



COURSE UNIT (MODULE) DESCRIPTION

| Course unit (module) title | Code |
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| Exploring Balts: Archaeology of the Baltic Region | |

| Lecturer(s) | Department(s) where the course unit (module) is delivered |
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| Coordinator: Assist. Dr. Karolis Minkevičius | Vilnius University, Faculty of History, Department of Archaeology Universiteto st. 7, Vilnius |

| Study cycle | Type of the course unit (module) |
|-------------|----------------------------------|
| Bachelor | Optional |

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

| Requirements for students | |
|---------------------------|--|
| Prerequisites: | Additional requirements (if any): |

| Course (module) volume in credits | Total student's workload | Contact hours | Self-study hours |
|-----------------------------------|--------------------------|---------------|------------------|
| 5 | 80 h | 32 h | 48 h |

| Purpose of the course unit (module): programme competences to be developed |
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| To provide students with a better understanding of prehistoric and historical archaeology of the Baltic region. Also, to examine regional archaeological heritage and explore its perception and impact on the modern societies. Finally, to develop analytical, communicational and teamwork skills. |

| Learning outcomes of the course unit (module) | Teaching and learning methods | Assessment methods |
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| Students will acquire an overall knowledge and understanding of the archaeological heritage in the Baltic region and its broader European context. | Lectures, field trips, seminars, self-study hours. | Oral presentation on the chosen subject. |
| Students will develop communication, analytical, and teamwork skills while analysing current issues and debates in Baltic archaeology alongside different practices of heritage management and communication. | Seminars and discussions allowing students to delve into different topics, obtain additional knowledge, and improve in academic discussion. Tutorials. Self-study hours. | Powerpoint presentation of the research design/proposal on the agreed topic. |
| Students will obtain improved understanding of the impact of archaeological heritage on the modern societies. | Lectures, seminars, self-study of different information sources, academic writing. | Written essay. |

| Content: breakdown of the topics | Contact hours | | | | | | | Self-study work: time and assignments | |
|--|---------------|-----------|----------------------|-----------|-----------------|-----------------|---------------|---------------------------------------|--|
| | Lectures | Tutorials | Seminars/Field trips | Exercises | Laboratory work | Internship/work | Contact hours | Self-study hours | Assignments |
| 1. Understanding archaeology | 2 | | | | | | 2 | 2 | Independent reading, analysis of literature and/or artefact collections, essay topic selection |
| 2. Archaeology <i>in action</i> | 2 | | | | | | 2 | 2 | Independent reading, analysis of literature and/or artefact collections, essay topic selection |
| 3. Prehistoric communities in the Baltic region | 2 | | | | | | 2 | 2 | Independent reading, analysis of literature and/or artefact collections, essay topic selection |
| 4. Field trip: Archaeological heritage in Lithuania | | | 4 | | | | 4 | 4 | Independent reading, analysis of literature and/or artefact collections, essay topic selection, collecting background information on the archaeological site |
| 5. Tutorial: Key issues and debates in Baltic archaeology | | 2 | | | | | 2 | 8 | Independent reading, analysis of literature and/or artefact collections, short oral presentation on the chosen research topic, participation in the discussion |
| 6. Seminar: Should we care about archaeology? | | | 2 | | | | 2 | 4 | Independent reading, analysis of literature and/or artefact collections, preparation for the oral presentation |

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| | | | | | | | | | and discussion at the seminar, essay writing |
| 7. Field trip: Medieval towns | | | 4 | | | | 4 | 4 | Independent reading, analysis of literature and/or artefact collections, essay writing, collecting background information on the archaeological site |
| 8. Life and death in the Baltic world | 2 | | | | | | 2 | 2 | Independent reading, analysis of literature and/or artefact collections, essay writing |
| 9. Tutorial: Communicating archaeology | | 2 | | | | | 2 | 8 | Independent reading, analysis of literature and/or artefact collections, powerpoint presentation of the research design/proposal on the agreed topic, participation in the discussion, essay writing |
| 10. Field trip: Conflicts and warfare in the Baltic region | | | 4 | | | | 4 | 4 | Independent reading, analysis of literature and/or artefact collections, essay writing, collecting background information on the archaeological site |
| 11. Networks, trade, and exchange | 2 | | | | | | 2 | 2 | Independent reading, analysis of literature and/or artefact collections, essay writing |
| 12. Seminar: Media and archaeology | | | 2 | | | | 2 | 4 | Independent reading, analysis of literature and/or artefact collections, preparation for the oral presentation and discussion at the seminar, essay writing |
| 13. Archaeology of the contemporary past | 2 | | | | | | 2 | 2 | Independent reading, analysis of |

