintage Books.

### Teaching and learning methods

This syllabus will be carried out through presentations by the teacher on the topics followed by a discussion after the reading of documents and individual research on the topics; task-based learning, complemented by audio, video and audiovisual materials (e. g. movies, documentaries, podcasts), digital resources and collaborative work.

### Assessment methods

1. Continuous Assessment - (Regular, Student Worker) (Final)
  - Intermediate Written Test - 35%
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  - Presentations - 30% (Oral presentation on one of the topics covered in the syllabus)
2. Exam - (Regular, Student Worker) (Supplementary, Special)
  - Final Written Exam - 100%

### Language of instruction

English

Electronic validation			
Elisabete Rosário Mendes Silva	Isabel Augusta Chumbo	Alexia Dotras Bravo	Carlos Manuel Costa Teixeira
18-12-2023	26-12-2023	27-12-2023	11-02-2024

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