

ENGLISH – A QUEST THROUGH HISTORY AND ANTHROPOLOGY

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1. INTRODUCTION

This course-book was published in 2012. by the Faculty of Philosophy (Belgrade University). It is the result of the author's attempt to offer students of history, anthropology and the classics suitable material for learning the language related to their areas of study. However, it might be suitable for students of other areas of study who wish to further explore the language within the context of the humanities.

The problem of balancing out the interests and needs of students and finding an appropriate criterion for structuring diverse material resulted in the division of the material into six widely conceived thematic modules (Remembering the Past; On Anthropology; Historical Figures; Culture, Society, Civilization; Religion, Customs, Tradition; Wars – Battles, Revolutions, Propaganda) comprising carefully selected texts. The relevant thematic context of the book appropriately motivates students to engage in discussions and freely express their views and ideas on a range of different issues while the creative and engaging tasks accompanying the texts trigger their curiosity prompting them to further delve into the subject. The language exercises following the chosen texts are aimed at improving students' reading, writing and speaking skills, while expanding their vocabulary related to their areas of study.

This selection is, at the same time, the result of the author's wish to identify some common aims of studying the language and studying the subjects the materials deal with and an attempt to integrate them. Among those aims, prominence was given to raising (inter)cultural awareness and in that sense developing tolerance in general.

The publishing of this book was enthusiastically supported by the students themselves. Through a number of questionnaires they considerably helped shape this version of the book, the last one in a series of pretested, amended, assessed and reassessed versions.

Since it currently appears to be the only course book intended specifically for students of the mentioned fields, it may serve as a starting point for authors who wish to design a similar course, geared towards the sensibilities and needs of their own students.

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