**Useful sources:**

Williams, Raymond. *Keywords: A Vocabulary of Culture and Society*

Morley, David, and Kevin Robins. *British Cultural Studies*

Abercrombie, Nicholas, and Alan Warde. *Contemporary British Society* (3rd edition)

**Useful websites:**

<http://www.bbc.com>

<http://www.bbc.co.uk>/radio

<http://www.timesonline.co.uk>

<http://www.guardian.co.uk>

What is culture?

The word “culture” is used in several different ways. It may refer to ---------------------- (active) such as art, music, literature and so on, and to all the --------------------- (work) of art produced by people working in these --------------------- (field). However, it may also have a broader --------------------- (signify), and refer to the ideas, ------------------ (believe) and customs that are shared and accepted by people in a society. The special ceremonies that mark births, marriages and deaths and the ---------------------- (principle) which guide people’s behaviour and ----------------------------- (relationship) are all ----------------------- (aspect) of this type of culture. In addition, “culture” may also refer to similar ------------------------------- (phenomenon) taking place in ------------------------ (organisation) such as large companies, where particular ----------------- (attitude) or types of behaviour are accepted and others are regarded as unacceptable.

Culture is often understood to refer to forms and activities such as opera, ballet or painting. In this course, however, we will be dealing with the broader definition of culture, using the word culture as a complex whole to refer to the characteristics of a particular group or groups of people, defined by everything from language, religion, cuisine, social habits, music and arts.

Key points for discussion:

* What are the most recognizable British cultural symbols?
* What do cultural signs indicate?
* What is the difference between Great Britain, England and the United Kingdom?
* What is a rhetorical argument?