

CJVA302: Current Political Events in English Speaking Countries



The English Major
@Audenary

Foucault: Schools serve the same
social function as prisons and mental
institutions

Foucault's mum: You're still going

2017-06-19, 10:28 AM



Let me introduce myself...

- Colin Kimbrell
- New Orleans, LA, USA
- Master's graduate from FSS MUNI in Energy Security
- PhD candidate in IR, English teacher, translator, researcher
- Interested in international relations, energy transitions and energy justice, alternative fuels and energy tech



Agenda

- Course introduction
 - Objectives, requirements, expectations
- Narrowing of the topic & negotiation of the syllabus
- Video and discussion



But first...

...let's get warmed up.

Get to know a classmate:

Name + where are you joining from

Area of study + year

Expectations for the course

Topic of interest/passion

Something interesting

Course objectives

- Primary aim: to provide students with the opportunity to use English in relation to a topic of their interest
- Secondary aim: to improve students' English through practical application
- Course focus:
 - Reading articles and watching videos about and discussing current political events in English speaking countries

Course requirements

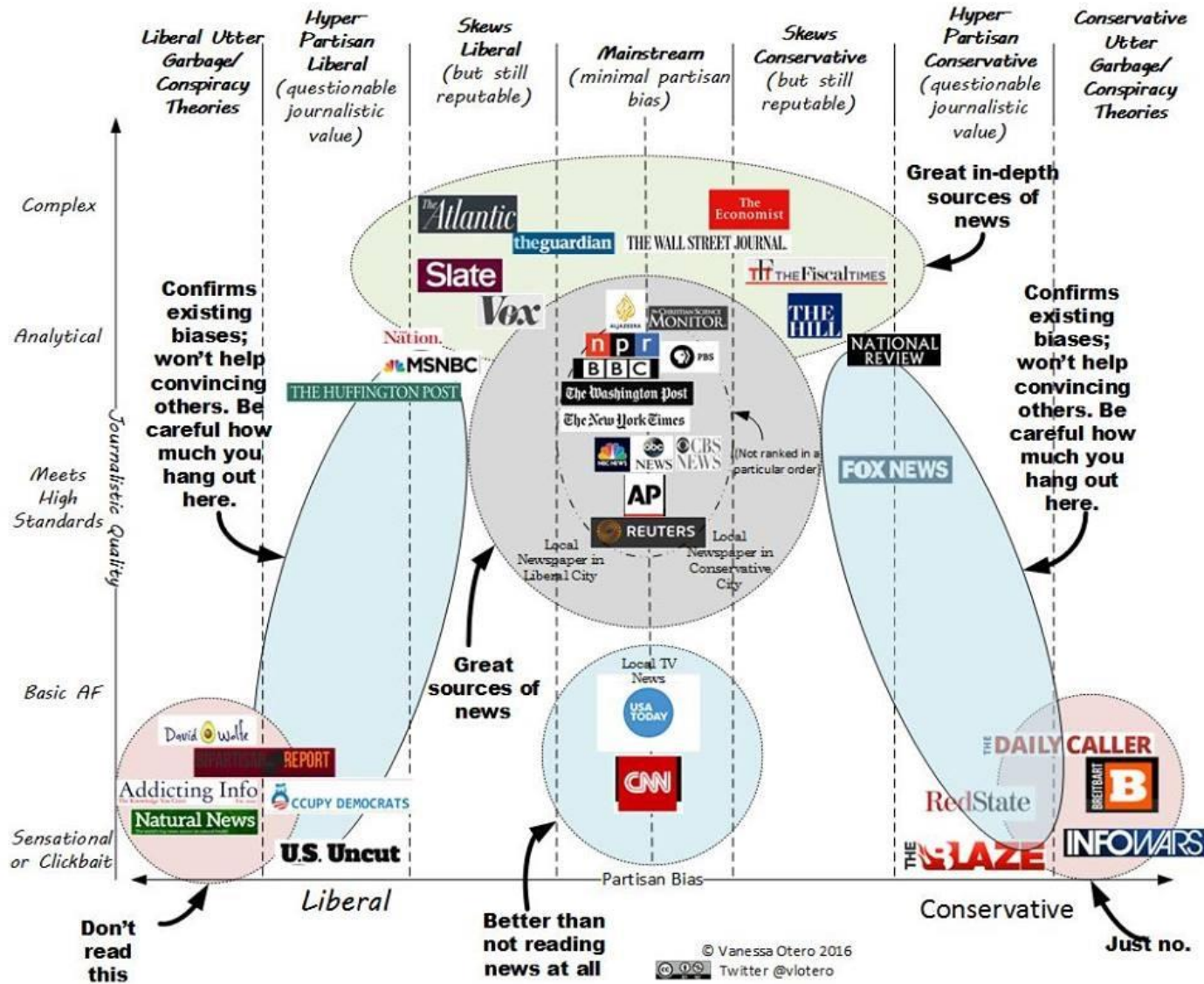
- Regular attendance (max. 2 unexcused absences)

- Continuous assessment:
 - ✓ Active participation
 - ✓ Delivering a presentation on a relevant topic
 - ✓ Writing a short position paper based on independent reading

Other expectations

- “Stay woke”, i.e. be prepared for class.
- Don’t be afraid to ask questions (you can even bring specific questions to class).
- Do additional work on your own outside of class and beyond the course requirements.
- Be open-minded and respectful!

Other expectations





Pop quiz

(no internet allowed)



Question 1

How many sovereign countries have English as an official (*de facto* or *de jure*) language? ($\pm 10\%$)



Question 2

According to a 2003 estimate by British linguist David Crystal, what is the ratio of non-native to native speakers of English?



