

SYLLABUS – A COURSE DESCRIPTION

I. General information

1. Course name: **Great Britain and the USA in modern times**
2. Course code: [15-WBIUSAW-CH-11](#)
3. Course type (compulsory or optional): **compulsory**
4. Study programme name: **English and Chinese Studies**
5. Cycle of studies (1st or 2nd cycle of studies or full master's programme): **1st cycle**
6. Educational profile (general academic profile or practical profile): **general academic**
7. Year of studies (if relevant): **Year 2**
8. Type of classes and number of contact hours (e.g. lectures: 15 hours; practical classes: 30 hours):
practical classes: 30 hours
9. Number of ECTS credits: **3**
10. Name, surname, academic degree/title of the course lecturer/other teaching staff: **dr Jeremy Pomeroy**, jeremy.pomeroy@amu.edu.pl
11. Language of classes: **English**
12. Online learning: yes (partly – online / fully – online) / no

II. Detailed information

1. Course aim (aims):

The course presents a wide range of information concerning geography, politics, culture and beliefs of the United Kingdom and the United States.

Participants are expected to gain knowledge about origin and evolution of political system, social environment, linguistic and ethnic diversity of the United Kingdom and the United States

Participants are going to gain abilities to effectively interpret and share knowledge about a wide range of phenomena concerning the UK or US by preparing and giving presentations on a given topic. The class grade is based upon a presentation on a UK or US related topic, as well as demonstrated participation in class discussions. The class culminates in an exam.

2. Pre-requisites in terms of knowledge, skills and social competences (if relevant): None.

3. Course learning outcomes (EU) in terms of knowledge, skills and social competences and their reference to study programme learning outcomes (EK):

Course learning outcome symbol (EU)	On successful completion of the course and validation of its learning outcomes, a student:	Reference to study programme learning outcomes (EK)
15-WBIUSAW-CH_01	describes physical features, notable tourist attractions and administrative divisions of the United Kingdom and United States	K_W04
15-WBIUSAW-CH_02	describes beliefs systems, festivals and traditions and the way they were changing over the course of history	K_W04
15-WBIUSAW-CH_03	presents the present political, linguistic and social situation of the United States and United Kingdom, including major shifts after the Second World War	K_W04
15-WBIUSAW-CH_04	does research concerning given subjects, develops a habit of updating their knowledge	K_K01, K_U03, K_K09

15-WBIUSAW-CH_05	prepares a group presentation on a given topic	K_K05, K_U02
15-WBIUSAW-CH_06	participates in discussion on given topics, is able to think critically and adequately formulate their opinions	K_U04

4. Learning content with reference to course learning outcomes (EU)

Course learning content:	Course learning outcome symbol (EU)
The Geography and political entities of the British Isles National symbols of the British Isles The Commonwealth of Nations	15-WBIUSAW-CH_01
The Political system of the UK. The Monarchy, Parliament and the Government	15-WBIUSAW-CH_03, 15-WBIUSAW-CH_06
England: its history, culture and noteworthy places Wales: its history, culture and noteworthy places English/Welsh character. Sport; visual culture.	15-WBIUSAW-CH_02, 15-WBIUSAW-CH_06
Scotland: its history, culture and noteworthy places. Northern Ireland: its history, culture and noteworthy places. Scottish/Irish character Sport; visual culture.	15-WBIUSAW-CH_01, 15-WBIUSAW-CH_02
British society: composition, demographic profile; ethnic groups Religion	15-WBIUSAW-CH_02, 15-WBIUSAW-CH_06
Political parties and elections. Economy: main branches and natural resources	15-WBIUSAW-CH_02, 15-WBIUSAW-CH_04
System of education Media Social services and National Health	15-WBIUSAW-CH_03, 15-WBIUSAW-CH_04, 15-WBIUSAW-CH_05

Physical and political geography of the United States National symbols of the USA	15-WBIUSAW-CH_01
The Founding Documents: the Constitution and the Bill of Rights	15-WBIUSAW-CH_02, 15-WBIUSAW-CH_06
The legislative branch (Congress), the executive branch (President and Cabinet), the judicial branch. Checks and balances. Reserved and enumerated powers: federal, state, county and municipal government	15-WBIUSAW-CH_02, 15-WBIUSAW-CH_06
Origins of Anglophone legal systems; common law. The legal systems of the US and UK (similarities and differences) Judicial review	15-WBIUSAW-CH_02, 15-WBIUSAW-CH_06
The society of the United States: composition, demographic profile and ethnic groups. Religion	15-WBIUSAW-CH_04
US Education US Media US Health	15-WBIUSAW-CH_03, 15-WBIUSAW-CH_04, 15-WBIUSAW-CH_05
Culture and noteworthy places in the USA Sport American identity and culture	15-WBIUSAW-CH_03, 15-WBIUSAW-CH_04, 15-WBIUSAW-CH_05

