



"We make learning special"

British Studies: Language, Literature and Life

This course is suitable for English teachers who want their students to develop a parallel awareness of language and culture, but want to avoid a static, "British Life and Institutions" approach.

Objectives

The course objectives are:

- To familiarise teachers themselves with contemporary currents in British life, language and literature
- To examine current shifts in the use of English in relation to issues such as language and social class, attitudes to correctness and the languages of subcultures
- To explore methodological approaches to teaching British Studies

Content

The course will look at many aspects of contemporary British life, particularly in relation to language. Included will be a focus on language and social class; the concept of "standard English" and attitudes to prescriptiveness. There will be a study of current social trends as well as recent/contemporary political developments, both within the UK and in relation to the European Union. In addition the course will look at a range of aspects of popular culture.

Methodology

NILE courses are taught in a range of ways but the underlying principle is that all courses should be taught using methodology that course participants can adapt and emulate for themselves on returning to their classrooms. Sessions are built into each course to allow course participants to reflect on the way that they have been taught and review the suitability of the strategies and techniques for their own circumstances.

Preparation and Follow-up

All course participants are issued with a pre-course questionnaire to be returned prior to the course. This is to ensure that the areas of most significance to participants within the general course area are covered. In addition, participants are sent an indicative reading list covering some of the topics to be dealt with on the course. Participants are also asked to bring along to the course information and materials relating to any project they are involved in or have recently completed. These are then subjected to supportive critical comment during the course.

Towards the end of the course there is a "where next" session with the group as a whole, or with individuals. This session is used to review the concepts and practices dealt with on the course and to see how they will apply to the participants' work place on their return. Open-ended follow-up consultation is available to all course participants after the course, via email/internet access.

Timetable

All NILE courses are held between the hours of 9 a.m. and 5.30 p.m. The working day normally starts at 9.15 a.m. and ends at 3.30 or 5.15 p.m. All courses last a minimum of 25 hours per week.

Guest Speakers

In addition to the main course team, courses often have one or more visiting guest speakers. These are usually well known figures from the world of EFL/ESL who have published and lectured widely. Occasionally they are people who are well versed in the changing face of Britain and the role of English in the world wide community.

Since NILE's courses are for serving teachers or teachers in training, these sessions with visiting speakers, along with the social programme, represent an ideal opportunity for course participants to mix socially and professionally with teachers from a wide variety of different countries and contexts.

All of NILE's courses for teachers include a significant English language improvement element dealing with a variety of aspects of the English language.