



RTU Course "English Speaking Countries"

01A01 Speciālā lietojuma valodu katedra

General data

Code	HVD118
Course title	English Speaking Countries
Course status in the programme	Compulsory/Courses of Limited Choice; Courses of Free Choice
Course level	Undergraduate Studies
Course type	Professional
Field of study	Languages
Responsible instructor	Oksana Samuilova
Academic staff	Jūlija Kučerova Irina Liokumoviča Olga Salfetņikova Tatjana Hramova Nina Karagodina
Volume of the course: parts and credits points	2 parts, 4.0 Credit Points, 6.0 ECTS credits
Language of instruction	LV, EN, RU
Possibility of distance learning	Not planned
Abstract	Geography, history, culture, traditions, holidays, political and economic situation, applied information on customs and way of life in the USA and UK are covered within the framework of the course. Students complete oral and written tasks. Students work individually, in pairs, in groups, present their achievements to their colleagues. Regular work with different tasks; individual, independent work with the textbooks; analysis of the new material. Students discuss situations in any sphere of life, compare processes and problems in the USA, Europe and Latvia. Discussions, reports and essays on the course topics.
Goals and objectives of the course in terms of competences and skills	The aim of the course is to develop students' knowledge about the US and UK geography, history, natural resources, economics, population, culture acquired at a secondary educational establishment. The objectives of the course: 1) to develop students' factual, social, and cultural knowledge on the basis of the existing knowledge; 2) to develop students' cultural awareness; 3) to improve students' ability to view the processes and problems in a particular country in context with the same phenomena all over the world; 4) to develop students' competence to present orally and in writing the acquired information on English speaking countries.
Structure and tasks of independent studies	Report on a topical socio-cultural issue. Classroom presentation of the results. 3 essays on geography, economy and traditions of a selected English speaking country.
Recommended literature	Grāmatas: 1.AAA Road Atlas. United States, Canada, Mexico, 2010 2.CultureGrams , World Edition Lindon, UT: Axiom Press, 2004 3.O'Driscoll J., Britain for Learners of English. Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2009 4.Pamela Thomas "American Traveler - U.S.A.". Gallery Books, N.Y.,2006 5.Pasaules ģeogrāfijas atlants. Datorprogrammas: 1.Learn to Speak English. 2.BBC New English Course- 24 discs Interneta resursi: 1. In Search of America http://usinfo.state.gov/usa/infousa/facts/factover/homepage.htm 2.The People of America http://www.opendialogue.org/english/diversity.html 3.American Government http://usinfo.state.gov/products/pubs/outusgov/ http://usinfo.state.gov/products/pubs/transgov/ 4.The Environment http://www.ostp.gov/NSTC/html/ccsp-vision.pdf 5.Media and Communications http://www.au.af.mil/au/awc/awcgate/pace/meetingmedia.pdf
Course prerequisites	Knowledge about the US and UK geography, history, economics, and culture acquired at a secondary educational establishment.

Course outline

Theme	Hours
Review – the US geography. Fifty states.	4
The City of New York- map, brochures, photographs. Cultural movie- The City of New York	2
Review – the US history.	4

Washington, DC- map, brochures, photographs. Cultural movie- Washington, DC	2
American democracy.	2
South Dakota- Black Hills, Mount Rushmore, Rapid City, Corn Palace- brochures, photographs. Cultural movie- Philadelphia	2
Review- Population.	2
Review – natural resources.	2
Denver, Colorado- the city, Rocky Mountain National Park, Red Rocks Amphitheatre, Buffalo Bill’s Museum	2
Review – economics.	4
Colorado National Monument- map, brochures, photographs. Cultural movie- Boston	2
Education in USA.	2
Study process at the University of Wisconsin, La Crosse. Grand Teton National Park, Wyoming –brochures, photographs	2
The Environment.	2
Arches National Park, Utah- map, brochures, photographs. Cultural movie- Chicago, Illinois	2
San Francisco, Sacramento, California- map, postcards, brochures, photographs. Cultural movie- San Francisco	2
Golden state- California. Calaveras Big Trees State Park, California- map, brochures, photographs	2
Review- Government. Media and Communications.	4
Review – the UK geography.	2
Review – the UK history.	4
Constitutional monarchy	2
Scotland, Wales, Northern Ireland	4
Literature	2
Visiting. Eating. Gestures.	2
Holidays. Language. Religion.	4

Learning outcomes and assessment

Learning outcomes	Assessment methods
Students are able to identify and compare topical issues and cultural differences in historical, geographical, social, ecological, etc. spheres of life in USA, UK and Latvia.	Assessment: tests, independent work, exam Evaluation: tests – tested/not tested, exam – according to 10 grade scale
Students are able to discuss and explain contemporary social relationships in a respective English speaking country in context with the same phenomena in Latvia and the rest of the world.	Assessment: tests, exam
Students are able to select necessary information, develop a report, summarize and demonstrate knowledge and skills acquired during the course.	Assessment: independent work, report, presentation, exam. Evaluation: report – presentation (orally and in writing), mark acc. to 10 grade scale

Study subject structure

Part	CP	ECTS	Hours per Week			Tests			Tests (free choice)		
			Lectures	Practical	Lab.	Test	Exam	Work	Test	Exam	Work
1.	2.0	3.0	0.0	2.0	0.0		*				
2.	2.0	3.0	0.0	2.0	0.0		*				