



CJVA302: Current Political Events in English Speaking Countries

Let me introduce myself...

- Colin Kimbrell
- New Orleans, LA, USA
- Master's graduate from FSS MUNI in Energy Security
- English teacher, translator, researcher
- Interested in international relations, sustainable development, alternative fuels and energy tech
- Other hobbies: travelling, soccer, tennis, reading



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

Area of study + year

Expectations for the course

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 and watching videos about and discussing current political events in English speaking countries

Course requirements

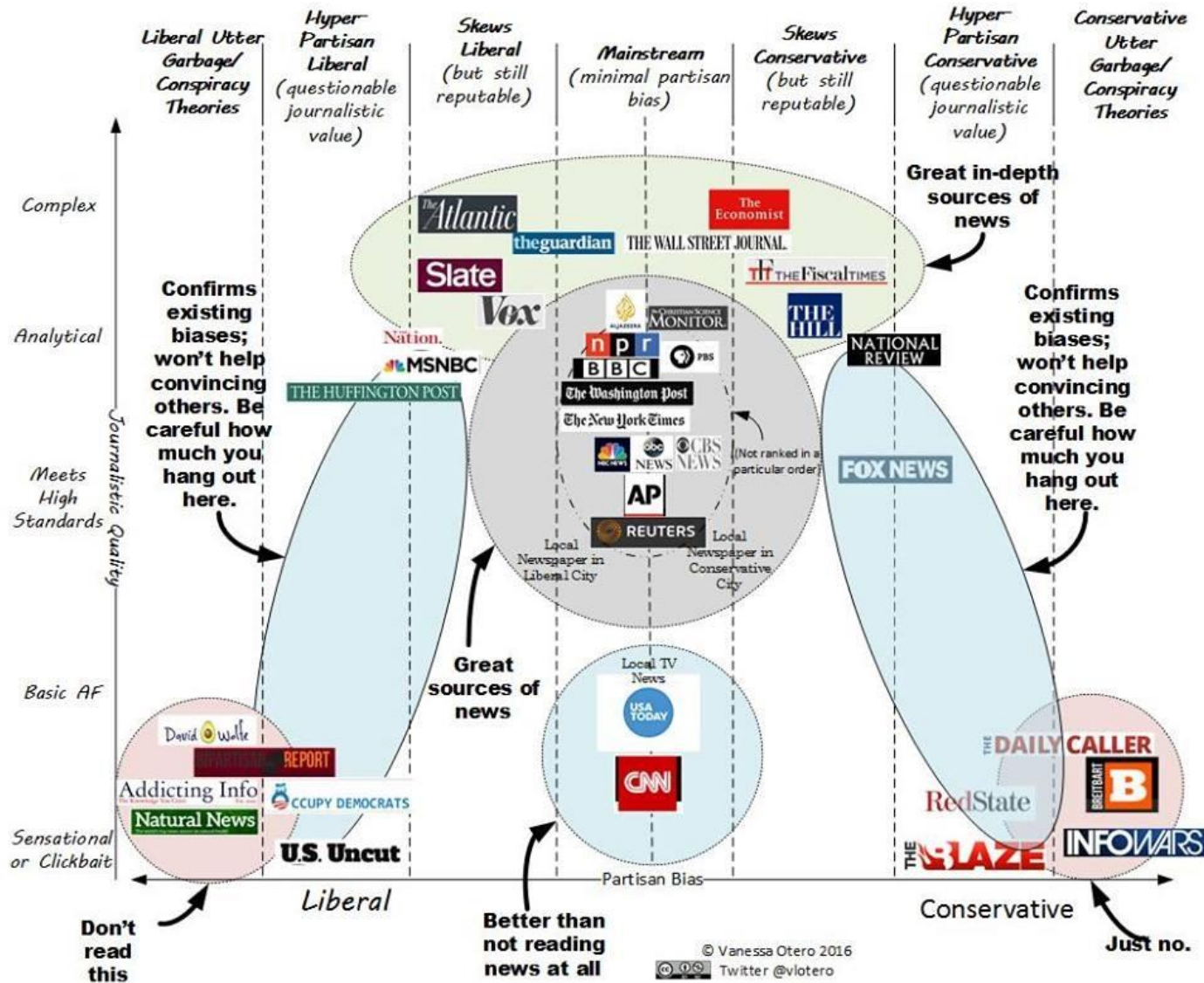
- Regular attendance (max. 3 unexcused absences)