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|--------------|-----------|----------|-----------|--|--|--|-----------|-----------|---------------------------|
| | | | | | | | | | literature, essay writing |
| Total | 12 | 4 | 16 | | | | 32 | 48 | |

| Assessment strategy | Weight, % | Deadline | Assessment criteria |
|--|-----------|----------|--|
| Oral presentation on the chosen subject. | 20 | | <p>Oral presentation at a seminar is evaluated using 10-point system. Combined assessment of two seminars constitutes 20% of the final assessment. This is followed by the presentation of the research design/proposal on the agreed essay topic which constitutes another 20% of the final assessment.</p> <p>1-4 points – the student demonstrates little relevant knowledge and/or understanding of the subject, is not able to conduct data and information selection independently, fails to formulate the problem, and set aims and objectives for the topic.</p> <p>5 points – the student demonstrates some understanding and awareness of the relevant concepts and literature, is able to formulate the problem, and set aims and objectives, operates historical facts, but does not demonstrate an adequate level of understanding and/or depth of analysis and/or degree of synthesis.</p> <p>6-7 points – the student demonstrates sound understanding of a topic, is able to formulate problems related to archaeological heritage of the Baltic region, demonstrates awareness of the broader historical and cultural context, but the work is limited in terms of its depth of analysis and/or quality of findings.</p> <p>8-9 points – the student demonstrates very good understanding of a topic, is able to identify and raise major problems related to archaeological heritage, its communication and managements. The student is able to combine visual material with major questions of the research, and the work is well researched and analysed with substantial conclusions.</p> <p>10 points – the student demonstrates excellent understanding of a topic. The work is very well researched with in-depth and original analysis and fully evaluated findings and conclusions.</p> |
| Powerpoint presentation of the research design/proposal on the agreed topic. | 20 | | |
| Written essay | 60 | | Student submits a 2000-word essay on the agreed topic which constitutes 60% of the final assessment. |

| Author | Year of publication | Title | Issue of a periodical or volume of a publication | Publishing place and house or web link |
|---|---------------------|--|--|---|
| Compulsory reading | | | | |
| BALTRAMIEJŪNAITĖ, Dovilė, POŠKIENĖ, Justina, VENGALIS, Rokas, VĒLIUS, Gintautas | 2019 | The Discovered Kernavė: a Catalogue of the Archaeological Site Museum of Kernavė | | Administration of the State Cultural Reserve of Kernavė |
| GIMBUTAS, Marija | 1963 | The Balts | | Thames and Hudson: London |
| SKEATES, Robin | 2000 | Debating the Archaeological Heritage | | Bristol Classical Press: London |
| VAN HELDEN, Daniël, WITCHER, Robert | 2019 | Researching the Archaeological Past through Imagined Narratives: A Necessary Fiction | | Routledge: London |

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| ZABIELA, Gintautas, BAUBONIS, Zenonas & MARCINKEVIČIŪTĖ, Eglė | 2016 | A Hundred Years of Archaeological Discoveries in Lithuania | | Society of the Lithuanian Archaeology: Vilnius |
| Optional reading | | | | |
| GENYS, Jonas, MATTHIAS, Wemhoff, GRICIUVIENĖ, Eglė, HEINO, Neumayer, ŽULKUS, Vladas | 2018 | Klaipėda (Memel) Region: From Origins to the 17 th Century | | History Museum of Lithuania Minor |
| HARDING, Dennis | 2020 | Rewriting History: Changing Perceptions of the Past | | Oxford University Press: Oxford |
| LANG, Valter | 2007 | The Bronze and Early Iron Ages in Estonia | | Tartu University Press |
| PLUSKOWSKI, Aleksander | 2015 | Conquest and Europeanisation: the archaeology of the crusades in Livonia, Prussia and Lithuania | | Routledge: London |
| RUSSEL, Ian | 2006 | Images, Representations and Heritage: Moving Beyond Modern Approaches to Archaeology | | Springer: New York |
| RUSSOW, Erki, TOURIGNY, Eric, NEWSTEAD, Sarah, RUSSOW, Erki, URBONAITĖ-UBĖ, Miglė | 2021 | Global post- medieval/historical archaeology: the Baltic states | 2021, No. 55(3), p. 432- 444. | Post-Medieval Archaeology |
| SCARRE, Geoffrey, CONINGHAM, Robin | 2012 | Appropriating the Past: Philosophical Perspectives on the Practice of Archaeology | | Cambridge University Press: Cambridge |
| STREIKUS, Arūnas | 2022 | The Unknown War: Anti- Soviet Armed Resistance in Lithuania and its Legacies | | Routledge: London |
| TVAURI, Andres | 2012 | The Migration Period, Pre- Viking Age, and Viking Age in Estonia | | Tartu University Press |
| VAITKEVIČIUS, Vyktas | 2004 | Studies into the Balts' Sacred Places | 2004, No. 1228 | BAR International Series |
| VITKŪNAS, Manvydas, ZABIELA, Gintautas | 2017 | Baltic Hillforts: Unknown Heritage | | Society of the Lithuanian Archaeology: Vilnius |
| WITCHER, Robert | 2010 | The Fabulous Tales of the Common People (Part 1&2) | 2010, No. 9(3), p. 126- 152 & No. 9(4), p. 211- 238 | Public Archaeology |
| ZABIELA, Gintautas, BAUBONIS, Zenonas & MARCINKEVIČIŪTĖ, Eglė | 2012 | Archaeological Investigations in Independent Lithuania 1990-2010 | | Society of the Lithuanian Archaeology: Vilnius |
| | | | 1995-2022 | ARCHAEOLOGIA BALTICA |