Question 3

For half a point each, name the current Prime Minister of New Zealand and the party which he/she represents.

Question 4

For reasons of abstentionism, 7 seats in the House of Commons of the British Parliament are “unfilled”. Name the party that holds those seats (or try to explain the situation).



Question 5

Name the two congressional bodies of the United States government for half a point each. For an additional half a point each, give the total number of seats in each.



Question 6

Name the two houses of UK Parliament for half a point each.



Question 7

Name the two main parties in the United Kingdom and their current leaders (half a point each).

Question 8

Who is this person? Why is she significant?



Question 9

Who is this person (name and position)?





Question 10

This country is the most populous in Africa as well as the continent's largest economy and has English as its official language. Name the country.

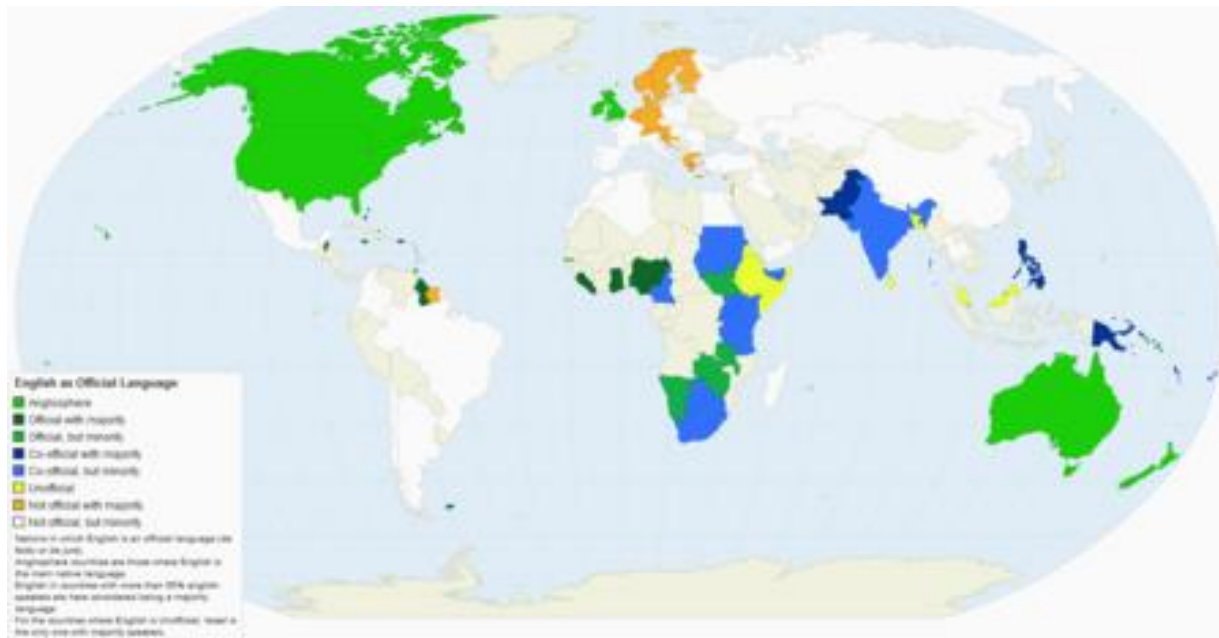


Answers

Question 1

How many sovereign countries have English as an official (*de facto* or *de jure*) language? ($\pm 10\%$)

- 73 ($\pm 10\% = 63-80$)





Question 2

According to a 2003 estimate by British linguist David Crystal, what is the ration of non-native to native speakers of English?

3 to 1

Question 3

For half a point each, name the current Prime Minister of New Zealand and the party which he/she represents.

Jacinda Ardern

Labour Party



Question 4

For reasons of abstentionism, 7 seats in the House of Commons of the British Parliament are “unfilled”. Name the party that holds those seats (or try to explain the situation).



Question 5

Name the two congressional bodies of the United States government for half a point each. For an additional half a point each, give the total number of seats in each.

- House of Representatives (435), Senate (100)



Question 6

Name the two houses of UK Parliament for half a point each.

- House of Commons, House of Lords

Question 7

Name the two main parties in the United Kingdom and their current leaders (half a point each).

- Conservative Party (Boris Johnson)
- Labour Party (Jeremy Corbyn)

Question 8

Who is this person? Why is she significant?

- Ruth Bader Ginsburg (aka “The Notorious RBG”), recently deceased liberal stalwart of the Supreme Court



Question 9

Who is this person (name and position)?

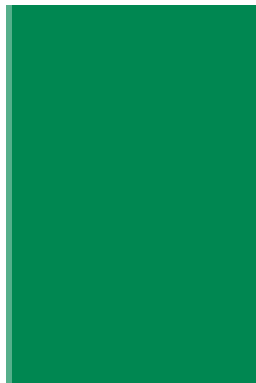
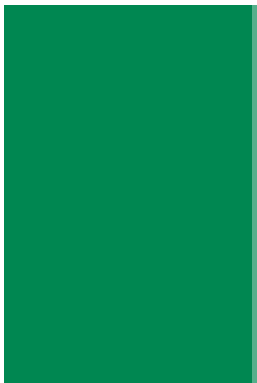
- George Weah, President of Liberia (former footballer)



Question 10

This country is the most populous in Africa as well as the continent's largest economy and has English as its official language. Name the country.

- Nigeria



Narrowing the topic & syllabus negotiation

- What countries do we mean when we say “English speaking countries”?
 - Perhaps better to think in terms of “regions”
- Which countries are you most interested in learning and reading about?
- How much do you already know about the governmental structures of those countries and the current issues?
- What are the key issues at present? What topics would you most like to cover in this course?