5. Reading list:

- McDowall, D. 1999. *Britain in Close-up*. Harlow: Pearson Education.
- Oakland, J. 2010. *British Civilization. An Introduction. Seventh Edition*. London: Routledge.
- O'Driscoll, J. 2009. *Britain*. Oxford: Oxford University Press.
- Fiedler, E, R. Jansen, M. Norman-Risch. 2004. *America in Close-up*. Harlow: Longman.
- Mauk, D. and J. Oakland. 2009. *American Civilization. An Introduction, 5th Edition*. London: Routledge.
- Crowther, J. (ed.) 2006. *Oxford Guide to British and American Culture*. Oxford: Oxford University Press.
- Oakland, J. 1993. *A Dictionary of British Institutions. A Student's Guide*. London: Routledge.
- Fox, Kate. 2004. *Watching the English. The Hidden Rules of English Behavior*. London: Hodder.

III. Additional information

1. Teaching and learning methods and activities to enable students to achieve the intended course learning outcomes (please indicate the appropriate methods and activities with a tick and/or suggest different methods)

Teaching and learning methods and activities	X
Lecture with a multimedia presentation	x
Interactive lecture	X
Problem – based lecture	
Discussions	X
Text-based work	
Case study work	
Problem-based learning	
Educational simulation/game	
Task – solving learning (eg. calculation, artistic, practical tasks)	
Experiential work	
Laboratory work	
Scientific inquiry method	
Workshop method	
Project work	
Demonstration and observation	
Sound and/or video demonstration	x
Creative methods (eg. brainstorming, SWOT analysis, decision tree method, snowball technique, concept maps)	
Group work	X
Other (please specify) -	
...	

2. Assessment methods to test if learning outcomes have been achieved (please indicate with a tick the appropriate methods for each LO and/or suggest different methods)

Assessment methods	Course learning outcome symbol
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	15-WBIUSAW- CH_01	15-WBIUSAW- CH_02	15-WBIUSAW- CH_03	15-WBIUSAW- CH_04	15-WBIUSAW- CH_05	15-WBIUSAW- CH_06
Written exam	X	X	X			X
Oral exam						
Open book exam						
Written test						
Oral test						
Multiple choice test						
Project						
Essay						
Report						
Individual presentation	X	X	X	X	X	
Practical exam (performance observation)						
Portfolio						
Other (please specify) - group presentation						
Activity and engagement in interactive lectures/discussions	X	X	X			X

3. Student workload and ECTS credits

Activity types		Mean number of hours spent on each activity type
Contact hours with the teacher as specified in the study programme		30
Independent study*	Preparation for classes	15
	Reading for classes	15

Essay / report / presentation / demonstration preparation, etc.	
Project preparation	
Term paper preparation	
Exam preparation	15
Other (please specify) - Presentation preparation	15
...	
Total hours	90
Total ECTS credits for the course	3

* please indicate the appropriate activity types and/or suggest different activities

4. Assessment criteria in accordance with AMU in Poznan's grading system:

FINAL GRADE (CREDIT)

- attendance (permissible number of absences – 2 classes/sem.) – failure to meet this condition may result in refusal to grant the credit.

- 50% - in class presentation, giving either an overview of a US state or a pre-approved British Isles topic.

- 50% - active in-class participation (particularly in the case of preplanned discussions, demonstrating familiarity with the Westminster and Washington systems respectively, reserved powers and devolution, the current political landscape of both countries and such topical issues as the aftermath of Brexit)

GRADE CRITERIA (DESCRIPTIVE) :

VERY GOOD

Extensive and articulate participation in class discussions; excellent preparation for and involvement in discussions on topical material disseminated via Moodle. An outstanding presentation on either a UK or US topic, particularly if the topic sparks class discussion.

GOOD+

Active participation in class discussions; solid preparation for and involvement in discussions on topical material disseminated via Moodle. A well-structured and coherent presentation on either a UK or US topic.

GOOD

Demonstrated participation in class discussions; some preparation for and involvement in discussions on topical material disseminated via Moodle. A competent presentation on either a UK or US topic.

SATISFACTORY+

Occasional participation in class discussions; little or occasional involvement in discussions on topical material disseminated via Moodle. A sufficient presentation that may be perfunctory but covers the material without errors or inaccuracy.

SATISFACTORY

Minimal participation in class discussions; very little input in discussions on topical material disseminated via Moodle. A presentation on a US or UK topic of mediocre quality, or containing errors / requiring corrections.

FAIL

More than two unexcused absences; failure to complete an assigned presentation for the class grade.