

Matèria: Història i cultura dels països parla anglesa

Instructional Objectives

Awareness of the history and cultural diversity of the three great English speaking areas:

- I) The British Isles,
- II) The United States
- III) Anglophone postcolonial countries from the British rule period to the present.

Thematic Blocks

- I) 1. Physical and human geography of the British Isles. 2. Political, social and religious organization.
- II) 1. Economic, political and social factors in the USA. 2. Genre, race and class.
- III) 1. Main theories and concerns of postcolonial criticism. 2. Critical analysis of a literary and a cinematic text from three different areas of the Anglophone postcolonial world.

Syllabus

- I)
 - 1 - Geography of the British Isles
 - Physical features: Location, area, relief, climate.
 - Political division
 - Population
 - Immigration
 - The British Isles and Europe
 - 2 - The Making of the United Kingdom
 - Early settlers: The Celts
 - The Roman invasion
 - The Teutonic invasion: Angles, Saxons and Jutes
 - Viking invasions
 - The Norman Conquest of 1066
 - 2.1 - Wales
 - Wales before and after the Act of Union of 1536
 - Welsh Nationalism
 - Development of the Welsh Language
 - 2.2 - Scotland
 - The Picts and the Scots
 - Norman influence and alliance with France
 - The Act of Union (1707). Motives and consequences
 - 2.3 - Ireland
 - Effects of the invasions
 - Stages of English rule in Ireland
 - The religious controversy. Protestants and Catholics. Discrimination of Catholics
 - Famine and emigration
 - The Anglo-Irish War (1919-20): Northern Ireland and the Irish Free State are born
 - The Republic of Ireland (1948)
 - Northern Ireland. Nationalism vs. Unionism
- 3 - Religion in the British Isles

Introduction of Christianity during Roman occupation
The Anglican Reformation as a matter of State
Religious conflicts
The post-reformation churches. Attempts to introduce Catholicism
Religion in Ireland

4 - The British Parliament and Constitutional Monarchy

Origins of Parliament
Confrontation of Crown and Parliament
Consolidation of the Constitutional Monarchy
Vote for Women
The British Constitution
The British Electoral system

II)

1. Colonial Period

- a) Kurt Vonnegut's "Breakfast of Champions" (1973)
 - Premises. Revision of history.
- b) 1492
 - Christopher Columbus.
 - The myth of the Discovery
 - Columbian Exchange
 - Previous explorations
 - The context for colonization
- c) The encounter
 - Native American cultures
 - peopling of the American continent
- d) British Colonization
 - Virginia and Massachusetts
 - Interest behind colonization
 - Economic development (John Smith + mercantilism)
 - Religious background (the Puritan settlements)
- e) Development of colonies (18th century) + the social composition of the colonies: indentured servitude and slavery

2. The American Revolution

- a) The Eighteenth-Century Mind: The Enlightenment and the Great Awakening
- b) conflict with Britain
- c) the Social Contract
- d) the American Revolution
- e) Formation of a National Government (Am. Democracy and the Constitution)

3. The Nineteenth Century

- a) General Introduction to the century: main themes
- b) Reform Movements: The Women's Rights Movement. Abolitionism
- c) The Westward Movement and Manifest Destiny
- d) The South. The Civil War and Reconstruction
- e) Industrialization and Immigration

III)

1. Representation: Maps, Narratives, Literature
2. Colonialism vs. Imperialism
 - i. Capitalism

- ii. The British Empire
 - iii. Settler vs. Settled Colonies
 - 3. Decolonisation
 - i. Reasons
 - ii. Nationalism
 - iii. Stages
 - iv. The Statute of Westminster (1931)
 - v. The Commonwealth
 - 4. Neocolonialism & Neoimperialism
 - 5. Post-colonial vs. postcolonial
 - 6. Postcolonial literature
 - 7. Postcolonial theory & criticism
 - i. Franz Fanon (1950s)
 - ii. Edward Said, *Orientalism* (1988)
 - iii. *The Empire Writes Back* (1989)
 - iv. Post-Structuralist vs. Marxist inspiration
 - 8. Issues in the postcolonial
 - i. Identity and Otherness
 - ii. Language
 - iii. Education
 - v. History
 - vi. Hybridity
 - 9. A Selection of three among the following areas:
- Australia:
- Sally Morgan, *My Place* (1987) (novel)
 - Philip Noyce, *Rabbit-Proof Fence* (2002) (film)
- Canada:
- Drew Hayden Taylor, *Toronto at Dreamer's Rock* (1994) (play)
 - Zacharias Kunuk, *Atanarjuat (The Fast Runner)* (2001) (film)
- Caribbean:
- Jamaica Kincaid, *Annie John* (1985) (novel)
 - Perry Henzel, *The Harder They Come* (1972) (film)
- India:
- Mulk Raj Anand, *Untouchable*. (1935) (novel)
 - Deepa Mehta, *Earth* (1998) (film)
- New Zealand:
- Alan Duff, *Once Were Warriors* (1990) (novel)
 - Niki Caro, *Whale Rider* (2002) (film)
- South Africa:
- Nadine Gordimer, *July's People* (1981) (novel)
 - Clint Eastwood, *Invictus* (2009) (film)

Assessment

- I) Students shall be assessed on their familiarity with the key factors determining the history and cultures of the British Isles.
- II) Students shall be assessed on their familiarity with the key factors determining the history and cultures of the USA.

III) Students shall be assessed on their familiarity with the key factors determining the history and cultures of the Anglophone postcolonial countries through the critical analysis of literary and cinematic texts.

Bibliography

I)

Christopher, David, *British Culture: An Introduction*, Routledge, 2nd ed. 2006 (1999)
Cunliffe, Barry et al., *The Penguin Illustrated History of Britain and Ireland*, Penguin, 2006

Kearney, Hugh, *The British Isles. A History of Four Nations*, Cambridge U.P. 2nd ed. 2006 (1989)

Morgan, Kenneth. *The Oxford Illustrated History of Britain*, Oxford UP, 2000 (1984)

Oakland, John, *British Civilization. An Introduction*, Routledge, 6th ed., 2006 (1989)

Storry, Mike & Peter Childs (eds.). *British Cultural Identities*, Routledge 3rd ed., 2007 (1997)

II)

Loewen, James W. *Lies My Teacher Told Me. Everything Your American History Textbook Got Wrong*. New York: Touchstone, 1995.

Tindall, George and David Shi. *America: A Narrative History*. New York: Norton, 1992.

Zinn, Howard. *A People's History of the United States*. New York: Harper and Row, 1980.

III)

Ashcroft, Bill, Gareth Griffiths i Helen Tiffin, *The Empire Writes Back. Theory and Practice in Post-Colonial Literatures*. Londres i Nova York: Routledge, 1989.

_____, *Key Concepts in Post-Colonial Studies*. Londres: Routledge, 1998.

Mcleod, John, *Beginning Postcolonialism*. Manchester i Nova York: Manchester University Press, 2000.

Williams, Patrick i Laura Chrisman, eds, *Colonial Discourse and Post-Colonial Theory: A Reader*. Hemel Hempstead: Harvester Wheatsheaf, 1993