



RTU Course "Political and Economical System of English Speaking Countries"

01A01 Speciālā lietojuma valodu katedra

General data

Code	VIA166
Course title	Political and Economical System of English Speaking Countries
Course status in the programme	Compulsory/Courses of Limited Choice
Course level	Undergraduate Studies
Course type	Professional
Field of study	Languages
Responsible instructor	Irina Liokumoviča
Academic staff	Nina Karagodina Anita Eiholca
Volume of the course: parts and credits points	1 part, 3.0 Credit Points, 4.5 ECTS credits
Language of instruction	LV, EN, RU
Possibility of distance learning	Not planned
Abstract	The course aims at providing students with information and extending their knowledge on political and economic systems of English speaking countries, UK in particular. Simulations, role plays and case studies are used so as to develop students' communicative skills in English. To develop reading and listening skills students are provided with a definite amount of authentic texts for reading and a list of special topics for speaking practice and listening comprehension. Practical classes using pair/group work, discussions, reports, denotative graphs (Mind Mapping), brainstorming, etc. Topics discussed: Structure of governments, parliament, electoral and party systems, media, major sectors of economy, etc.
Goals and objectives of the course in terms of competences and skills	Objectives of the course: 1.To develop students' reading comprehension skills on the basis of authentic texts in the field of UK political and economic systems; 2.To extend useful vocabulary; 3.To develop effective listening comprehension skills based on political and socio-economic texts (listening for gist, listening for specific information, sentence completion, multiple choice questions, etc.) 4.To improve effective communication skills in English in the context of politics and economics; 5.To acquire discussion and debates skills; 6.To improve accuracy (oral and written accuracy, grammatical precision, etc.)
Structure and tasks of independent studies	Regular fulfillment of tasks, individual work with the text corpus in the field of studies, analysis of the text denotative graphs (logical schemes). Report on a topical issue concerning political and economical systems of English speaking countries.
Recommended literature	1. Aspects of Britain and USA (Intermediate) C. Garwood, G. Gardani, E. Peris. Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2000. 2. Britain (Intermediate to Advanced) J. O'Driscil. Oxford: Oxford Univ. Press, 2000. 3. Britain Explored (Intermediate) Paul Harvey and Rhodri Jones.- Harlow, Essex, UK: Pearson Education Ltd., 2006. 4. Britain in Close-up (Advanced) David McDowall Harlow, Essex, UK: Pearson Education Ltd, 2006. 5. Politics in the English Language, Penguin Essays of George Orwell: Harlow, Essex, UK Penguin Books Ltd., 1994. 6. Spotlight on Britain. (Intermediate). S. Sheerin, J. Seath, G. White Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2000. 7. The World of English M. Farrell, Franca Rossi, Regina Ceriani, Harlow, Essex, UK: Pearson Education Ltd, 2005. 8. When in Britain. (Intermediate). R. Nolasco and P. Medgyes, Oxford: Oxford Univ. Press, 2000. Vārdnīcas: 1. The Cambridge Encyclopedia of the English Language D. Crystal Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 2006. 2. Oxford Guide to British and American Culture. (Upper – Intermediate to Advanced.) Editor: J. Crowther. Oxford: Oxford Univ. Press, 2001.
Course prerequisites	English language skills at B2 level according to CEFR

Course outline

Theme	Hours
Needs analysis. The course adaptation to the students' individual aims and needs.	3
Work with British newspapers (information retrieval, selection of texts, fact file compilation, oral summary, etc.)	3
Work with socio-political text so as to understand the content and comment on the text.	3
Denotative graphs. Facts file compilation.	3
Work with the socio-political text: "Parliamentary Procedures. Parliamentary Committees".	3
Work with vocabulary in the domain of politics: definitions, synonyms and antonyms exercises, using word morphology.	3
Papers presentation. Discussion. Evaluation and self-evaluation of presentations.	3

Listening practice: “British Press, Independent TV, Cable TV, Satellite TV”	3
Work with the text in the field of economics. Discussion of the Problem. Key words and lexical chunks.	3
Analysis of the economic text. Team work: role plays, presentation of the main idea and its discussion in groups.	3
Reading the professional text “British Industry” with the aim of information retrieval, logical and structural analysis.	3
Listening practice:” The main sources of Energy in the UK”.	3
Work with the economic text “International Trade” Fact file compilation, summary presentation.	3
Presentations on some economic issues of the UK. Discussion. Evaluation and self-evaluation of presentations.	3
Test	6

Learning outcomes and assessment

Learning outcomes	Assessment methods
Students are able to improve and evaluate independently personal reading skills reading advanced authentic texts on UK and USA politics and economics.	Assessment: tests (reading comprehension, listening comprehension, vocabulary check), exam.
Students are able to interpret and comment on the oral and written information, communicate creatively, take initiative in discussions and debates on selected issues.	Assessment: tests (reading comprehension, listening comprehension, vocabulary check), exam.
Students are able to identify, describe important facts, express their opinion correctly, using vocabulary relevant for the given topic and relevant grammatical constructions in oral and written communication.	Assessment: tests (reading comprehension, listening comprehension, vocabulary check), exam.
Students are able to use the knowledge and skills acquired during the course, presenting the summary of the report on the selected issue.	Assessment: tests (reading comprehension, listening comprehension, vocabulary check), report, exam. Evaluation: tests – tested/not tested; exam, report – mark according to 10 grade scale.

Study subject structure

Part	CP	ECTS	Hours per Week			Tests		
			Lectures	Practical	Lab.	Test	Exam	Work
1.	3.0	4.5	0.0	3.0	0.0		*	