University of Latvia

Baltic Studies: Courses
(Bachelor Level)

Autumn semester 2015/2016
[07.09.2015 – 23.12.2015]

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!!! Please register for the courses with the lecturer of the respective course.

*Information on Holidays*
November 18 - Proclamation Day of the Republic of Latvia (national holiday)

*One Latvian credit point corresponds to 1.5 ECTS credits*
Introduction to History of Diplomacy (1648 – 1918)

Course code: Vēst2350
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: Aivars Stranga

Course abstract
The course deals with the main problems of diplomacy in Europe since The Thirty Years War till the end of the WWI and with the main problems in historiography, but also includes a short introduction into the history of diplomacy in ancient Greece, Roman Empire and Byzantium. The role of the diplomacy of Venice, Florence and Milan, as well as the quest for hegemony in Europe by Hapsburgs in 15th century receives its due, too. Course deals with the definition of diplomacy as a craft, art and science. Course covers the main problems of the history of diplomacy of France, Prussia, German Empire, Hapsburg’s Empire (later - Austria, later - Austria - Hungary), Otoman Empire, Russia, USA. Students study the life of the greatest diplomats: Richelie, Talleyrand, Caslrey, Palmerston, Bismarck, Gorchakov, Grey, as well as the modern tendencies in the historiography.

Learning outcomes
A course on the history of European Diplomacy would improve the understanding of many problems, not yet resolved even in nowadays, just mention only problems in Balkans - the legacy of the Otoman Empire, as well as in Middle East - Arab - Israel conflicts, or - relations between Muslims and Christians, or - between Armenians and Turks, also - a bitter legacy of Otoman Empire. Course would improve the understanding of modern’s Russia Foreign Policy, too.

Course plan
1. Introduction: a concept of diplomacy; ancient Egypt and Greece. The role of Roman and Byzantium diplomacy. (L2)
2. The diplomacy of Venice, Florence, Milan in the 15th century - a birth of modern diplomacy in Europe. (S2)
3. Diplomacy of France in the 16th century - the struggle against hegemony of Hapsburgs. (L2)
4. The 30' Years War (1618 - 1648): the reasons, main events, results. (S2)
5. The Foreign Policy of France during the reign of Louis XIV (1670' - 1715). (L2)
6. The changes in the international relations in the Eastern Europe at the second part of the 17th century - the beginning of the 18th century. A twilight of Polish - Lithuanian state. The rise of Russia. (L2)
7. The Spanish succession's Wars in Europe. A change in the balance of powers. (L2)
8. The development of the theory of diplomacy (H. Grotius, L. Koljier and others). (S2)
9. The rise of Prussia. 17th - 18th century. (L2)
10. The three partions of Poland - Lithuania. The destruction of commonwealth. 18th. (L2)
11. France's quest for hegemony in Europe. Napoleonic Wars. 1792 - 1815. (L2)
12. Vienna congress (1815) and Vienna system. (S2)
13. The Eastern question and the decline of Otoman's Turkey. (L2)
14. The unification of Germany (1871) and its impact upon the international relations in Europe and the world. (L2)
15. The Tripartite Alliance (1882). (L2)
16. The creation of Antante (1891 - 1907). The reasons of the WWI. (L2)
Requirements for awarding credit points
1. Four oral and written papers - 60%
2. Students will also write one final paper of 12 - 1500 points, double spaced. Paper must include a plan and a list of literature. - 40%

Compulsory reading

Further reading

Periodicals and other sources
Žurnāli: Foreign Affairs, Foreign Policy, Novaja i Noveišaja Istoriija.
Interneta resursi, īpaši - Britu enciklopēdija.

