

## British Culture and Contemporary English



### Course Overview

English today is a rapidly-changing patchwork of accents, dialects, slangs and regional variations. This is a reflection of a constantly evolving cultural landscape.

This 30-hour course looks at the varieties of English used around the world, and specifically in the UK, and the factors that influence language change. We will look at changes in British social and cultural life, literature, music, film and television. You will gain greater understanding of different varieties of English and how these can shed light on identity, class and subcultures. We will also explore methodological and practical approaches to teaching contemporary English and cultural / intercultural awareness through a variety of techniques and resources.

### Who is the course suitable for?

- Teachers and ELT professionals who are interested in:
  - developing their students' awareness of the rich cultural diversity of life in Britain today and changes in contemporary written and spoken English
  - updating their own knowledge and teaching skills in the focus areas of this course
- Participants with a minimum language level corresponding to B2/C1 on the Common European Framework.

**What will the course include?**

As a course participant, you will receive a pre-course questionnaire, which should be returned prior to the course. This is to ensure that the areas of most relevance to you are integrated into the course content.

The course will include content drawn from some or all of the following areas, depending on your contextual and personal needs and priorities:

- Recent developments and changes in English
- The role of the media, the internet and social networking
- Language and social class
- Current political and social issues
- Popular culture and subcultures
- Contemporary British literature
- Discourse analysis, with particular reference to contemporary spoken and written texts
- A look at regional dialects and accents, with a particular focus on Northern English
- International Englishes
- Developing language awareness
- Designing materials for language awareness

Time will be built into the course for reflection and for you to consider how to adapt ideas from the course to the classroom in your own professional context.

All NILE's courses involve a significant element of English language improvement and/or development of language awareness.

**What does the course consist of?**

The 30-hour course is taught by trainers who are experts in the fields of language, materials and methodology, and includes a guest lecture by a well-known figure in the field of ELT.

The classes are held from Monday to Friday within the hours 09.15 – 13.15 in our Manchester centre.

Your free afternoons will give you the opportunity to choose from a variety of options to further develop your special interests:

- working on individual projects or tasks set up during your course
- collecting authentic materials for your own teaching
- investigating language in action in Manchester
- doing reading and research online or in the library
- getting to know Manchester's rich cultural heritage

During this time you will have access to the teaching centre's resources and support from a tutor should you need it.

**What approach is used?**

- Classes will be practical and 'hands-on', but with reference to relevant theory
- Courses are participant-centred and entail involvement in tasks and activities which boost confidence and provide memorable learning contexts
- Tasks will be used to illustrate the key course objectives through procedure as well as content

**Facilities and resources**

The NILE course venue includes an ELT library and computer suite with Wi-Fi throughout. Each course has a Moodle online learning platform which includes a comprehensive online library and enables you to access course materials and share ideas and materials with other course participants. This facility will be available to you for six months after the course so you can keep in touch with your colleagues and continue to access course materials once you have returned home.

culture language Britain UK society media contemporary methodology literature development understanding variety attitudes subculture multicultural spoken written Britain British global diversity accent dialect difference insight integration register understand investigate
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