Department
13 General and Interdisciplinary Studies

Course title
Lion, Unicorn, Tiger – Britain and Ireland today

Hours per week (SWS)
2

Number of ECTS credits
2

Course objective
Upon successful completion students will have become acquainted with various aspects of British and Irish civilization and consequently, they will have become aware of cultural differences and similarities. As a result, they will have acquired a deeper understanding of British and Irish society. Thus, they will be able to discuss today’s questions on politics, economics, and culture in the UK and Ireland with regard to their respective past, present-day and future situation in the European Union.

Prerequisites
Material will be provided by the professor. This is a Cultural Studies class (drawing from approaches in Literary Studies, Media Studies and Political Science). Course materials are taken, among others, from newspapers, magazines and journals as well as from the following:
Share, Perry; Corcoran, Mary P.; Conway, Brian (2012). Sociology of Ireland. Dublin: Gill & Macmillan.
Storry, Mike; Childs, Peter (32007). British Cultural Identities. London: Routledge.
Inglis, Tom (2014). Are the Irish different? Manchester: Manchester University Press

Teaching methods
This seminar will be held for 90 minutes every week. There will be time for lecture, student debate, group work, in-class reading, and film analysis.

Assessment methods
Students have to deliver one presentation on a given topic in class and write a seminar paper based on that same topic, which both make up the final grade.

Language of instruction
English

Name of lecturer
Prof. Brandstetter

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nicole.brandstetter@hm.edu

Link

Course content
Geographically united on the Emerald Isle but split over political and social questions – is that an appropriate characterization of two states that are expected to be quite similar but have rather different ideas?
When thinking about Ireland and the United Kingdom today, besides all the well-known stereotypes like the fascinating landscape, a queuing society or rows of redbrick houses, we think of them in terms of contrasting themselves with mainland Europeans. This is especially true for the UK after the Brexit vote although it used to be a driving force in the European discussion and a guarantor for the transatlantic link to the USA. But, what makes up Britain and Ireland today? A highly instable political situation in the UK? The growing devolution forces which could drive Scotland to finally leave the United Kingdom and stay as independent nation in the EU? An ongoing religious conflict which seems outdated to mainland Europeans? A multiethnic and multicultural society that has to deal with the challenges of immigration?
The course will deal with questions on cultural and political issues that have shaped the United Kingdom and Ireland. It will explore the historical background for Britain’s and Ireland’s position in the global world and in the European Union today and in the future. For the analysis of their present-day situation the course will not only deal with current articles in major newspapers or the media coverage of major events but also with images of Britishness or Irishness in fiction and film.

Remarks