**The Spread of English - English language history (jednoletý seminář - odborné téma historie)**

Welcome to our history-based seminar in English! From its home in England, to forests of Canada, to the Australian outback, and everywhere in-between, English spans the globe. 1.3 billion people (including you) speak English. Where did it all begin? In this course, you will explore the story of the English language and the many peoples who have made it their own. This course will run chronologically from medieval Britain to the present day, covering such topics as: King Alfred and the Anglo-Saxons*;* the transformation English language; the Anglican faith; British colonization and conflict in the world; the 13 Colonies and American Independence; the USA in the 1920s; music in Jamaica; Gandhi in India; Princess Diana and *The Crown*; South African apartheid; New Zealand and the All Blacks rugby team; the two World Wars; cuisine in London and Singapore; Donald Trump and his Twitter account; and more. Some topics will also be decided on by students based on collective interest.

This course will focus on history, but will also include topics from areas such as politics, economics, law, geography, and linguistics. Classroom conversation will be the focus of this course, and students will be expected to engage with materials before and during class. Participation is key—so be ready to speak! Each semester, students will conduct independent research on a topic they are interested in, write an academic history paper on that topic, and present their research. In summary, in this course, you will learn to speak, write, and present on historical topics in English. I am excited to see you in the Spread of English, and I look forward to our conversations!

David Burch