



Universität des Saarlandes

Angewandte Sprachwissenschaft sowie  
Übersetzen und Dolmetschen

## Unit 0

# Overview

An introduction to the course

Introduction to Culture Studies (UK & Ireland)

20.iv.2017 2017年04月20日

1<sup>er</sup> floréal, an CCXXV de la République

Robert Spence

CS

# General Organization

- Contact details

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- my contact details:  
(Email address, mobile number: see email)

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- my contact details:  
(Email address, mobile number: see email)
- your contact details:  
please write your name on the informal registration list in  
order to be put on the course mailing list  
please use [culture] in header of messages sent to me.

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- “c.t.” (cum tempore) vs “s.t.” (sine tempore)



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- “c.t.” (cum tempore) vs “s.t.” (sine tempore)
- default would be: start at 10:15, go till 11:45

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- “c.t.” (cum tempore) vs “s.t.” (sine tempore)
- default would be: start at 10:15, go till 11:45
- PLEASE BE PUNCTUAL!!!

- I propose to hold the exam:
- in the last week of lectures (27.7.2017)
- during the normal class time (10–12)
- BUT:
- if students prefer, it could be held a week later!

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- BA students should make sure that they understand the new 'just turn up' registration procedure

- BA students should make sure that they understand the new 'just turn up' registration procedure
- all students: please send me an email to let me know whether you are going to be writing the exam, so that I can prepare enough copies of the exam paper

# Plan of course (1)

- Wk yyyy-mm-dd Unit Topic

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# Plan of course (1)

- Wk yyyy-mm-dd Unit Topic
- 01 2017-04-20 00 Organization; theoretical introduction

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# Plan of course (1)

- Wk yyyy-mm-dd Unit Topic
- 01 2017-04-20 00 Organization; theoretical introduction
- 02 2017-04-27 01 Geology

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# Plan of course (1)

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- Wk yyyy-mm-dd Unit Topic
- 01 2017-04-20 00 Organization; theoretical introduction
- 02 2017-04-27 01 Geology
- 03 2017-05-04 02 Geography, climate, settlement

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- 01 2017-04-20 00 Organization; theoretical introduction
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- 03 2017-05-04 02 Geography, climate, settlement
- 04 2017-05-11 03 C1-C5 Roman period

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- 05 2017-05-18 04 C5-C10 Anglo-Saxons, Vikings

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- 06 2017-05-25 — NO CLASS

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- 06 2017-05-25 — NO CLASS
- 07 2017-06-01 05 C11-C15 Middle Ages

## Plan of course (2)

- Wk yyyy-mm-dd Unit Topic
- 08 2017-06-08 06 C16 Absolutism and Reformation

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- 09 2017-06-15 — NO CLASS

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- 08 2017-06-08 06 C16 Absolutism and Reformation
- 09 2017-06-15 — NO CLASS
- 10 2017-06-22 07 C17 Parliamentarism



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- 08 2017-06-08 06 C16 Absolutism and Reformation
- 09 2017-06-15 — NO CLASS
- 10 2017-06-22 07 C17 Parliamentarism
- 11 2017-06-29 08 C18 Industrial Revolution (1)

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## Plan of course (2)

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- 15 2017-07-27 — EXAM

# Brief theoretical overview

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- Historical or topical orientation

# Brief theoretical overview

- Historical or topical orientation
- Central guiding questions

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# Historical or topical orientation

- How to organize the material? Historically? Topically?

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- How many columns? how labelled?
- Look for possible (diagonal) cause-and-effect chains – e.g. social consequences of the Great Plague



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- How many columns? how labelled?
- Look for possible (diagonal) cause-and-effect chains – e.g. social consequences of the Great Plague
- Some “gaps” in the table...e.g.: Britain somewhat deficient in musicians and metaphysicians, but better-endowed with historians and epistemologists.

- What is “special” or “different” about Britain and Ireland compared to the rest of the world?

# Central guiding questions

- What is “special” or “different” about Britain and Ireland compared to the rest of the world?
- How did that specialness or differentness arise, historically?

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- What is “special” or “different” about Britain and Ireland compared to the rest of the world?
- How did that specialness or differentness arise, historically?
- Why on earth did evolution (after taking 4 billion years to get there) first become fully conscious of itself in 19th century England (of all places)?

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- Why on earth did evolution (after taking 4 billion years to get there) first become fully conscious of itself in 19th century England (of all places)?
- What contribution have scholars from this part of the world made to the development of materialist philosophy, the scientific method, political liberalism, social utilitarianism?

# Main theoretical tools

- A materialist theory of culture through time:

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# Main theoretical tools

- A materialist theory of culture through time:
- Marxian notion of base and superstructure

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# Main theoretical tools

- A materialist theory of culture through time:
- Marxian notion of base and superstructure
  - Base: Forces of production, relations of production

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- A materialist theory of culture through time:
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- Harris (and Diamond) as an alternative to Marx

- A materialist theory of culture through time:
- Marxian notion of base and superstructure
  - Base: Forces of production, relations of production
  - Superstructure: State institutions, ideology (including science, philosophy, and art)
- Harris (and Diamond) as an alternative to Marx
- Functionalism (Malinowski) from ethnography and linguistics

# Initial exercises, homework in preparation for next week

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Initial exercises: Worksheet

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- Initial exercises (the first of the weekly worksheets)

# Initial exercises, homework in preparation for next week

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Initial exercises: Worksheet

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- Initial exercises (the first of the weekly worksheets)
- Homework in preparation for next week: a very brief assignment

- You can get the first weekly worksheet at the following address:

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- <http://www.spence.saar.de/courses/culture/questions00/index.html>

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- You can also find the weekly worksheets in the coursenotes; for the first week, that would be:



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- [http://www.spence.saar.de/courses/culture/coursenotes201701/fascicles/fascicle\\_00.pdf](http://www.spence.saar.de/courses/culture/coursenotes201701/fascicles/fascicle_00.pdf)

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- The exam will consist entirely of questions from the weekly worksheets, so if you have done all the questions you will have no trouble passing the exam!!

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- Download and read the first fascicle of the coursnotes:

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- Revise your knowledge of the geological periods (last 500 million years) – what are the geological periods called in English?

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- Revise your knowledge of the geological periods (last 500 million years) – what are the geological periods called in English?
- What are the three main types of rocks (based on how they were formed)?