



COURSE UNIT (MODULE) DESCRIPTION

Course unit (module) title	Code
Baltic Culture through Language (Baltų kultūra per kalbos prizmę)	-

Annotation
The formation, territory, and religion of the ancient Balts. An outline of the ancient Baltic culture based on data from the Lithuanian, Latvian, Latgalian, and Prussian languages, as well as from contacts with neighbouring peoples. The Christianisation of the Prussian, Lithuanian, Latvian, and Latgalian cultures. The first Prussian, Lithuanian, Latvian and Latgalian texts, and the formation of literary languages. The Lithuanian, Latvian, and Latgalian cultures in the 19 th c., during the interwar Independent Republics, through the years of the Soviet occupation, and in the period of restored independence.

Lecturer(s)	Department(s) where the course unit (module) is delivered
Coordinator: Prof. Dr Habil. Bonifacas Stundžia Other(s): Assoc. Prof. Dr Vytautas Rinkevičius	Department of Baltic Studies, Institute for the Languages and Cultures of the Baltic, Faculty of Philology, Vilnius University, Universiteto 5

Study cycle	Type of the course unit (module)
First	General university studies

Mode of delivery	Period when the course unit (module) is delivered	Language(s) of instruction
Face-to-face	Spring semester	English

Requirements for students	
Prerequisites: English level B2	Additional requirements (if any): none

Course (module) volume in credits	Total student's workload	Contact hours	Self-study hours
5	130	48	82

Purpose of the course unit (module): programme competences to be developed

The purpose of this course is: to introduce the roots and the main features of ancient and Christianised Baltic (Lithuanian, Latvian, Latgalian, and Prussian) peoples' cultures, reconstructed on the basis both of their languages, as well as contacts with neighbouring languages; to develop ability to use critical thinking and collaborative work for the investigation of cultures and analysis of distinctive cultural phenomena (not as isolated instances, but in a broader socio- and ethno-cultural context).

Learning outcomes of the course unit (module) The students will be able to:	Teaching and learning methods	Assessment methods
describe major periods and facts in the development of culture.	Lectures, seminars, discussions, academic literature review.	Participation in discussions during seminars, examination (test), group presentations.
interpret the relation between culture and language and the role of language contacts in the development of culture, as well as critically examine how major cultural values are encoded in language.	Lectures, seminars, discussions, analysis of cultural phenomena.	
critically engage with academic material, carry out individual research and combine it with that of others in a presentation on a selected phenomenon of Lithuanian and Latvian culture.	Group work, academic literature review, group discussions.	
discuss and cooperate with colleagues considering topics on cultural identity.	Group work, discussions, academic literature review.	

Content: breakdown of the topics	Contact hours							Self-study work: time and assignments	
	Lectures	Tutorials	Seminars	Exercises	Laboratory work	Internship/work placement	Contact hours	Self-study hours	Assignments
1. The origin and the meaning of the term 'Baltic'. The territory of ancient Balts based on the analysis of European hydronyms. The significance of the Indo-European and non-Indo-European cultures for the formation of Balts.	2		2				4	8	The reading: Dini, p. 46-60; Jovaiša, p. 19-37; Bojtar, p. 6-12; 80-84; Sabaliauskas, p. 20-37. Preparation for the seminar.
2. Pagan religion as an important component of the identity of the Balts: data from languages and chronicles. Cultural differences between Baltic peoples. Amber and The Amber Road.	2		4				6	9	The reading: Dini, p. 275-282; Biezajis, p. 1-10; Gimbutas, p. 85-94; Jovaiša, p. 215-232; Bojtar, p. 278-304; Vėlius, 1983, p. 273-278 (English summary). Preparation for the seminar.

