

NEWS AND VIEWS

Levels: B2, C1, 2

Thomas HARCHARICK

This is a course in the language and content of current affairs, and in the formulation, exchange, and confrontation of viewpoints. Special attention will be given to the US presidential elections which take place in the Fall of 2016. As well as working on current affairs, students will also have the opportunity to present and discuss their own viewpoints on any topic they consider important, personal or academic alike.

Aim

To provide a forum for real exchange on real topics between students, and provide help in improving the quality of these in English. To encourage students to explore English language news media and to keep abreast of world events, while keeping a critical eye open for possible “hidden agendas”.

Method

Students will take it in turns to choose articles and topics for discussion, and will also take responsibility for leading discussions and designing different activities such as interviews, simulated news programmes, and debates. Students will contribute written work towards a final “class review” – not so much a newspaper as a collection of viewpoints and varying opinions.

Evaluation

Active participation, including preparing topics and leading discussions	40%
Written work, including contributions to the “Class Review”	40%
Formal presentation	20%