

Dicembre 2019

Icons of British and American Culture

Prof. Robert Hill

Luogo / Data: Liceo Cantonale di Mendrisio, 4 febbraio 2020

Docenti destinatari: Docenti di inglese SMS (facoltativo)

Organizzatore: Doris Parravicini, docente di inglese

Durata: 1 giorno

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Tipologia del corso

Obiettivi principali / Breve descrizione (ev. da riprendere dall'organizzatore nel programma):

Le icone culturali possono presentarsi in molte forme. Il corso ha lo scopo identificare, analizzare e paragonare numerose icone culturali provenienti sia dal Regno Unito che dagli Stati Uniti. Esamineremo inoltre le possibilità di sfruttarle durante le lezioni con delle classi liceali. L'analisi delle icone ci porterà a esaminare il loro contesto storico-culturale per capire quali elementi siano basati su fatti reali e quali invece siano frutto di stereotipi o leggende. Il corso darà infine ai partecipanti la possibilità di riflettere su icone che rappresentano altre culture (svizzera, italiana, ecc.).

Il relatore si avvarrà di diversi mezzi (spezzoni di film, rappresentazioni grafiche, testi scritti) e alla fine del corso i partecipanti riceveranno tutti questi materiali, così come la presentazione PowerPoint e una sitografia.

Programma

OVERVIEW OF THE DAY

Cultural icons come in many forms. Our aim will be to identify and exemplify a considerable number of cultural icons from both the UK and the USA and to compare, contrast and analyse them. We will also suggest ways to exploit icons in class.

Examining these icons will inevitably involve us in considering what in the icons' historical-cultural background might be based on fact and what might be mythical or stereotypical. It might also invite participants to reflect on the icons that represent other cultures (e.g. Swiss, Italian, other).[^]

The exemplification of our icons will be multi-medial, using film clips, visual artworks and written texts. All of these resources will be made available to participants, as well as the PowerPoint presentation and a webography.

PROGRAMME FOR THE DAY

1 Morning (8:15-9:45):

- Definition of 'icon'.
- The Lists: brief demonstration of the various lists of national icons available on the Internet.

People as icons

- Real-life, historical personages, from early history (e.g. Boudicca in the UK, the 'Pilgrim Fathers' in the USA) right up to the present day
- Categories of people who provide icons (politicians, royalty, military, scientists, explorers, musical composers and performers, artists, writers, actors, sportspeople, outlaws, etc.) and examples of each
- Legendary figures and fictional characters (e.g. Bond, Holmes, Tom Sawyer, Mickey Mouse)

2 Morning (10:00-11.45):

Events and defining moments as icons

- Significant historical events, both short in time and space (e.g. the refusal of Rosa Parks to move from where she was sitting on the bus) and long (e.g. a war, a wave of immigration).
- Ceremonies/Anniversaries which celebrate events or processes or people, e.g. Thanksgiving Day, the Notting Hill Carnival, Burns Night.
- Speeches

3 Afternoon (13:00-14:30):

Places as icons

- natural and urban landscapes
- buildings (both monuments and dwellings)

Artworks as icons

- works of literature
- music
- visual artworks and sculptures
- film and TV and other media
- All of the above will be seen in both 'high', canonical art and in popular art.

4 Afternoon (14.45-15.50):

Attitudes and behaviour, expressions of values as iconic

- e.g. myths of 'the island race' and 'the few against the many' in the UK and the 'frontier spirit' in the USA
- morality and humour
- how icons change across time (e.g. recent debate about statues in UK)
- national pastimes, leisure, sports

Food and drink as icons:

- 'traditional', e.g. 'roast beef of old England' and 'American apple pie'.
- Recent, 'immigrants, e.g. curry in UK, Mexican food (tacos, etc) in the USA
- Iconic foodstuffs also invite us to study cultural migration and inclusion.

Various icons (e.g. from the world of fashion, transport...)

Review of resources