

GUÍA DOCENTE

1. SUBJECT DESCRIPTION

Degree:	Translation and Interpreting (English)
Doble Degree:	
Subject:	Culture and Societies of language BII (English)
Module:	
Department:	Philology and Translation
Semester:	2
Total credits:	6
Course:	2
Character:	Compulsory
Language of instruction:	English

Teaching model:	
a. Basic teaching (EB):	70%
b. Practices and development teaching (EPD):	30%
c. Conducted activities (AD):	

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2. RESPONSIBLE FOR THE COURSE

Name:	Regina Gutiérrez Pérez
Faculty:	Facultad de Humanidades
Department:	Philology and Translation
Area:	English Philology
Category:	Profesora Contratada Doctora (con acreditación de Profesora Titular)
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3. LOCATION IN THE TRAINING PLAN

3.1. Description of objectives

The main purpose of this course is to present the cultural realities of English-speaking countries, with special emphasis on the United Kingdom and the United States. Additionally, by studying the main aspects of the institutional and political organization, history, society, and the idiosyncrasies of English-speaking countries, theoretical and practical tools necessary to be able to exercise the work of a translator and an interpreter are also provided. It is intended that students get to know the socio-cultural reality of these countries as a prerequisite for access to the world of work and carry out an optimal professional work.

This course is part of the second year of the degree of Translation and Interpreting. It belongs to the block of obligatory subjects and is related with English BI, BII and BIII language courses, and also culture subjects in other languages, such as French and German. It serves as a general preparation for courses of Translation and Interpreting, documentation and research.

3.2. Contributions to the training plan

This course examines the current social and political reality, the historical evolution in the global context, issues of national identity, institutions, ideologies and forms of expression and cultural representation. It deals with issues common to other courses but applied to the professional practice. It is intended that the student of Translation and Interpreting acquires the necessary tools to be able to exercise their professional work having sketched the starting points of the various English-speaking cultures. The subject introduces topics of culture and society such as science and the environment, the media, history, politics, geography, etc.

This course has a great instrumental and practical importance in the studies of Translation and Interpreting since it develops specific skills such as the knowledge of international economic, social and political aspects and the analytical identification of speeches of the English speaking world. On the other hand, it has a professional value as real case studies and specific cultural translation problems in the world of economy, law, politics, society, the media, etc. are presented.



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3.3. Recommendations and required previous knowledge

B2 level of English according to the Common European Framework of Reference for Languages so that students can perform reading and audiovisual practices in an appropriate way. Also, an advanced level of expression in English is required to develop complex reasoning and to understand audiovisual practical contents and different materials.

4. COMPETENCES

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4.1 Competences of the degree developed in the subject

- Provide the tools so that the student develops an attitude aimed at the recognition of multiculturalism.
- Be capable of recognizing social diversity from texts and audiovisual materials in English-speaking cultures.

4.2. Competences of the module developed in the subject

- Bring the student closer to different English-speaking cultures.
- Develop critical-thinking and the ability of questioning.
- Introduce an international context to develop projects of cultural translation.

4.3. Specific competences of the subject

- Introduce the theoretical and practical aspects of the sources of culture in English-language texts and audiovisual practices of various subjects, such as science and the environment, media, history and politics.
- Introduce contents in the English language from different disciplines such as historiography, sociology and cultural studies and anthropology.
- Provide students with a general knowledge of the speeches in English that will provide them with the possibility of choosing to which of them they will be devoted in the future as professional translators.

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5. CONTENTS

1. Technology and environment
2. US History
 - 2.1. A new nation
 - 2.2. Years of growth
 - 2.3. 20th century Americans
 - 2.4. Superpower
 - 2.5. The 21st century
3. UK History
 - 3.1 Language and ethnicity
 - 3.2 The 18th century
 - 3.3 The 19th century
 - 3.4 The 20th century
 - 3.5 The 21st century

6. METHODOLOGY AND RESOURCES

Methodology

The classes are divided into two sections: basic teaching (EB), and practices and development teaching (EPD). The first is based on the reading of a series of texts and the second in the practice of audiovisual material. In the EB session, the main theoretical aspects will be presented through the reading of texts which the student must prepare in advance and bring to. For this purpose, a series of questions will be provided which the student has to answer and that will help them for the preparation of the exam. In the EPD session, the skills of audiovisual understanding and oral practice using documentaries in English language will be developed. Similarly, a series of questions will be provided in the virtual classroom corresponding to each documentary. Students must answer them in advance at home and bring to class in order to have a general knowledge of the background that allows them to follow the class and participate actively in the presented case studies.

The student should be aware that face-to-face instruction constitutes only a part

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(around 35%) of the time that they should devote to this subject, so most of their learning will be done outside the classroom. To achieve the dual objective of (a) forming autonomous learners who know at the same time how (b) to work in groups, the development of classes will be organised into activities that will carry out cooperative work after having been individually prepared outside of the classroom. Learning in the classroom and study and work at home are complemented with the tutoring of students who require it, either face-to-face in the teacher's office or through the Blackboard platform.

The methodology of the course includes approaches from various disciplines, such as historiography, sociology, cultural studies and anthropology. The study of the theoretical and practical aspects of the sources of culture of each era will be achieved in the form of texts and documentaries manifestations. The method is also oriented towards critical reflection of the student on the presented contents and will be based on different questions that will work as a basis for active learning.

All classes will be taught in English, promoting and valuing the participation of students. They are expected to perform the assigned readings to get not only the learning of facts but also the data related to the social processes and their importance when it comes to translating and interpreting.

Resources

The course uses the following resources:

- A. Texts, activities, exercises, documents, web links, etc. available in the virtual classroom.
- B. Audiovisual practices (audio and video files) available in the library and also in hard disk format which students can duplicate bringing a laptop to class.

The audiovisual materials of the subject are the following:

1. An Inconvenient Truth
2. The Presidents
3. America, a Story of us
4. Oliver Twist
5. Queen Victoria (Victoria and her Sisters)
6. A History of Modern Britain (Margaret Thatcher)

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7. EVALUATION

The evaluation will be based on three sections: attendance and participation in class and two written tests. The written tests will be carried out in the middle and at the end of the semester. The percentages belonging to each section are indicated below:

1. Attendance and participation	20 %
2. Written test (in the middle of the semester)	40 %
3. Written test (at the end of the semester)	40 %

Attendance and participation

Students should come well-prepared to class and should participate actively in the discussion of texts and audiovisual sources. Besides, they shall participate daily in class working in cooperative learning with the rest of their classmates, providing comments and questions.

It is important that the student reads the assigned material carefully and prepares the questions belonging to each unit to be able to participate interactively in class in all discussions. Also, they shall check the virtual classroom on a daily basis. The grade of participation will consist of the ability of the student to show that they have not only read the material but that they have also critically reflected on it for discussion in class.

Written tests

They will be composed by two sections: EB and EPD. In the first, the student must identify a series of terms, topics and references of theory presented throughout the course. There will also be a geography test.

In the second (EPD), a brief section of audiovisual material studied during the semester will be presented. The student must relate that section projected during the test with the rest of the documentary and theoretical material of the subject.

Grammar must be correct since syntactic, lexical and textual failures will be negatively evaluated and will influence the grade, i.e. when the linguistic level of

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the answers doesn't fit the expected B2 level.

The written test in the middle of the semester will count average with the written test at the end of the semester. If the student doesn't pass, they will only have to resit the failed section, i.e. first half of the semester or second half of the semester. Similarly, the resit, which takes place in June, will have a section of theory and another of practice.

8. BIBLIOGRAPHY

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