The History of Baltic, part II. The End of the 19th century – 2000

Course code: Vēst2106
Credit points: 2
ECTS: 3
Total Contact Hours: 32
Number of hours for lectures: 24
Number of hours for seminars and practical assignments: 8
Independent study hours: 48
Course developer: prof. Aivars Stranga

Course abstract
The course deals with the main problems of political, economic and cultural history of the Baltic region since the middle of the 19th century - so called National Awakenings, including a lot of material about the period of the independent states (1918 – 40; since 1990). Course deals with the main problems in historiography; the questions of common and different features in the history of Baltic nations, countries and states, with emphasis on relations with great powers (Russia, Germany), as well as the main problems of religious and cultural life, art will be covered. The history of ethnic and religious minorities will receive its due also, especially - the history of Baltic Germans, local polish, Jewish and Russian minorities.

Learning outcomes
Students will be competent to understand the history of Eastern Europe and integrate this knowledge into more wider understanding of all Europeans history. Course is specially useful to the students from another continents - USA, China, Japan. During their stay in Latvia they would get a knowledge of an interesting state, nation and culture.

Course plan
1. Introduction into the course. Historiography. (L2)
2. The Baltic Provinces in Russia: cultural, economical and political development. The national movements in Baltic: 1850–1880. (L4)
3. The Revolution of 1905 in Baltics. The specific features in Latvia. (L2)
5. The Creation of the Independent Baltic States: 1918–1920. (S2)
6. The Independent Baltic States: political, economical and cultural development in 1920–1940. Foreign Policy. (L4)
7. The Destiny of Liberal Democracy. Foreign Policy. (S2)
10. The Second Soviet Occupation (Reoccupation). Political, economical, demographical results of soviet and nazi occupation. (S2)
12. The Restoration of the Independence. (L2)
13. Conclusions. (L2)

Requirements for awarding credit points
1. Students will be expected to prepare readings and present an oral papers during the seminars – 60 %
2. Exam - Students will also write one final paper (18 000-20 000 points, double spaced, 12 point) – 40 %
Compulsory reading

Further reading
5. A. Eidintas, V. Zalis. Lithuania in European Politics. – New York, 1997

Periodicals and other sources
Course code: Vēst3291
Credit points: 2
ECTS: 3
Total Contact Hours: 32
Number of hours for lectures: 24
Number of hours for seminars and practical assignments: 8
Independent study hours: 48
Course developer: prof. Aivars Stranga

Course abstract
The course deals with the main problems of European diplomacy between the WW I and WW II and with the problems in historiography. Course covers the failed attempts to create security on continent by means of the traditional diplomacy - alliances (France’s Eastern Alliances) and by a new diplomacy of the League of Nations, collective security and plans of disarmament. Great attention is devoted to the Foreign Policy and Diplomacy of Germany, France and Great Britain, as well as to the great diplomats of the era: G. Streseman, A. Briand. E. Herriot, Ostin and Nevil Chamberlains. The Foreign policy of Russian (SSSR) and Poland receives its due, too.

Learning outcomes
After the course students could more professionally evaluate many problems in nowadays international relations, especially, great historical and territorial changes which took place in Central and Eastern Europe after Molotov - Ribbentrop Pact of August 1939; for example - it will be more easy to them to understand the relations between Moldova and Rumania today, as well as historical destiny of the Baltic States an active discussions in Europe about the common features between nazism and communism. The analysis of A. Briand’s plans of European Union (1930) would serve for the better understanding of the history of EU. A great attention will be devoted to the role of personalities in history (for example, could the great Gustav Streseman save Weimar Republic and peace in Europe unless his premature death in October 1929?).

