

## CANG 9124 et CANG9224 – Current Events and Controversial Issues



[www.opendemocracy.net](http://www.opendemocracy.net)



[www.iksokapimagazine.com](http://www.iksokapimagazine.com)



[www.occupy.com](http://www.occupy.com)

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### **Level: B2.1**

#### **Requirements:**

1. To be **interested** in the current events and controversial issues of the Anglosphere which will be covered by the course
2. To be able to conduct **independent research** online
3. To be an **active participant** in class (speaking, asking questions, volunteering information)

#### **Objectives:**

The Anglosphere (countries where English is the official language and a majority of the population speaks English natively) is almost omnipresent in French media. But why rely on 'fake' news and misrepresentations on social media, or second-hand, days-old news in the French media, when you can get it straight from the source with your English skills?

By the end of the course you should:

1. Be aware of all the different types of media in the Anglosphere (including social media), and how to decode them
2. Understand how to correctly source your primary research material
3. Have improved your ability to produce these types of media
4. Be familiar with a range of current events and controversial issues in the Western Anglophone context, as well as having a deeper understanding of the topic you choose to explore in your coursework.

Through the homework and coursework, you will develop your written and spoken communication skills.

#### **Content:**

Through the analysis of multimedia documents, students will learn to interpret, analyse, and critique current media discourse. We will use various types of media: established, emergent, traditional, online, radio, podcasts, television, video, newspaper reports, blogs, academic articles, web comics, songs, poetry, infographics, and even memes.

Each week, your homework will be either to do research on an upcoming topic, or to produce a piece of media about something you learned in the last lesson.

The controversial issues we will be covering are: **gender, sexuality, class, race, migration, and de/colonisation**. The current events are not decided until the week before the class. With such a wide range of topics, **we are only aiming to expand our awareness**, rather than become experts.

#### **Assessment:**

You will be assessed in two parts: 50% continuous assessment (homework), and 50% coursework. You will be given detailed linguistic, stylistic, and content feedback on your homework, which will be marked in exactly the same way as your coursework is marked. The coursework is a short, informative document (blog, podcast, video, infographic, etc.) on any specific current event in the context of a controversial issue **in a Western Anglophone context**, to be submitted in the final week.