3. The significance of the outcomes of language contacts for the interpretation of cultural identity of peoples. Outline of the ancient Baltic culture based on the data from contacts with Finnic, Slavic and Germanic languages.	2		4				6	9	The reading: Dini, p. 192-238, Zinkevičius, p. 1-14; Sabaliauskas, p. 12-20, 37-50; Bojtar, p. 23-35. Preparation for a seminar and presentation.
4. The process of Christianising Prussians, Lithuanians, and Latvians: the influence of East Orthodoxy, Catholicism, and Protestantism. The variety of languages and cultures in the Baltic area, and the place of Baltic languages and cultures among them.	2		4				6	9	The reading: Dini, p. 283-287, 374-391; Zinkevičius, p. 70-84; Stundžia, p. 36-41; Draviņa, p. 25-27. Preparation for the seminar and presentation.
5. The first Prussian, Lithuanian, Latvian and Latgalian texts, the beginning of printing and the formation of literary languages. The importance of cultural centres in Prague, Königsberg, Vilnius, and Dorpat (Tartu) for the development of Prussian, Lithuanian, Latvian, and Latgalian cultures (14 th -18 th c.).	2		4				6	10	The reading: Dini, p. 397-410, 467-473, Zinkevičius, p. 227-230, 241-246, 256-258; Stundžia, p. 44-52; Ross, Vanags, p. 173-192; Draviņa, p. 28-30. Preparation for the seminar and presentation.
6. The Lithuanian, Latvian and Latgalian cultures in the 19 th c. and in the Independent Republics (1918-1939). The ban of Lithuanian and Latgalian publications printed in the Latin alphabet. The standardisation of Lithuanian, Latvian, and Latgalian.	2		4				6	13	The reading: Dini, p. 473-490, Zinkevičius, p. 259-264, 276-285; Stundžia, p. 52-59; Kuizinienė, p. 11-50; Ross, Vanags, p. 180-192, 222-230. Audio/ video materials. Preparation for the seminar and presentation.
7. The Sovietisation of the Lithuanian, Latvian, and Latgalian cultures. Changes in the ethno-social situation. Interference with Russian.	2		4				6	8	The reading: Dini, p. 496-505, Zinkevičius, p. 312-323; Stundžia, p. 59-63; Šilbajoris, p. 74-104. Preparation for the seminar and presentation.
8. The Lithuanian and Latvian cultures during the new independence. The revival of the Latgalian language and culture. The Lithuanian, Latvian, and Latgalian cultures in emigration.	2		4				6	8	The reading: Dini, p. 506-517, 533-543; Zinkevičius, p. 326-332. Preparation for the seminar and presentation.
9. Preparation for the exam.		2					2	8	Individual research.
Total	16	2	30				48	82	

Assessment strategy	Weight %	Deadline	Assessment criteria
Group presentations during the seminars	30	During the semester, starting week 4	<p>During the semester students will have to make a group presentation on one of the seminar topics. The presentation will require a combination of critical evaluation of the seminar material (academic literature), as well as individual research and examples on the topic. PowerPoint slides are mandatory.</p> <p>Assessment:</p> <p>3 points: the seminar material has been critically evaluated, visual examples are supplied, students are able to develop a discussion and answer questions.</p> <p>2 points: the seminar material has not been critically evaluated by students, visual examples are supplied minimally, students lack the ability to develop a discussion and answer questions.</p> <p>1 point: the seminar material has been presented superficially, no visual examples are provided, students are not able to develop a discussion and/ or answer questions.</p> <p>0 points: the seminar material was not presented.</p>
Participation in discussions during seminars	20	Regularly during the semester, starting week 2	<p>2 points: The student contributes during class discussions on at least 2 occasions with an extensive comment, or at least with one comment (question).</p> <p>1 point: The student contributes on one occasion in a way that demonstrates his/her understanding of the topic discussed, or asks one question and, throughout the class, shows some involvement.</p> <p>0.5 points: The student does not demonstrate involvement in the discussion.</p> <p>0 points: The student is not prepared for discussions during seminars or does not participate in them.</p>
Exam (test)	50	During the exam session	<p>The test consists of open and closed type of questions based on material covered throughout the course.</p> <p>10 (excellent). Excellent, exceptional knowledge of the roots and features of Baltic peoples' culture, excellent abilities to interpret cultural phenomena which are encoded in Baltic languages. 95-100% of questions answered correctly.</p> <p>9 (very good). Very good knowledge of the roots and features of the culture of the Baltic peoples, very good abilities to interpret cultural phenomena which are encoded in Baltic languages. 85-94% of questions answered correctly.</p> <p>8 (good). Knowledge and abilities are above average. 75-84% of questions answered correctly.</p> <p>7 (average). Average knowledge and abilities; there are a few not essential mistakes. 65-74% of questions answered correctly.</p> <p>6 (satisfactory). Knowledge and abilities are below average; there are mistakes. 55-64% of questions answered correctly.</p> <p>5 (weak). Knowledge and abilities meet the minimum requirements. 51-54% of questions answered correctly.</p> <p>4, 3, 2, 1. Minimum requirements are not met.</p> <p>10 points correspond to 50% final grade</p>

