



COURSE UNIT (MODULE) DESCRIPTION

Course unit (module) title	Code
The Jagiellonian Europe and the Grand Duchy of Lithuania from the Early 15th to the Mid-16th Century	

Academic staff	Core academic unit(s)
Coordinating: Prof. Dr. R. R. Trimonienė Other: -	Faculty of History, Department of Ancient and Medieval History (2026)

Study cycle	Type of the course unit
Bachelor	Optional

Mode of delivery	Semester or period when it is delivered	Language of instruction
Face to face	Spring term	English

Requisites	
Prerequisites: No prerequisites required	Co-requisites (if relevant): No co-requisites required

Number of ECTS credits allocated	Student's workload (total)	Contact hours	Individual work
5	133	32	101

Purpose of the course unit		
This course is designed to provide knowledge about the history of Jagiellonian Europe (the Grand Duchy of Lithuania, the Kingdom of Poland, the Kingdom of Hungary, and the Kingdom of Bohemia); to introduce the historical, political, and civilizational issues of the Central and Eastern European region; to understand how medieval political unions functioned; to be able to compare different forms of medieval unions, and to analyse and interpret literature and sources. In this course, students will develop both theoretical skills (understanding political history research and methods, analysing social processes) and practical skills (formulating and presenting possible solutions to problems using collected information and appropriate methods). Students will also gain research and applied knowledge. By the end of the course, students should be able to analyse problems in the history of Central and Eastern Europe in the early modern period on their own and present a chosen topic in a clear and well-structured way, both in writing and orally.		
Learning outcomes of the course unit	Teaching and learning methods	Assessment methods
Students will gain knowledge of the history of Central and Eastern Europe in the Early Modern period, will be able to identify and assess issues of political and sociocultural processes, and relate them to present-day realities.	Participation in discussions and raising problem-based questions during lectures and seminars. Independent information search, reading, and analysis of literature.	• Active participation in seminar tasks • Attendance and engagement in lectures (analysis of theoretical texts, contributions, participation in discussions, completion of analytical and practical tasks) • Written assignment • Final exam

Students will understand and be able to explain how different forms of medieval and early modern political unions functioned, compare various unions, and trace connections with today's political alliances.	Analysis, presentation, and discussion of key theoretical texts and sources of political history during lectures and seminars.							Active participation in seminar tasks and engagement in lectures (analysis of theoretical texts, contributions, and participation in discussions).	
Ability to collect, critically evaluate, and systematize scholarly literature and historical sources.	Independent search for information, reading, and analysis of literature and sources.							Completion and presentation of practical seminar tasks, ability to apply knowledge and skills acquired during lectures, and independent work. Written assignment.	
Ability to plan time, work independently, and present summarized conclusions while meeting set deadlines.	Information search, reading of literature, and preparation of a written assignment.							Presentation of the written assignment, exam.	
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. Models of states in the Middle Ages and the Early Modern period: from unitary to federal.	2						2	10	Familiarization with the course program, scholarly literature, and sources. Independent analysis of sources and literature.
2. Types of state unions: dynastic, federal, confederal, incorporative, and others.	2						2	10	Independent analysis of sources and literature.
3. The Jagiellonian dynasty: genealogy and inter-dynastic relations.	2		2				4	10	Independent analysis of sources and literature, preparation for seminars, and the written assignment.
4. Political, economic, and cultural relations between the countries of Central Europe and the Grand Duchy of Lithuania until the mid-15th century.	4		2				6	15	Independent analysis of sources and literature, preparation for seminars, and the written assignment.
5. The formation of Jagiellonian Europe during the reign of Casimir Jagiellon: the question of the thrones of Bohemia and Hungary. The place of the Grand Duchy of Lithuania in the emerging Jagiellonian Europe.	2						2	10	Independent analysis of sources and literature.
6. Jagiellonian Europe, 1492–1526: dynastic policy, ruling elite, economic and cultural relations among the Jagiellonian countries.	4		2				6	15	Independent analysis of sources and literature, preparation for seminars, and the written assignment.
7. Jagiellonian Europe and the international political situation.	2		2				4	8	Independent analysis of sources and literature,

									preparation for seminars, and the written assignment.
8. The decline of Jagiellonian Europe.	2						2	8	Independent analysis of sources and literature.
9. The legacy of Jagiellonian Europe.		2	2				4	15	Independent analysis of sources and literature, preparation for seminars, and presentation of the written assignment.
Total	20	2	10				32	101	

