

## Course syllabus - Social Sciences

### Higher and Lower (plan docente)

**Course Title:** Cursos de Inmersión en Lengua Inglesa - Social Sciences

**Level:** B1-C2

**Duration:** 43 hours (class time)

#### Student profile:

This course is for students who have a special interest or need to improve their English language knowledge with a special focus on social sciences (The course is especially designed for those exploring the possibility to move into an academic or professional field where a social sciences background would be a requirement).

#### Course Objectives:

- To improve oral fluency and comprehension.
- To improve on such essential communication skills as debating, discussing, presenting, and reasoning based on topics from social sciences.
- To consolidate and learn vocabulary related to various aspects of social sciences and forms of talking about and describing these topics.
- To consolidate and reinforce existing vocabulary and structures through practical application of the language with a focus on participative communication.
- To allow the student to acquire confidence to speak in public in a variety of settings using specific English.
- To learn about and discuss cultural and social issues in the target language.
- To study and, in some cases, practice the writing skills needed for academic and professional application within this field.

#### Topics:

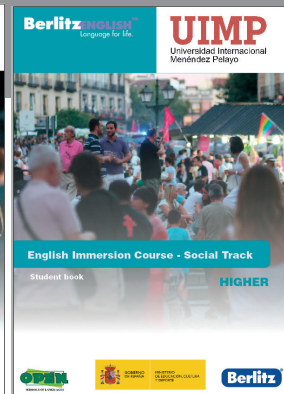
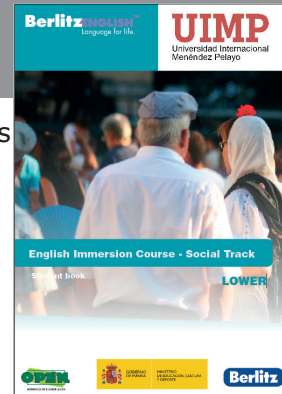
Anthropology, international meetings, politics and International administration, presenting and speaking, interviewing and fact finding, business administration, writing skills.

#### Grammatical content:

Grammar structures will be practiced during the course through practical application. Specifically needed language structures will be incorporated into the topics.

#### Methodology:

The methodology used is the communicative approach with a very strong emphasis on total participation. Students will be encouraged to actively participate at all stages of the course to maximize their oral use of the language. New language and structures are taught through elicitation and the use of the language in context. Students are then helped to assimilate these new elements through natural practice (both teacher led and free practice activities).



# Social - Day 1 - Monday

**08.30 - 09.00:** Breakfast - 'What's in the news today?' Informal discussion based on topics in international press.

**09:00-10:30** Level testing:

Teachers use prepared questions and test approx. 5 students each. While oral tests are being conducted, students are completing a written test. Students are graded numerically, with these provisional grades noted. \*After class on Monday, teachers will review level grades with students' performance in class. Any changes will be entered in the Amended level evaluation" form.

**10:30-11:30** Ice-breaker games (in groups)

Getting to know one another: Students work in pairs to obtain information about each other (10 min).  
Presentations: Each student must present their partner to the rest of the group.

**11:30-11:45** Break

**11.45 - 14.15:** Presentations

|                    |   |
|--------------------|---|
| <b>Topics:</b>     | Good presentations and good speakers<br>Different types of presentations<br>Topics<br>Dos and Don'ts of presentations<br>Powerpoint pros and cons<br>Structure of a presentation  |
| <b>Objectives:</b> | Making sure your presentation is tailored to the audience<br>Talking about the most important aspects of a presentation<br>Discussing the Dos and Don'ts of public speaking<br>Discussing and learning non verbal communication<br>Talking about the content and structure of your presentation |
| <b>Grammar:</b>    | Phrasal verbs   |

**14.15 - 15.30:** Lunch with teachers

**15.30 - 18.45:** Media Studies

|                    |   |
|--------------------|---|
| <b>Topics:</b>     | Mass Media<br>The power of the press<br>Citizen journalism<br>Product Placement   |
| <b>Objectives:</b> | Discussing mass media types<br>Talking about the news and objectivity<br>Discussing the power of the press<br>Talking about moral dilemmas and social responsibility<br>Discussing the increase in citizen journalism and its impact<br>Discussing the product placement in TV and cinema |
| <b>Grammar:</b>    | Reported speech   |

**17.00 - 18:00** One-to-One sessions + On-going group project

Students receive their 15 minute one-to-one session. While students are receiving their sessions, the remainder of the class will be working on an on-going project. The objective is to create a play/report/documentary which they must perform in front of their peers in the final class on Friday.

