



COURSE UNIT (MODULE) DESCRIPTION

Course unit (module) title	Code
Traditional Lithuanian Culture: Ethnography, Folklore, Customs	

Academic staff	Core academic unit(s)
Coordinating: dr. Radvilė Racėnaitė Other:	Vilnius University Faculty of Philology

Study cycle	Type of the course unit
First	Compulsory

Mode of delivery	Semester or period when it is delivered	Language of instruction
Lectures and seminars	1 st semester (Autumn)	English

Requisites	
Prerequisites: English level B2	Co-requisites (if relevant):

Number of ECTS credits allocated	Student's workload (total)	Contact hours	Individual work
5	130	48	82

Purpose of the course unit
The purpose of the course is to develop student abilities to analyse and understand various aspects of traditional Lithuanian culture (mythology, folklore, customs of life cycle, calendar festivals, living environment, and folk art); also, their abilities to recognise and interpret modern forms and transformations of traditional Lithuanian cultural phenomena and their expression in contemporary culture and in a wider socio-cultural and ethno-cultural context.

Learning outcomes of the course unit	Teaching and learning methods	Assessment methods
Students will acquire knowledge about the main sources of Lithuanian mythology, folklore, ethnography, key researchers, and institutions and will be able to critically evaluate the information presented in the sources and research studies.	Lectures, study of academic literature and sources. Analysis of texts and discussion at the seminars	Preparation and participation in discussions at the seminars, Presentation at the seminar on chosen topic, Exam
Students will acquire knowledge about Lithuanian mythology and will be able to identify the transformation of ancient mythological phenomena in contemporary culture.		
Students will be able to identify and analyse the main genres of traditional and contemporary Lithuanian folklore.		
Students will get acquainted and gain understanding about the life-cycle and		

calendar customs and their changes in contemporary society.		
Students will gain knowledge about the forms of expression of traditional Lithuanian material culture and their significance in the wider socio-cultural context.		
Students will be able to choose the aims and objectives of their studies, to pursue them independently and collaboratively, and to critically discuss selected phenomena of traditional Lithuanian culture orally and in writing.		

Content	Contact hours							Individual work: time and assignments	
	Lectures	Tutorials	Seminars	Workshops	Laboratory work	Internship	Contact hours, total	Individual work	Tasks for individual work
1. The main sources of Lithuanian mythology, folklore, and ethnography. Key researchers and institutions.	2						2		
2. Lithuanian pagan religion and mythology. Pagan pantheon	2		2				4	6	Study of academic literature and sources reading of specified passages
3. Folk piety and religious syncretism. The importance of paganism and its revival projects in the 19 th -21 st centuries.	2						2	4	Study of academic literature and sources reading of specified passages
4. Lithuanian narrative folklore (etiological, belief, and place legends, folktales)	2		2				4	6	Study of academic literature and sources reading of specified passages
5. Lithuanian folk songs (family, work, calendar songs, polyphonic songs, laments)	2						2	4	Study of academic literature and sources reading of specified passages
6. Lithuanian small genres of folklore (proverbs, riddles, charms)	2		2				4	6	Study of academic literature and sources reading of specified passages
7. Changes of traditional folklore in contemporary Lithuania (urban legends, autobiographical narratives, postfolklore)	2						2	4	Study of academic literature and sources reading of specified passages
8. Lithuanian traditional life-cycle customs (birth, wedding, funeral)	2		2				4	6	Study of academic literature and sources reading of specified passages
9. Religious festivals in traditional culture (Easter, Christmas Eve and Christmas, Pentecost, Assumption)	2						2	4	Study of academic literature and sources reading of specified passages

10. Changes in traditional festivals in contemporary Lithuania (Shrove Tuesday, St. John's Day, All Souls' Day, and Halloween)	2		2				4	6	Study of academic literature and sources reading of specified passages
11. Housing and living environment in a traditional village	2						2	4	Study of academic literature and sources reading of specified passages
12. Traditional costume and fabric ornaments	2		2				4	6	Study of academic literature and sources reading of specified passages
13. Traditional sculpture, fine art and cross-crafting	2						2	4	Study of academic literature and sources reading of specified passages
14. Presentation at the seminar on the chosen topic			8				8	14	Individual research
15. Preparation for exam		2					2	8	Individual research
Total	26	2	20				48	82	

Assessment strategy	Weight %	Deadline	Assessment criteria
Preparation and participation in discussions at the seminars	30 proc.	During semester	Weekly assignments and participation in seminar discussions are assessed: 3 points: excellent preparation for each seminar, active participation in the discussion, well-reasoned answers to questions; 2 points: good preparation for the seminars, moderately active participation in the discussions and answers to questions; 1 point: moderate preparation for the seminars, passive participation in discussions, lack of argumentation; 0 points: missing more than 3 seminars for an unexcused reason.
Presentation at the seminar on chosen topic	20 proc.	End of semester	At the end of semester students will have to make a presentation on one of the chosen topics. Power point slides are mandatory. Assessment: 2 points: the topic is critically evaluated, visual material is supplied, student is able to answer the questions and /or participate in the discussion; 1 point: the topic is presented superficially, visual material is insufficient, student is not able to answer the questions and / or participate in the discussion; 0 points: presentation was not delivered.
Exam	50 proc.	During the exam session	The exam consists of open and closed type of questions based on material covered throughout the semester. Assessment: 10 (excellent). Excellent, exceptional knowledge and abilities. 95-100% of questions answered correctly. 9 (very good). Very good knowledge and abilities. 85-94 % of questions answered correctly. 8 (good). Knowledge and abilities are above average. 75-84 % of questions answered correctly. 7 (average). Average knowledge and abilities; there are a few not essential mistakes. 65-74 % of questions answered correctly. 6 (satisfactory). Knowledge and abilities are below average; there are mistakes. 55-64 % of questions answered correctly.