Notes
A theme of a final paper has to be arranged in consultation with professor of the course, and taking into account a knowledge of languages by a student. Literature from the personal library of professor is available to students, too.
The History of Baltics: 1200 till 1850-60

Course code: Vēst1067
Credit points: 2
ECTS: 3
Course developer: Aivars Stranga

Course abstract
The course deals with the main problems of political, economic and cultural history of the Baltic region, nations and states (Lithuania); a brief introduction into ethnogenesis of Latvians, Estonians and Lithuanians will be covered also. Course deals with the main problems in historiography; the questions of common and different features in the history of Baltic nations, with emphasis on relations with neighbouring states (Russia, Poland, Sweden), as well as the main problems of religious and cultural life, will be covered. The history of ethnic minorities will receive its due also.

Learning outcomes
After attending course, participation in seminars and final paper, students will be competent to understand the history of Eastern Europe and integrate this knowledge into wider understanding of all Europeans history and specialize in the history of Eastern Europe, including history of ethnic and religious minorities and art. Students have to work in Letonika library which is the oldest and largest deposit of books, materials, sources on Baltic History in the Baltic States.

Course plan
1. Introduction into the course. Historiography. (L2)
2. The crusaders in Baltic. The creation of the Lithuanian state. (L2)
3. The results of the German’s aggression. The creation of the Livonians Confederation. (S2)
4. The history of the Livonia: political life, integrational relations. (L2)
5. The history of Livonia: economy, culture. (S2)
6. Livonia at the beginning of the 16th century. Reformation. (L2)
7. The Livonians War. (L2)
8. The Poles and Swedes in Livonia. The Duchy of Kurland. (L2)
9. The political, social and cultural history of Baltic in the 17th century. (S2)
10. The Great Northern War. (L2)
11. Vidzeme and Estonia in Russian Empire in the 18th century. The main features of the economy, political life and culture. (L2)
12. The decline of the Poland–Lithuanian State. The three divisions. (L2)
13. The Napoleonic invasion. 1812. The Baltic after invasion: the abolition of serfdom in Estonia and Vidzeme. (L2)
14. The Baltic during the period of the Nicholas I (1825–1855). (L2)
15. The reforms of the Alexander II and the Baltic. (L2)
16. Conclusions. (S2)

Requirements for awarding credit points
1. Participation in oral seminars - 50 %
2. Exam – final written paper, up to 18 - 20 000 points - 50 %

Compulsory reading

Further reading

Periodicals and other sources
Music in the Baltics

Course code: MākZ1031
Credit points: 2
ECTS: 3
Course developer: Valdis Muktupāvels

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.

Results
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 description – general outline
1. Background of Baltic music culture: definition and general characteristics.
2. Folk song texts and contexts. Archaic singing forms.
3. Vocal music in its traditional contexts.
5. Music of the three periods of folklorism.
6. Art music: from national romanticism to minimalism.
7. Popular music: from early forms to rock and pop.

Requirements for obtaining credit points
- Obtaining listening experience in lectures 40%,
- Written essay and its presentation 60%.
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
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.

Compulsory reading

Further reading

Internet resources:
1. Lietuvas Republikas Konstitucinālās tiesas mājas lapa: http://www.lrklt.lt
2. Latvijas Republikas Konstitucionālas tiesas mājas lapa: http://satv.tiesa.gov.lv
3. ANO cilvēktiesību līgumus uzraudzgošo 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.
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: 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 tautsaimniecība: Makroekonomiskais apskats, LR Ekonomikas ministrija, katru gadu 4 izdevumi.

Further reading

Periodicals and other sources
4. Latvijas Investīciju un attīstības agentūra http://www.liaa.gov.lv/
5. Finanšu un kapitāla tirgus uzraudzības komisija http://www.fktk.lv/
A History of Latvian Culture: 20th Century

Course code: Vêst2102
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: Inese Runce
Prerequisite knowledge: Vêst2030, Latvia in 20th century

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
1. The short introduction in the previous development of Latvian culture, especially paying attention towards 19th century and its major aspects. The influence of industrialization in cultural development. The Marxist ideas and its popularity in the Latvian society. The national question and segmented society – a transition from social society to the nationally segmented society. The revolution of 1905 and its influence in culture. The development of secular culture. The celebration of Riga’s jubilee. Art Novou in Riga. (2L; 2S)
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’ coup 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 Greneschikov community of Russssian 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