- Continuous assessment:
 - ✓ Active participation
 - ✓ Delivering a presentation on a relevant topic
 - ✓ Giving leads on current issues
 - ✓ Writing an argumentative essay/position paper

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 have a positive attitude!

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 ration of non-native to native speakers of English?



Question 3

For half a point each, name the current Prime Minister of Australia 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.

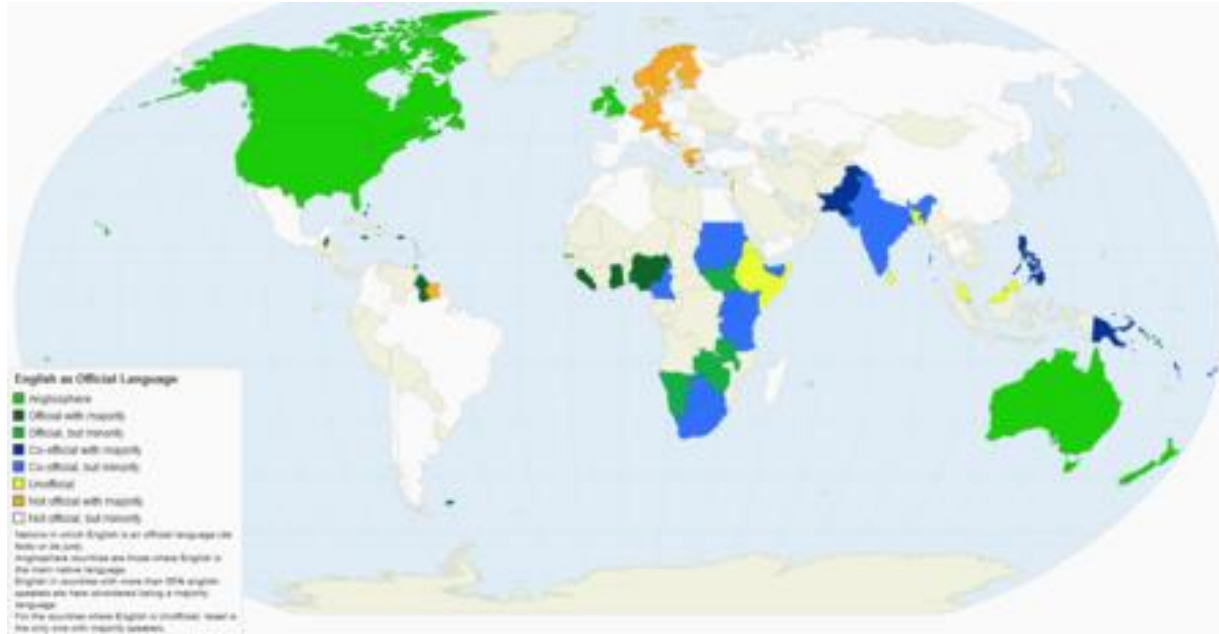


Answers

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 Australia and the party which he/she represents.

Malcolm Turnbull, Liberal 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)

Narrowing the topic

- 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?

Syllabus negotiation

- What are the key issues at present? What topics would you most like to cover in this course?

Video & discussion: Trump's speech at the UN

<https://mobile.nytimes.com/2017/09/19/world/trump-un-north-korea-iran.html?action=click&module=Top%20Stories&pgtype=Homepage>

- Did you see the speech? What do you think about it?
- What are your impressions of Trump's "America First" approach?
- The U.S. President repeatedly referred to "sovereignty" in his speech. What is "sovereignty" and what do you make of Trump's interpretation of the concept?