Course plan
1. Diplomacy during the end of the WWI. Paris Peace conference. 1919. (L2)
2. The Peace treaties: content, analysis. (S2)
3. France’s Quest for security: alliances with Belgium, Poland, Chechoslovakia; treaties of friendship with Rumania and Yugoslavia. 1920 - 1926. (L2)
4 The failed attempts to reform the League of Nations. The failure of Geneva protocol (1924). (L2)
5. The aims and the means of the Foreign Policy of the Weimar Germany. The era of Gustav Streseman (1923 - 1929) (L2)
6. The Locarno treaties: analysis. (S2)
10. UK policy on the european security. 1934 - 37. (L2)
11. The foreign policy of France - from Barthyo to L. Blum. 1934 - 1938. (L2)
13 The "revolution" in british foreign policy March, 1939. (S2)
14 British - polish alliance, march - august 1939. (L2)
15 The aims of soviet Foreign Policy in 1939. Relations with Germany. Espionage and foreign policy. D. C. Wat.'How War Came' (L2)
16. The Foreign Policy of Germany till the end of the July. German - japanese relations. Soviet - german relations from the end of the July till the 19th of August: the preparation of non-agression pact and a secret protocol with Germany. (L2)

Requirements for awarding credit points
1. A participation in class discussions with 2 oral papers - 60%.
2. Final written exam - a final written paper, a topic of which is chosen in a dialog with professor; 12 - 15000 points, with a list of literature. - 40%.

Compulsory reading

Further reading

Periodicals and other sources

Notes
Though course is mainly prepared for the history students, it can attract the interest of students of economy, too, because its deals with many problems of international economy and trade in 1919 - 1919.
Recent Economic Development of Latvia

Course code: Ekon5069
Credit points: 2
ECTS: 3
Total Contact Hours: 32
Number of hours for lectures: 16
Number of hours for seminars and practical assignments: 16
Independent study hours: 48
Course developer: prof. Biruta Sloka

Course abstract
The aim of the respective course is to introduce foreign students with Economic development of Latvia in historical and current actual issues prospective. During the course comparisons are given with other Baltic countries. In course materials of Central Statistical Bureau, Bank of Latvia and other institutions are used. Students will get updated information on latest publications, recent information on materials available on the internet, recent information on economic actualities in Latvia.

Learning outcomes
After successful finish of the course, students get basic understanding about the economic development in Latvia, achievements, on news in statistical data bases and scientific publications. During the course exchange of information on current issues in economic development, often guests from ministries are invited to encourage discussions on economic actualities. During the course students get 200 pages of material in electronic version. They are reports of other students on course topics.

Course plan
1. Economic Situation: Brief Overview: comparison with other Baltic countries in the context of economic development (L1; S1)
2. GDP and development tendencies (L1; S1)
3. Structure of the national economy (L1; S1)
4. Regional development and standard of living (L1; S1)
5. State finances (L1; S1)
6. Prices. Development of prices in Latvia (L1; S1)
7. Balance of payment. Foreign direct investment (L1; S1)
8. Finance and capital markets (L1; S1)
9. Labour market, development and problems (L1; S1)
10. National Lisbon Programme of Latvia. Integration of Latvia in the Economic and Structural Policy of the EU (L1; S1)
11. Sector-Specific Development Policies. Privatisation. Public – private partnership (L1; S1)
12. Innovations and New Technologies. Information Society (L1; S1)
13. Small and Medium-Sized Enterprises. Advisory Councils of the Ministry of Economics (L1; S1)
14. Competition Policy. Regulation of Public Utilities. Protection of Consumer Interests and Market Surveillance (L1; S1)
15. Quality Assurance (L1; S1)
16. Export Promotion (L1; S1)
Requirements for awarding credit points
Active participation in seminars (20% of final evaluation); preparation of two individual home tasks (10%; 10%); preparation and presentation of one report (20%). During semester 60% of final evaluation, 40% - during final assessment (written exam).

Compulsory reading
2. Latvijas tautsaimnieciba: Makroekonomiskais apskats, LR Ekonomikas ministrija, katru gadu 4 izdevumi.

