



COURSE UNIT DESCRIPTION

Course unit title	Code
Lithuania and Lithuanians Today: Introduction to the Lithuanian Socio-culture	

Lecturer(s)	Department, Faculty
Coordinating: Inga Hilbig	Faculty of Philology, Institute of Applied Linguistics, Department of Lithuanian Studies

Study cycle	Type of the course unit
Bachelor	Compulsory

Mode of delivery	Semester or period when it is delivered	Language of instruction
Face-to-face	1 semester (autumn)	English

Requisites	
Prerequisites: -	Co-requisites (if relevant): -

Number of ECTS credits allocated	Student's workload (total)	Contact hours	Individual work
5	125	32	93

Purpose of the course unit: programme competences to be developed		
<p>The purpose of the course is to develop student abilities to analyse and understand various aspects of the cross-cultural communication, with a central focus on the Lithuanian society and culture and developing the ability to understand and successfully operate in the local context; also, their abilities to recognise and interpret modern forms and transformations of Lithuanian socio-cultural aspects of various socio-cultural phenomena not only in Lithuania, but also in the neighbouring countries (Latvia, Estonia, Poland, etc.), be able to analyse and critically evaluate them in relation to socio-cultural and historical determinants in their own countries and in the broader intercultural fields of study and professional activity.</p>		
Learning outcomes of the course unit	Teaching and learning methods	Assessment methods
Students will acquire knowledge about the main aspects of Lithuanian socio-culture, and will be able to critically evaluate the information presented in the sources and research studies.	Interactive lectures and seminars, discussions, students' theoretical presentations	Preparation and participation in discussions at the seminars, Presentation at the seminar on chosen topic, Essay
Students will acquire knowledge about Lithuanian socio-culture and develop the ability to understand and successfully operate in the local context.	Interactive lectures and seminars, discussions, students' theoretical presentations, analysis of cultural critical incidents	
Students will be able to identify and analyse the main aspects of Lithuanian socio-culture in a wider cross-cultural context.	Interactive lectures and seminars, discussions, students' empirical presentations, analysis of cultural critical incidents film screenings and afterwards discussions	

Students will be able to understand and compare various socio-cultural phenomena in Lithuania, in the neighbouring countries and in students' own countries.	Interactive lectures and seminars, discussions, students' empirical presentations, analysis of cultural critical incidents, film screenings and discussions afterwards	
Students will be able to use knowledge and skills to oversee and to untackle potential cross-cultural misunderstandings, awareness of and skills to overcome culture shock.	Interactive lectures and seminars, discussions, students' empirical work presentations, analysis of cultural critical incidents film screenings discussions afterwards	
Students will be able to discuss and cooperate with colleagues considering topics on cultural identity.	Interactive lectures and seminars, discussions, empirical work presentations, analysis of cultural critical incidents	

Course content: breakdown of the topics	Contact hours							Individual work: time and assignments	
	Lectures	Tutorials	Seminars	Workshops	Laboratory work	Internship/work	Contact hours, total	Individual work	Assignments
1. Elements of culture, definition of culture, models of culture (iceberg, onion, etc.), layers of human mental programming, cultural conditioning, cultural identity	1		1				2	10	Practical analytical tasks. Lewis, R. "When cultures collide", pp. 8-34. "Culture Matters. The Peace Corps Cross-Cultural Workbook", pp. 5-25. https://files.peacecorps.gov/multimedia/pdf/library/TO087_culturematters.pdf
2. Lithuanian history and how it shaped the national mindset	2						2	10	Analysis of literature, discussion, and additions to the seminar topic. The History of Lithuania http://urm.lt/uploads/default/documents/Travel_Residence/history_of_lithuania_new.pdf
3. Culture as communication and cross-cultural communication as an interdisciplinary field	1		1				2	10	Analysis of literature, film

									screenings and discussions afterwards. Hostede, G., G. J. Hofstede “Cultures and Organisations. Software of the Mind”, pp. 1–19.	
4. Culture shock, managing culture shock, adaptation and acculturation	2		1					3	10	Analysis of literature, discussion, and additions to the seminar topic. Thomas, Sh. “The Culture Shock Phenomenon – Symptoms, Cures and Implications” https://www.aaref.com.au/wp-content/uploads/2020/05/09-03.pdf Winkelman, M. J. “Culture Shock and adaptation” (PDF) Cultural Shock and Adaptation (researchgate.net)
5. Cultural dichotomies: collectivism vs. individualism, high vs. low uncertainty avoidance, large vs. small power distance, masculinity vs. femininity (G. Hofstede); high vs. low communication context, monochronic vs. polychronic time perception, large vs. small communication distance (E. Hall); non-verbal communication	4		2					6	16	Analysis of literature, film screenings and discussions afterwards. Hostede, G., G. J. Hofstede “Cultures and Organisations. Software of the Mind”, pp. 39-237. Selected tasks from “Culture Matters. The Peace Corps Cross-Cultural Workbook”: https://files.peacecorps.gov/multimedia/pdf/library/T0087_culturematters.pdf
6. Lithuanian auto-stereotypes and attitudes towards foreigners	1		1					2		
7. Lithuanian visiting and hosting habits, food culture	1		1					2		
8. Watching selected films (documentaries) on Lithuanian history and contemporary society	4		2					6	10	Individual and group work with questions for reflection, class

									discussion before and after the films	
9. Analysing critical cultural incidents between foreigners and Lithuanians			3					3	10	Individual and group work and group discussion
10. Students' preparation and presentations of their research projects			4					5	16	
Total			16					32	93	