Feedback and review

Both Peer feedback and teacher feedback

**18:45:** Finish

|                       |                       |
|-----------------------|-----------------------|
| <b>19.00 - 20.30:</b> | <b>Group activity</b> |
| <b>20.30 - 21.30:</b> | Dinner                |
| <b>21.30 - 23.00:</b> | <b>Group activity</b> |



# Social - Day 2 - Tuesday

08.30 - 09.00: Breakfast - 'What's in the news today?' Informal discussion based on topics in international press.

## 09.00 - 11.30: Crossing Borders

- Topics:**
- Immigration - push and pull factors
  - Stereotypes - negative and positive
  - The current situation of immigration in numbers
  - Problems settling in a foreign country
  - Trends up to current day and predictions
- Objectives:**
- Discussing push and pull factors of immigration
  - Talking about stereotypes related to immigration
  - Discussing the statistics of current immigration
  - Talking about trends of movement and future predictions
  - Discussing problems that immigrants might have

## 11:30-11:45 Break

## 11.45- 14:15: Politics

- Topics:**
- Politics and the current system in Spain
  - Scandals
  - Understanding voters
  - Political ideologies
- Objectives:**
- Different systems - Monarchies
  - Discussing the meaning of 'politics'
  - Talking about the Spanish political system
  - Discussing scandals and current political news
  - Talking about how voters are analyzed and adapting speeches
  - Discussing different political ideologies and their pros and cons
  - Discussing monarchies and their place in governing countries

## 14.15 - 15.30: Lunch with teachers

## 15:30 - 18:45 Anthropology

- Topics:**
- Who am I - concept of self
  - Fields of anthropology
  - Linguistic anthropology
  - Dialect vs Language
  - Understanding culture
  - Links to the past
- Objectives:**
- Discussing what makes us "us"
  - Talking about the different fields of anthropology
  - Discussing the origins of language and language learning
  - Discussing dialects and whether they are languages
  - Talking about what makes a culture
  - Talking about modern habits and their origins

## 17.00 - 18:00 One-to-One sessions + On-going group project

Students receive their 15 minute one-to-one session. While students are receiving their sessions, the remainder of the class will be working on an on-going project. The objective is to create a play/report/documentary which they must perform in front of their peers in the final class on Friday.

## Feedback and review

Both Peer feedback and teacher feedback

## 18:45: Finish

- 19.00 - 20.30: **Group activity**
- 20.30 - 21.30: Dinner
- 21.30 - 23.00: **Group activity**



# Social - Day 3 - Wednesday

08.30 - 09.00: Breakfast - 'What's in the news today?' Informal discussion based on topics in international press.

09:00 - 11:30 Innocent until proven guilty

- Topics:** Law and legal systems  
Defining lawyers  
Civil vs Criminal Law
- Objectives:** Key legal vocabulary including types of lawyers and courtroom procedure  
Comparing legal systems  
Stange laws and their origins  
Comparing common crimes in Spain, the US and UK  
Reflecting on the causes of crime and how crime should be punished  
Debating the ethics of capital punishment  
Evaluating evidence as the member of a jury  
Designing and representing a court case

11:30-11:45 Break

11:45 - 14:15 Economics

- Topics:** EU vs individual countries: competition between countries & larger unions  
Globalization vs local economies  
Economic systems  
Currencies
- Objectives:** International Trade & Fair Trade  
Key factors to economic growth  
Importance of being a member of the EU  
Identifying economic systems  
Economically thinking  
Discovering and converting different currencies  
Benefits of fair and free trade

14.15 - 15.30: Lunch with teachers

15:30 - 18:45: Psychology

- Topics:** Personality and willpower  
Dreams and dream analysis  
Addiction
- Objectives:** Stress and anxiety  
Considering the definition of Willpower  
Discussing whether willpower is linked to personality types  
Discussing ways of improving willpower  
Talking about dreams and debating dream "facts"  
Analyzing common dreams  
Defining addiction  
Talking about the most common addictions  
Giving advice about addiction  
Discussing the difference between stress and anxiety  
Finding solutions to stressful situations

17.00 - 18:00 One-to-One sessions + On-going group project

Students receive their 15 minute one-to-one session. While students are receiving their sessions, the remainder of the class will be working on an on-going project. The objective is to create a play/report/documentary which they must perform in front of their peers in the final class on Friday.