Further reading

Periodicals and other sources
4. Latvijas Investiciju un attīstības agencija http://www.liaa.gov.lv/
5. Finanšu un kapitāla tirgus uzraudzības komisija http://www.fktk.lv/
Zinātnisko žurnālu datu bāze EBSCO Zinātnisko žurnālu datu bāze EMERALD Zinātnisko žurnālu datu bāze Springer Link Zinātnisko žurnālu datu bāze Science Direct
A History of Latvian Culture

Course code: Vēst2102  
Credit points: 2  
ECTS: 3  
Total Contact Hours: 32  
Number of hours for lectures: 16  
Number of hours for seminars and practical assignments: 16  
Independent study hours: 48  
Prerequisite knowledge: Vēst2030, Latvia in 20th century  
Course developer: Inese Runce

Course abstract  
Course is based on the chronological principles. In terms of certain historical period, certain cultural processed are analyzed in 20th century and contemporary Latvia, paying more attention towards the history of intellectual thoughts and cultural development under different political, economical and ideological influences.  
Students will have thematic lectures in Riga’s museums, group discussions, and movie analysis.

Learning outcomes  
Students will gain knowledge and understanding of cultural processes in Latvia in 20th century, learn cultural facts, ideas and detect the most famous Latvian intellectuals, visit museums etc.

Course plan  
2. Culture in Latvia: 1914 – 1920 under the First World War and the revolutions of 1917. The Red terror and the influence of Bolshevistic ideology on cultural processes. The localization of Latvian culture during the Bolshevistic regime. Latvians in the Soviet Russia and their cultural rise and fall in 20s and 30s of 20th century. (2L; 2S)  
3. The development of culture during the independent Latvia: 1920 – 1940. The rise of national culture and national consciousness. Latvian culture in the European and world’s context. The regionalism in Latvian culture. The impact of K.Ulmanis' coupe on cultural processes. (2L; 2S)  
4. Latvian culture under the Soviet and Nazi occupation power: 1940-1945. (2L; 2S)  
5. The major periods of cultural development during the second period of the Soviet occupation, the main achievements and failures. The impact of Khrushchev's reform period on culture in Latvia. The national protests and its flash on cultural life. The problem of Church in the Communistic ideology. (2L; 2S)  
6. The culture of Latvian exile in the Western Europe, North America and Australia. (2L; 2S)  
7. Latvian culture during the Third Awakening process. Decolonization and democratization of culture. (2L; 2S)  
Requirements for awarding credit points

Attendance – optional
Seminars and practical classes: 50%
Written exam and study diaries – 50%

Compulsory reading

Further reading

Periodicals and other sources
www.letonica.lv
www.estonica.es
www.lituanistica.lt
A History of Ethnic Minorities in Latvia

Course code: Vēst2105
Credit points: 2
ECTS: 3
Total Contact Hours: 32
Number of hours for lectures: 28
Number of hours for seminars and practical assignments: 4
Independent study hours: 48
Course developer: Inese Runce

Course abstract
The aim of course is to give knowledge of processes and periods of formation of multicultural society of the Latvia and intellectual benefits of ethnic minorities in society of Latvia. In this course students will gather knowledge about certain ethnic minorities: Baltic – Germans, Jews, Poles, Russians, etc., from the beginnings till nowadays.
In terms of course agenda there will be organized practical classes at the museum "Jews in Latvia," Riga's Greneshikov community of Russian Old believers, discussions and analysis of articles and study movies.

Learning outcomes
This course will give deeper insight in the historical and cultural processes of development of cultural diversity and enrich understanding about Latvia's variety and specifics of culture. As well this course will present history of ethnic groups in Latvia. This course will give possibility practically meet representatives of Latvian ethnic minorities and see their institutions in charge.

