



COURSE UNIT (MODULE) DESCRIPTION

Course unit (module) title		Code
CULTURAL RELATIONS OF THE COUNTRIES OF THE BALTIC SEA BALTIJOS JŪROS REGIONO ŠALIŲ KULTŪRINIAI RYŠIAI		
Academic staff		Core academic unit(s)
Coordinating: Assoc. Prof. Dr Justina Daunorienė Other: Assoc. Prof. Regina Jakubėnas, Assoc. Prof. Giedrius Tamaševičius, guest lectures (Assoc. Prof. Saulius Pivoras)		VU Faculty of Philology, Institute for the Languages and Cultures of the Baltic
Study cycle		Type of the course unit
Master		Optional
Mode of delivery	Semester or period when it is delivered	Language of instruction
Interactive lectures in classroom and students' independent work	Autumn	English
Requisites		
Prerequisites: none		Co-requisites (if relevant): none

Number of ECTS credits allocated	Student's workload (total)	Contact hours	Individual work
5	135	32	103

Goals of the course		
<p>The course aims to develop understanding and knowledge of the common cultural heritage and actual cultural contacts of the countries of the Baltic region (primarily, the Baltic countries, Poland, Germany and the Nordic countries) as well as the region's cultural history and the cultural relationships between them.</p> <p>The course aims to develop the general skills of the students: analytical, critical and creative thinking (to critically evaluate, systematize and process information from various sources; to generate ideas), problem-solving, social and communicative skills (to identify relevant problems to be solved, to discuss alternative choices; to make informed decisions, based on facts and experience; to engage in constructive teamwork), academic and professional ethics (understand and respect ethical requirements; to comply with the principles of responsibility and integrity; to engage in dialogue and seek mutual understanding).</p> <p>The course aims to develop the subject-related skills of the students too, e.g. the knowledge about and application of the theories and methods of the field; ability to formulate a research question and to communicate research findings to different audiences.</p> <p>NB. A more specific version of the course content and assignments is available on the VU Teams / Moodle platform.</p>		
Learning outcomes	Study methods	Assessment methods
Students will learn and apply the main theories on cultural contact, cultural exchange in the region, globalization and multilingualism, the	Readings, analysis of a wide range of material, various creative assignments, group	Cumulative score for participation in seminars and minor assignments; two

related terminology and research methods as well as the skills to analyse and interpret different aspects of the studied phenomena.	discussions, students' presentations for the class; active learning methods and experiential approaches (various activities outside the classroom)					tests and oral presentation of a creative applied tasks (individual or in group).
Topics	Lectures	Tutorials	Workshops	Total	Self-study	Assignments
1. Presentation of the course structure, study and evaluation methods. The countries of the Baltic Sea Region: geographical, national, linguistic and confessional aspects. Overview of the historical development of the region.	1				2	<p>All assignments and readings are available in a VMA (Moodle).</p> <p>Analysis of selected research articles and discussion. Various selective assignments, presentations of on-going projects etc., adapting to the preferences of the student group</p> <p>Analysis of various case studies.</p>
2. The Heritage of the Vasa Dynasty in the Polish-Lithuanian Commonwealth: The architectural heritage of the Vasa dynasty. The development of writing during the reign of the Vasas in the Polish-Lithuanian Commonwealth.	2		4		18	
3. Lithuania and Germany: the German Order state and its heritage (law basis, everyday life and entertainment, culinary heritage etc.). Representation of Balts in the chronicles of the Order. Reflections and legacy of the Reformation (religious and scientific writings, prominent personalities, influence on education and language; German community life). The context of Lithuania Minor and its contribution to Lithuanian education, literature and culture. Cultural contacts. Representation of the Baltic States in the German-language press before and after the declaration of independence.	2		4		20	
4. Test 1			2			
5. In dialogue with the Nordic culture. Historical cultural links between the Baltic and Nordic countries. Kazys Pakštas and the idea of <i>Baltoscandia</i> in the prewar period: 8 countries – one culture. Spread of <i>hygge</i> , <i>lagom</i> , <i>pyt</i> and other Scandinavian concepts in Lithuania and Poland. Law of Jante in Scandinavia: Is there an equivalent to find on the other side of the Baltic Sea? Trust and confidence: models of coexistence in Scandinavian societies and attempts to export them to post-1990 Eastern Europe. Is it possible to take them over to the Baltics?	2		4		20	

6. Political relations between the Nordic countries and Lithuania. Sweden's foreign policies directed at Lithuania in 1917-1991: minimalistic and episodic regional solidarity, realist-egoist prioritisation of security interests.	1		2		10	
7. Test 2			2			
8. Presentation of a case study (integrated during the semester or at the end of the semester, exact time to be agreed)		4	2		33	Presentation and discussion of the results of a creative task or case study by students
Total:	8	4	20	32	103	
Assessment strategy	Weight %	Deadline			Assessment criteria	
Cumulative evaluation of participation in seminars, including completion of assignments and tasks; Presentation and discussion of the results of a creative task or case study (40%)		During the semester			100 % completed tasks: 10 points 80 % completed tasks: 8 points, etc. Presentations will be evaluated on a 10-point scale according to the following criteria: structure, content, conclusions, coherence, communication and linguistic expression.	
Tests (1+1) (60%)		Time is allotted during and at the end of the semester.			Open and closed questions. The evaluation will be based on the 10-point scale.	

Compulsory readings NB. Students read selectively; at the beginning of each semester the relevant literature is listed on the course moodle page

Bajada, Simon. Baltic: New & Old Recipes: Estonia, Latvia & Lithuania. Hardie Grant Books; Illustrated edition. 2019

Blomkvist, Nils. The Discovery of the Baltic: The Reception of a Catholic World-System in the European North (Ad 1075-1225): 15 (Northern World). Brill; Illustrated edition. 2004

Fromm, Joseph. Good Jesuit, Bad Jesuit: Sigismund III „King Of The Jesuits“. 2010.

Mark Heleniak, The policy of King Sigismund III of Poland–Lithuania towards Muscovy during the war of 1609–1619: https://web.archive.org/web/20230122025820id_/https://ltu-figshare-repo.s3.aarnet.edu.au/ltu-figshare-repo/38790129/42676_SOURCE01_2_A.pdf?AWSAccessKeyId=RADjuIEnlStOwNiA&Expires=1674356310&Signature=qLdaBIjAgXjPWEVcOkaE9evjbLE%3D

North, Michael; Kronenberg, Kenneth. The Baltic: A History. Harvard University Press; Reprint edition. 2016

Pesel, Włodzimierz Karol. The Hygge Phenomenon. Between a Lifestyle and Nationalism. *Przegląd Humanistyczny*. 2018. 62(2 (461)), 35-47

etc.

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