Assessment strategy	Weight %	Deadline	Assessment criteria
Active participation in the seminars	30 %	During each seminar	10–9 points: Active participation in discussions; excellent knowledge and understanding of the topic under discussion; answers questions; independently formulates problems and suggests possible solutions; provides critical remarks. 8–7 points: Participation in discussions; good knowledge and understanding of the topic under discussion; raises problem-based questions; answers questions; completion of most seminar tasks. 6–5 points: Limited knowledge of the topic under discussion; incomplete seminar work (assignments); superficial understanding of the seminar topic. 4–1 points: Seminar material not mastered; little to no participation in discussions, or more than one-third of seminars missed.
Written assignment and its presentation (15 min.)	20 %	At the scheduled time during the semester	Structure and scope of the written assignment: the structure of the presentation is clear and logical, including all required parts (introduction presenting the topic, objectives, tasks, and problem; presentation of the content with analysis and interpretation of empirical material; conclusions). The presentation fits the required length (2 points). Analysis and conclusions: the analysis is very thorough; the conclusions are well-founded and formulated on the basis of collected empirical material (6 points). If the analysis is carried out but not comprehensive, and conclusions are not always well-founded, 4 points. Superficial analysis – 2 points. Academic style and research culture: appropriate vocabulary is used during the presentation; sources are properly selected and interpreted; formulations and style meet the requirements of an academic presentation (2 points). Grade of 0 points is given if the written assignment and presentation are not prepared and delivered.
Exam	50 %	At the end of the course	10: Excellent knowledge and skills. 9–8: Good knowledge and skills, minor errors may occur. 7: Average knowledge and skills, with errors. 6: Knowledge and skills below average, with (substantial) errors. 5: Knowledge and skills still meet the minimum requirements. Many errors. 4–1: Minimum requirements not met.

Author (-s)	Publishing year	Title	Issue of a periodical or volume of a publication	Publishing house or web link
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Required reading				
M. Rady	2023	<i>The Middle Kingdoms: A New History of Central Europe</i>		Basic Books
R. Frost	2015	<i>The Oxford History of Poland-Lithuania: The Making of the Polish-Lithuanian Union, 1385–1569</i>	Volume I	Oxford
Ed. Darius von Güttner-Sporzyński	2024	<i>The Jagiellon Dynasty, 1386–1596. Politics, Culture, Diplomacy</i>		Brepols
O. Tůma, Oldřich; J. Pánek	2019	<i>The Bohemian Crownlands under the Jagiellons (1471–1526)</i>	A History of the Czech Lands	Karolinum Press
O. Halecki	2000	<i>Borderlands of Western civilization: a history of East Central Europe</i>		Safety Harbor: Simon Publications
Recommended reading				
E. Cybulska-Bohuszewicz; R. Ingbrant	2022	<i>Jagiellonian Heritage in Poland, Lithuania, Sweden and Finland</i>	Scando-slavica, Vol. 68 (2), pp. 203–212	Routledge
Ed. T. Klaniczay, J. Jankovics	1994	<i>Matthias Corvinus and the Humanism in Central Europe</i>		Budapest
Ed. S. Papp, St. A. Sroka, G. E. Marton	2021	<i>Poland and Hungary between the Habsburgs and the Ottomans : chapters from the History of Poland and Hungary from the Middle Ages to the Modern Age</i>		Wydawnictwo Uniwersytetu Jagiellońskiego