Course plan
1. The historical processes of multiethnic and multireligious development of Latvia’s society. The geopolitical aspects in history of Latvia. (L4)
2. German cultural heritage in Latvia. The Baltic-Germans in Latvia: 13th -20th century. (L4)
3. Russian cultural influence in Latvia. The old believers and their cultural and religious history in Latvia. (L4; S2)
4. Polish cultural aspects in Latvia, particularly in region of Latgale and its cultural history. (L4)
5. Jews in Latvia: 16th – 20th century. The most famous Jewish personalities in Latvia. (L4; S2)
6. Estonians, Lithuanians, Byelorussians, Gypsies in Latvia. (L4)
7. The question of ethnic minorities – the perspectives in future in Latvia. The creation of new identities. (L4)

Requirements for awarding credit points
Attendance – not obligatory;
Active participation in seminars, studies tours and practical classes – 50%;
Exam (studies diaries) – 50%

Compulsory reading

Further reading

Periodicals and other sources
1. www.staroveri.lv
2. www.vecticiba.lv
3. www.jews.lv
Music in the Baltics

Course code: MākZ1031  
Credit points: 2  
ECTS: 3  
Total Contact Hours: 32  
Number of hours for lectures: 28  
Number of hours for seminars and practical assignments: 4  
Independent study hours: 48  
Course developer: Valdis Mukupāvels

Course abstract
The objective of the course is to introduce different aspects of Baltic - Latvian, Lithuanian, Estonian - musical cultures, to reveal their universal and specific features and to show their place and meaning in the life of the Baltic peoples, thus providing the students with the necessary background knowledge to discuss and to evaluate this music. Different kinds of music and its contexts are presented: from traditional to modern. Archaic vocal forms, main genres and contexts of traditional vocal music are discussed. The main functional groups of musical instruments – shepherd, ritual, ceremonial, signalization, magic and dance music instruments, and kantele-kannel-kokles-kankles, are characterized. Music of the main periods of folklorism – national romanticism, formalism and postmodernity – is discussed. Art music is presented from national romanticism and choral singing to minimalism and other modern developments. Also, popular music scene is discussed, focusing on different forms of folk, rock and the recent developments. Besides theoretical discourse, students get a certain listening experience, thus enabling them to develop a personalized viewpoint on Baltic music matters. No special musical education is required.

Learning outcomes
Students have an understanding of the basic kinds of music in the Baltic region, from traditional to modern. They can describe musical expressions in relation to their social and cultural context. The listening experience enables them to recognize and give certain characteristics of the basic kinds of Latvian, Lithuanian and Estonian music.

Course plan
Background of Baltic music culture: definition and general characteristics. L2  
2. Folk song texts and contexts. Archaic singing forms. L4  
3. Vocal music in its traditional contexts. L4  
4. Musical instruments and instrumental music. L4  
5. The study of Baltic traditional music. S2  
6. Music of the three periods of folklorism. L4  
7. Art music: from national romanticism to minimalism. L4  
8. Popular music: from early forms to rock and pop. L4  
9. Recent developments of musical in the Baltics. Diffusion and study of Baltic music. L2, S2

Requirements for awarding credit points
- Survey on a freely chosen topic of traditional music and its presentation - 50%,  
- Exam: written course
Compulsory reading

Further reading

Periodicals and other sources
1. Journal of Baltic Studies

Notes
The course is taught in English.
International Human Rights Standards in the Baltic States

Course code: JurZ2024
Credit points: 2
ECTS: 3
Total Contact Hours: 32
Number of hours for lectures: 24
Number of hours for seminars and practical assignments: 8
Independent study hours: 48
Course developer: Artūrs Kučs

Course abstract
The course provides an opportunity to study the basics of the international human rights law and the implementation of the international human rights standards in the Baltic States.

At the beginning of the course there will be an introduction in the basics of international law and human rights law, models of interrelation between the national and international law in order to facilitate the better understanding of the course for those students who do not have a legal background.

The course comprises the study of the international human rights protection system and the main United Nations human rights treaties. This is followed by the analysis of the human rights protection system established in Europe and its impact on the development of human rights in the Baltic States.

The final part of the course is devoted to the comparative study of international human right standards in the Baltic States, the progress and problems identified in their implementation. Furthermore, the human rights guarantees in the national constitutions and human rights protection mechanisms at the state level will be analyzed.

The course consists of 12 lectures and 4 seminars.