			5 (weak). Knowledge and abilities meet the minimum requirements. 51-54 % of questions answered correctly. 4, 3, 2, 1. Minimum requirements are not met. 10 points correspond to 50 % final grade.
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Author (-s)	Publishing year	Title	Issue of a periodical or volume of a publication	Publishing house or web link
Required reading				
Vėlius, Norbertas	1996	„The Character of The Sources of Baltic Religion and Mythology“, in: <i>Baltų religijos ir mitologijos šaltiniai: Nuo seniausių laikų iki XV amžiaus pabaigos</i> , sud. N. Vėlius, p. 50-78.	I	https://tautosmenta.lt/wp-content/uploads/brms/%C5%A0alt_1996_BRM%C5%A0_1.pdf
Beresnevičius, Gintaras	2000	“Lithuanian Mythology”, in: <i>Lithuanian Philosophy: Person and Ideas</i> , edited by Jurate Baranova, p. 29-35.		https://www.crvp.org/publications/Series-IVA/IVA-17.pdf
Young, Francis	2022	<i>Pagans in the Early Modern Baltic. Sixteenth-Century Ethnographic Accounts of Baltic Paganism</i> , edited and translated from Latin by Francis Young,		Leeds: Arc Humanities Press
Strmiska, Michael F. and Dundzila, Vilius Rudra	2005	“Romuva: Lithuanian Paganism in Lithuania and America”, in: <i>Modern Paganism in World Cultures: Comparative Perspectives</i> , edited by Michael F. Strmiska, p. 241-298		Santa Barbara: ABC Clío
Kazlauskienė, Gražina	2013	<i>Lithuanian Narrative Folklore</i>		http://www.esparama.lt/es_parama_pletra/failai/ESFproduktai/2013_metodine_priemone_Lithuanian_Narrative_Folklore.pdf
Račiūnaitė-Vyčiniienė, Daiva.	2015	<i>Lingo rito tatato: introduction to sutartinės Lithuanian polyphonic songs</i>		Vilnius: Lietuvos muzikos ir teatro akademija
Lina Būgienė (sud.)	2020	<i>The Storytelling Human: Lithuanian Folk Tradition Today</i> , edited by L. Būgienė		Boston: Academic Studies Press

-	1999	<i>Anthology of Lithuanian Ethno Culture</i>		http://lnkc.lt/eknygos/eka
Vaicekauskas, Arūnas	2014	<i>Ancient Lithuanian Calendar Festivals</i>		https://www.vdu.lt/cris/bitstream/20.500.12259/31628/1/9786094670176_2016.pdf
Venskienė, Asta	2013	<i>Lithuanian Folk Art</i>		http://www.esparama.lt/esparama_pletra/failai/ESFproduktai/2013_konspektas_Lithuanian_Folk_Art.pdf
Optional reading				
Vėlius, Norbertas	1989	<i>The World Outlook of the Ancient Balts</i>		Vilnius: Mintis
Vėlius, Norbertas	2002	<i>Lithuanian Mythological Tales</i> , compiled by N. Vėlius, translated by B. Kiškytė.		Vilnius: Vaga.
Vėlius, Norbertas	2000	<i>Lithuanian Historical Legends</i> , compiled by N. Vėlius, translated by B. Kiškytė.		Vilnius: Vaga
Vėlius, Norbertas	1998	<i>Lithuanian Etiological Tales And Legends</i> , compiled by N. Vėlius, translated by R. Dapkutė.		Vilnius: Vaga
Naithani, Sadhana	2019	<i>Folklore in Baltic History: Resistance and Resurgence</i>		Oxford: University Press of Mississippi / Jackson
Vaitkevičienė, Daiva		„Lithuanian Verbal Charms“, “The Corpus of Lithuanian Charm-Types“ in: <i>Lietuvių už kalbėjimai: gydymo formulės / Lithuanian Verbal Healing Charms</i> , sud. / comp. by D. Vaitkevičienė, p. 67-102; 711-859.		https://tautosmenta.lt/wp-content/uploads/2013/12/Vaitkeviciene_Daiva/Vaitkeviciene_2008_Uzkalbėjimai.pdf
Kensminienė, Aelita	2018	„Lithuanian Riddles. A Collection. A Summary“, in: A. Kensminienė, <i>Lietuvių mįslės</i> . Rinktinė, p. 455-511.		https://www.liti.lt/failai/Lietuviu%20misles_Riinktine_Kensminiene%20Aelita%20sud.pdf
Sauka, Leonardas	2016	“Along the Path of Folklore Research: 20th Century in Lithuania“ (Summary), in: L. Sauka, <i>Lietuvių tautosakos mokslas XX</i>		https://www.liti.lt/failai/Leonardas%20Sauka,%20Along%20the%20path%20of%20folklore%20research.pdf

		<i>amžiuje : tyrėjai ir jų darbai, p. 575-610.</i>		
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