Assessment strategy	Weight %	Deadline	Assessment criteria
Active participation in the class activities	30	throughout the 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.
Research projects'	40	second part of the semester	Research projects' can be either theoretical or empirical. Oral presentations, ideally in groups of two people (20 min. + 10 min. questions and discussion). 4 point: the topic is critically evaluated, visual material is supplied, student is able to answer the questions and /or participate in the discussion; 3 point: the topic is evaluated, visual material is supplied, student isn't able to answer all questions and /or participate in the discussion; 2 points: the topic is evaluated, visual material is supplied, student isn't able to answer the questions and /or don't 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.
Essay	30	January	Free essay on students' cultural experiences in Lithuania (2-4 p.) 3 points: excellent essay, the topic is critically evaluated; 2 points: good essay, the topic is critically evaluated; 1 point: poor essay, the topic is presented superficially; 0 points: missing more than 3 seminars for an unexcused reason

Author	Publishing year	Title	Issue of a periodical or volume of a publication; pages	Publishing house or internet site
Required reading				
Hofstede, Geert; Hofstede, Gert J.	2005	Cultures and Organisations. Software of the Mind		Mc Graw Hill
Eidintas, Alfonsas; Bumblauskas, Alfredas; Kulakauskas, Antanas; Tamošaitis, Mindaugas	2015	The History of Lithuania		http://urm.lt/uploads/default/documents/Travel_Residence/history_of_lithuania_new.pdf

Lewis, Richard	1999	When cultures collide		London: Nicholas Brealey Publishing
Thomas, Sharon	2001	The Culture Shock Phenomenon – Symptoms, Cures and Implications		https://www.aaref.com.au/wp-content/uploads/2020/05/09-03.pdf
	2002	Culture Matters. The Peace Corps Cross-Cultural Workbook		https://files.peacecorps.gov/multimedia/pdf/libr ary/T0087_culturematte rs.pdf
Winkelman, Michael J.	1994	Culture Shock and adaptation	<i>Journal of Counseling and Development</i> , 73(2): 121-126, 1994.	(PDF) Cultural Shock and Adaptation (researchgate.net)
Recommended reading				
Ackermann, Felix	2017	Mein litauischer Führerschein: Ausflüge zum Ende der Europäischen Union		Suhrkamp
Davoliūtė, Violeta	2013	Making and Breaking of Soviet Lithuania. Memory and modernity in the wake of war		London: Routledge
Grinkevičiūtė, Dalia	2003	A Stolen Youth, a Stolen Homeland: Memoirs.		Vilnius
De Munck, Victor; De Munck, Trini; Antanavičiūtė, Rasa; Svolkinas, Linas	2009	Experiencing Vilnius: Insider and Outsider Perspectives		Vilnius, Kronta
Hinsley, Ellen	2017	Magnetic North. Conversations with Tomas Venclova		University of Rochester Press
Ramonaitė, Ainė	2010	Creating One's Own Reality as Resistance: The Shape of 'Parallel Society' in Soviet Lithuania	Lithuanian Historical Studies, 2010, Vol. 15, 2011. 79–106.	
Rogers, Everett M.; Hart, William B.; Miike, Yoshitaka	2002	Edward T. Hall and the History of Intercultural Communication	Keio Communication Review, 24: 3–26	http://www.Mediacom.keio.ac.jp/publication/pdf2002/review24/2.pdf
Savicka, Aida (ed.)	2007	Lithuanian identity and values	Cultural Heritage and Contemporary Change Series IVA, Eastern and Central Europe, Vol. 31	https://www.crvp.org/publications/Series-IVA/IVA-31.pdf
Senvaitytė, Dalia; Žukienė, Rasa; Klivis, Edgaras; Kuizinienė, Dalia; Višomirskytė, Vija	2014	History of Lithuanian Culture		https://www.vdu.lt/wp-content/uploads/2014/09/2014_History-of-Lithuanian-Culture_15p.pdf
Vitureau, Marielle	2015	Les Lituanien: Lignes de vie d'un peuple		DHateliers Henry Doujier
Ward, Colleen	2001	The Psychology of Culture Shock		London: Routledge

25 January 2024