Learning outcomes
After successful completion of the course students acquire understanding about the core issues of international human rights law: concept of human rights, its content and limits, generations of human rights, main universal and regional human rights sources, which are binding to the Baltic States. Students are familiar with impact of international human rights law on the development and application of national fundamental rights catalogue in the Baltic States and are aware of main human rights problems identified by the international human rights bodies as well as proposed solutions.

Course plan
1. Concept of human rights, classification and sources. L4
2. Historical development of human rights law. L2
3. International human rights protection system L2
5. International human rights treaty bodies and their conclusions as regards the implementation of civil, political, social and economic rights in Baltic States. L4
6. Workshop Topics 1.-5. S2
7. European human rights protection system. L4 S2
8. Human Rights protection guarantees in the constitutions of the Baltic States and their implementation in jurisprudence of courts. The Ombudsman institution and other national human rights protection mechanisms. L2 S2
9. Common challenges and differences in the implementation of international human rights treaties in the Baltic states. L2
10. Test S2
Requirements for awarding credit points
1) Test (presentation of Project work) - 50%
2) Final written examination, which is composed of case-study - 50%

Compulsory reading

Further reading

Interneta resursi:
1. Lietuvas Republikas Konstitucionālās tiesas mājas lapa: http://www.lrkt.lt
2. Latvijas Republikas Konstitucionālās tiesas mājas lapa: http://satv.tiesa.gov.lv
3. ANO cilvēktiesību līgumus uzraugošo institūciju datu bāze: http://www.bayefsky.com/
4. Eiropas Cilvēktiesību tiesas datu bāze: http://hudoc.echr.coe.int

Periodicals and other sources
1. European Human Rights Review.
Course code: VidZ1000
Credit points: 4
ECTS: 6
Total Contact Hours: 64
Number of hours for lectures: 54
Number of hours for seminars and practical assignments: 10
Independent study hours: 96
Course developer: Jānis Zaļoksnis

Course abstract
Study course provide knowledge on environmental science and sustainable development on global, regional and local level. Analyse on environmental, social and economic issues and problems are given in interaction, taking in account causal relationship, as well as, possibilities of positive solutions. Study course is orientated to develop understanding all over the world as complicated, but holistic and interactive system. Earth environment is examined at atmosphere, hydrosphere, lithosphere and biosphere levels. Functions and mechanisms of these spheres, but specially, natural resources and pollution, are analysed through material and energy flows. Serious attention is pay for better understanding role and consequences of the man in natural world, building anthropogenic environment.

Learning outcomes
Academic knowledge:
1. Acquired knowledge about basic principles in environmental science and sustainable development.
2. Acquired knowledge about most important global, regional and local environmental problems and possible solutions to do away with these problems.
3. Get to the back of natural resources and environmental pollution life cycles and understanding their significance in economy and community. use this competency

Professional competence:
1. Familiarised with skills to make complicated analyses of natural, environmental, economical and social problems, as well as to analyse state of environment in Latvia and Europe.
2. Acquired skills to identify local and national resources and provide risk analysis in respect of sustainable development.
3. Developed readiness of speech and discussion about main principles, problems and modern solutions concerning sustainable development.
4. Adopted practical acquirement in use and interpretation of national and international legislation. 5. Developed proficiency to use different environmental and sustainable development indicators and data bases.

Course plan
1. THEME
L - 2

2. THEME
ENVIRONMENTAL SCIENCE. Development of the Environmental Science – historical approach.
Interaction between man and nature – substantial element for formation of the environmental science. Main principles and relevant parts of the environmental science. Integrative and interdisciplinary character of the environmental science. Systemic approach.

3. THEME
ECOSYSTEM SERVICES. What Do 'Ecosystem Services' Mean? Provisioning Services (water, food, timber, textile fibers, medications, soil). Regulation of Environmental Parameters (amount of oxygen in air, carbon and nitrogen cycle, microclimate regulation). Role of Ecosystems in Runoff Regulation. Support Services (pollination, decomposition of the remains of organic matter). Non-material Services. What Is the Price of an Ecosystem?