Feedback and review

Both Peer feedback and teacher feedback

18:45: Finish

- 19.00 - 20.30: Group activity  
20.30 - 21.30: Dinner  
21.30 - 23.00: Group activity



# Social - Day 4 - Thursday

08.30 - 09.00: Breakfast - 'What's in the news today?' Informal discussion based on topics in international press.

09:00 - 11:30: Job Applications and Interview Skills

- Topics:**
- Homework check and review**
  - The world of work
  - Career paths for science-based degrees
  - Job applications
  - Evaluating cover letters and candidates
- Objectives:**
- Best practices for interviews and CV writing
  - Review basic vocabulary for jobs and interviews
  - Think about what career paths exist for someone with your qualifications
  - Discuss what factors you take into account when considering a job opportunity
  - Learn what documents you need to send with a job application
  - Assess a cover letter, and evaluate candidates for a sample job description
  - Learn how to describe your strengths, weaknesses and skills
  - Interview a peer, and participate in a practice interview
  - Learn basic telephone language
  - Practice writing a CV in English

11:30-11:45 Break

11:45 - 14:15: Sociology, Crime & Society:

- Topics:**
- Causes of deviant behaviour
  - Peak Age & 16-25 reasons
  - Negative impacts of crime on an area & causes for crime
  - Solutions & perspectives on punishment
  - Cultural comparisons: Social groups & behavior
  - Feminism / Minority groups
- Objectives:**
- Explain when behavior is deviant or criminal, using examples
  - Discuss possible reasons adolescents are susceptible to deviant behavior
  - Consequences of crime
  - Looking at the influence POV has on judgement
  - The causes and effects of social classes
  - Exploring feminism and gender equality

14.15 - 15.30: Lunch with teachers

15:30 - 18:45: Human Population & Limited Resources

- Topics:**
- Population tendency
  - Overpopulation & effects
  - Environmental issues & solutions related to technology
  - Food quantity & human population
  - Consumption & patterns
- Objectives:**
- Discuss population increases in the past and the future
  - Explore reasons for overpopulation
  - Talk about the effects of overpopulation
  - Discuss environmental issues and possible technological solutions
  - Talk about food quantity issues
  - Explore consumption patterns and changes that may have to be made

17.00 - 18:00 One-to-One sessions + On-going group project

Students receive their 15 minute one-to-one session. While students are receiving their sessions, the remainder of the class will be working on an on-going project. The objective is to create a play/report/documentary which they must perform in front of their peers in the final class on Friday.

Feedback and review

Both peer feedback and teacher feedback

18:45: Finish

- 19.00 - 20.30: Group activity
- 20.30 - 21.30: Dinner
- 21.30 - 23.00: Group activity



# Social - Day 5 - Friday

08.30 - 09.00: Breakfast - 'What's in the news today?' Informal discussion based on topics in international press.

09:00 - 11:30 Geography and travel

- Topics:** Travel preferences, experiences & how they influence people's lives and personalities  
Types of holidays & travelling, including stories and issues  
Geographical regions & climate (incl. natural disasters)
- Objectives:** Comparing types of travel  
Asking about and reporting on travel experiences  
Discussing geographical facts  
Discussing factors that influence climate  
Talking about natural disaster

11:30-11:45 Break

11.45 - 14.15: Student presentations

Students, in their groups perform the presentations they have been working on as an on-going homework activity.

They will receive feedback from both teacher and classmates

14.15 - 15.30: Lunch with teachers

15.30 - 17.00: FINAL EXAM AND EVALUTATIONS

17.00 - 18:00: Performance of project + Revision and consolidation

Student will perform the group representation that they have been working on during the afternoon sessions from Monday to Thursday in front of their peers.

7 stage activity spread to review and consolidate the language seen over the duration of the course.

18:45: Finish