Author	Year of publication	Title	Issue number (periodical) or volume number (publication)	Publishing place and house or web link
Compulsory reading				
Dini, Pietro U.	2014	<i>Foundations of Baltic Languages</i>		Vilnius: Eugrimas http://www.esparama.lt/es_parama_pletra/failai/ESF_produkta/2014_Foundations_of_Baltic_Languages.pdf
Bojtár, Endre.	1999	<i>Foreword to the Past. A Cultural History of the Baltic People</i>		Budapest: Central European University Press https://books.google.lt/books?id=Er1_CwAAQBAJ&printsec=frontcover&hl=lt#v=onepage&q&f=false
Zinkevičius, Zigmas	1996; 1998	<i>The History of the Lithuanian Language</i>		Vilnius: Mokslo ir enciklopedijų leidykla
Sabaliauskas, Algirdas	1993	<i>We, the Balts</i>		Vilnius: Science and Encyclopaedia Publishers
Jovaiša, Eugenijus	2020	<i>The Aestii. The Western Balts</i>		Kaunas: Vytautas Magnus University
Stundžia, Bonifacas	2014	<i>The Lithuanian Language: Distinctive Features, Past and Present.</i>		Vilnius: Science and Encyclopaedia Publishing Centre
Kuizininė, Dalia (ed.)	2014	<i>History of Lithuanian Culture</i>		Vilnius: Versus Aureus
Šilbajoris, Rimvydas (ed.)	1983	<i>Mind Against the Wall: Essays on Lithuanian Culture under Soviet Occupation.</i>		Chicago: Institute of Lithuanian Studies Press
Draviņa, Rūķe	1977	<i>The Standardization Process in Latvian. 16th Century to the Present.</i>		Stockholm: Almqvist & Wiksell.
Ross, Kristiina, Vanags, Pēteris (eds.)	2008	<i>Common roots of the Latvian and Estonian literary languages</i>		Frankfurt am Main, Berlin: Peter Lang.
Biezais, Harolds	2000	<i>Baltic Religion. In: Encyclopaedia Britannica</i>		Encyclopaedia Britannica entry: https://www.britannica.com/topic/Baltic-religion

Vélius, Norbertas	1989 1983	<i>World Outlook of Ancient Balts Senovės baltų pasaulėžiūra</i>		Vilnius: Mintis Vilnius: Mintis
Gimbutas, Marija	1963	<i>The Balts</i>		London: Frederick A. Praeger https://archive.org/details/GimbutasMarijaTheBaltsEN1963237P./mode/2up
Gimbutienė, Marija	1985	<i>Baltai priešistoriniais laikais</i>		Vilnius: Mokslas
Optional reading				
Anthony, David	2007/ 2010	<i>The Horse, the Wheel, and Language: How Bronze-Age Riders from the Eurasian Steppes Shaped the Modern World</i>		Princeton University Press
Manco, Jean	2016	<i>Ancestral Journeys: The Peopling of Europe from the First Venturers to the Vikings (Revised and Updated Edition)</i>		London: Thames & Hudson.
Dini, Pietro U.	2014	<i>Prelude to Baltic Linguistics. Earliest Theories about Baltic Languages (16th century)</i>		Rodopi
Rimantienė, Rimutė	2016	<i>Nida. A Bay Coast Culture Settlement on the Curonian Lagoon</i>		Vilnius: Academy of Arts Press
Butrimas, Adomas	2018	<i>Amber Discs with Cross Decoration in the South Eastern Baltic</i>		Vilnius: Academy of Arts Press