

Seminar: British Culture and Literature I

Mitsutoshi Somura

Credit : 4 | Semester : Spring | Year : 3~4
Day/Period : Tue 4th and Tue 5th管理 ID :
1253967
授業コード :
A6403

【Subject】

Students will compare the society and culture of Britain with that of Japan in order to gain a new perspective of both countries in the contemporary world.

【Goal】

The aim of this seminar is to provide a deeper understanding and keener insight into Britain and Japan. The skill students learn will improve employability in sourcing and presenting information.

【Course Description】

Britain is socially and culturally a very interesting and influential country in many ways. In addition to English, the ideas of liberty, individualism and capitalism which seem to be prevailing in the world at least partially originated in Britain. Having globalized especially since the Thatcher era, its economy grew from 1992 to 2007, changing its society. At the same time, Britain was on the cutting edge of contemporary culture, a phenomenon sometimes labeled 'Cool Britannia.' People all over the world enjoy British literature, films, rock music, architecture, designs and fashion. By comparing British society and culture with Japan, we will get a clearer and deeper understanding of the changes occurring in Japan that have been taking place during the last thirty years.

【Schedule】

No.	Theme	Contents
1	Introduction	Course overview
2	Country and People	Students' presentations, inquiries and discussion
3	History	Students' presentations, inquiries and discussion
4	Geography	Students' presentations, inquiries and discussion
5	Identity and Attitudes	Students' presentations, inquiries and discussion
6	Politics and Government	Students' presentations, inquiries and discussion
7	Contemporary British Society in Films	Students' Presentations, inquiries and discussion
8	The Monarchy and Class Society	Students' presentations, inquiries and discussion
9	Parliament and Elections	Students' presentations, inquiries and discussion
10	International Relations	Students' presentations, inquiries and discussion
11	Religion	Students' presentations, inquiries and discussion
12	The Economy	Students' presentations, inquiries and discussion
13	The Media	Students' presentations, inquiries and discussion
14	Welfare and Housing	Students' presentations, inquiries and discussion
15	Review	Inquiries, discussions and summary

【Work to be done outside class (preparation etc.)】

Students are expected to read the textbooks and materials as instructed.

【Textbooks】

Textbooks and reading materials will be specified at the beginning of the seminar.

【References】

Nicholas Abercrombie and Alan Warde, *Contemporary British Society*, 3rd ed. (Polity Press, 2000).
Michael Higgins et al.,(eds.),*The Cambridge Companion to Modern British Culture*,(CUP, 2010).
John Oakland, *British Civilization: An Introduction*, 7th edn.(Routledge, 2011).

【Grading Criteria】

Evaluation will be based on class participation and contribution (70%), and a writing assignment (30%). More than two unexcused absences can result in failure of the course.

【Changes following previous student comments】

Students will have more time before giving a presentation on the assigned topics.

【Prerequisite】

None.