4. THEME

5. THEME

6. THEME

7. THEME

8. THEME

9. THEME
10. THEME

11. THEME

12. THEME

13. THEME

14. THEME

15. THEME

16. THEME

17. THEME

18. THEME

19. THEME

20. THEME

21. THEME
PREVENTION OF THE AIR POLLUTION. Need for reduction of the air pollution in Latvia and EU. Methods for reduction of the air pollution. Reduction of the emissions of sulphur and nitrogen oxides and participle matter from permanent sources. Purification plants and devices. Climate technologies. CO2 capture and storage Technologies.
22. THEME
TECHNOLOGIES FOR DRINKING WATER PROCESSING. Water demand and supply. Life cycle of water in nature and society. Regulations on mandatory harmlessness and quality for natural water and drinking water.
L - 2

23. THEME
L - 2

24. THEME
L - 2

25. THEME
L - 2

26. THEME
L - 2

27. THEME
L - 2

Total L - 54

PLAN OF THE STUDY COURSE
Nr. THEME LECTURE HOURS
1. INTRODUCTION. L-2
2. ENVIRONMENTAL SCIENCE. L-2; S-2
3. ECOSYSTEM SERVICES. L-2
4. ECOLOGY. L-2
5. HUMANS AND THE ENVIRONMENT – ENVIRONMENTAL SYSTEMS. L-2
6. NATURAL DISASTERS. L-2
7. RESOURCES. L-2
8. ENVIRONMENTAL POLLUTION. L-2
9. CLIMATE CHANGE. L-2
10. WATER POLLUTION. L-2
11. LITHOSPHERE POLLUTION. L-2
12. ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH L-2
13. ECONOMICS - THE ENVIRONMENT – GROWTH L-2
14. NATURE PROTECTION. L-2
15. CULTURAL ENVIRONMENT. L-2
16. ENVIRONMENTAL LEGISLATION. L-2
17. ENVIRONMENT AND TERRITORY PLANNING. L-2
18. ENVIRONMENTAL POLICY, MANAGEMENT, INSTITUTIONS. L-2
19. INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION IN ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AND SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT. L-2
20. ENVIRONMENTAL TECHNOLOGIES. L-2
21. PREVENTION OF THE AIR POLLUTION. L-2
22. TECHNOLOGIES FOR DRINKING WATER PROCESSING. L-2
23. WASTEWATER TREATMENT TECHNOLOGIES L-2
24. SOLID WASTE MANAGEMENT SYSTEM. L-2
25. SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT. L-2
26. IMPLEMENTATION OF THE SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT. L-2; S-2
27. A STUDENTS’ PERSPECTIVE ON SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT: IT IS OUR TASK TO CREATE AN ATTRACTIVE, SUSTAINABLE FUTURE! L-2 Total L-48; S-4

Requirements for awarding credit points
For successful acquirement of study course need at least mark "4" in 1-10 grade system, which include knowledge and skills gain at lectures, seminars and self-tough process. At the end of study course is exam.

Final mark are calculated as average from results of tests, seminars or workshops at the semester time (50 %) and result of exam (50 %).

Seminars (2 x 2 hours), Environmental films (2 hours), Environmental stimulation game (2 hours), First test (1 hour), Second test (1 hours). Total 10 hours. Final aptitude – written exam.

Compulsory reading

Further reading

Periodicals and other sources
1. Ambio http://www.ambio.kva.se
3. Environmental Science and technology: http://pubs.acs.org/journals/esthag
4. University of Latvia homepage for Environmental education www.geo.lu.lv/vides_izglitiba

Notes
Seminars (2 x 2 hours), Environmental films (2 hours), Environmental stimulation game (2 hours), First test (1 hour), Second test (1 hours). Total 10 hours. Final aptitude – written exam.

Study course includes:
- 2 seminars (2 hours each):
- Environmental stimulation game (2 hours), „Management of the National Park“ or „Pyramid“ or „Fish game“.
- demonstration of the dokumental film (2 hours)
1. An Inconvenient Truth (Al Gore) or 2. The Age of Stupid (Brittish Council)