



<b>Course title</b>	<b>Slavic Mythology and Russian Folklore</b>
<b>Course code</b>	<b><i>Folk1003</i></b>
<b>Branch of science</b>	Philology
<b>Sub-branch of science</b>	<a href="#">Folklore Studies</a>
<b>Credit points</b>	2
<b>ECTS credit points</b>	3
<b>Total number of contact hours</b>	32
<i>Number of hours for lectures</i>	16
<i>Number of hours for seminars and practical tasks</i>	16
<i>Number of hours for laboratory assignments</i>	
<i>Number of hours allocated to term paper</i>	

<b>Course developers:</b>
Dr.philol., researcher Žans Badins

<b>Preliminary knowledge (course title, part of programme, in which the course is to be acquired)</b>
No

<b>Course abstract:</b>
The study course is envisaged for philology students in the sphere of literary science. Within the course, students get acquainted with the main paradigms of the slavic mythology, with the nature of folklore and the history and poetics of folklore genres; they study the principles of interaction of folklore and literature.

<b>Learning outcomes:</b>
<p>Studiosus</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Is able to compare the Slavic mythology characters with another mythology characters;</li> <li>- Independently analysed and compared the Slavic mythology lower and upper layer of the heroes;</li> <li>- Explains the Russian folklore development framework laws;</li> <li>- Independently analyse various Russian folklore text artistic world features.</li> </ul>

<b>Course content:</b>
Slavic peoples (Eastern Slavs, Western Slavs, Yugoslavs). The concept of "Slavic mythology." Slavic mythology in the context of world mythology. Ancient Slavic deities. A God Rod's cult and its elements in folklore. Mother Earth's cult. Lada's

and Lela's cults. The highest level of Slavic mythology. Prince Vladimir's paganism reform. The new composition of the pantheon. Russian folk legends of the gods. Folklore: The meaning. Folklore poetic characteristics. Folklore as a form of verbal creativity. Folklore's educational, nurturing and aesthetic function. Russian heroic epos. Bylina. Periodization. Scenes and characters. Epic stories of Kiev period. Novgorod's epic stories and characters. Historical songs. Genre formation and transformation. Historical songs' events and characters. Historical song poetics. Lyrical songs as a folklore genre. Song characteristics. Classification. Themes and stories. Song poetics. Chastushkas. Chastushka's genre characteristics. Themes and characters. Chastushka's genre variants. Chastushkas in literary texts. Fairy-tale genre in Russian folklore. Fairy-tale variants. Poetics of tales. Tales about animals. Miracle tales. Everyday Tales. Composition types of tales text. Role of tale formula. Fairy-tales portraying expressions. Modern folklore. The essence of post-folklore. Post-folklore genre specifics.

### ***Course plan:***

Course structure: *(reflects the content of the course, its structure and calendar)*  
Lectures – 16 acad. hours, seminars – 16acad. hours, practical classes – \_\_ acad. hours.

### **Lecture topics:**

(lecture topics should be distributed according to the number of lectures)

1. Slavic peoples (Eastern Slavs, Western Slavs, Yugoslavs). The concept of "Slavic mythology." Slavic mythology in the context of world mythology.
2. Ancient Slavic deities. A God Rod's cult and its elements in folklore. Mother Earth's cult. Lada's and Lela's cults.
3. The highest level of Slavic mythology. Prince Vladimir's paganism reform. The new composition of the pantheon. Russian folk legends of the gods.
4. Folklore: The meaning. Folklore poetic characteristics. Folklore as a form of verbal creativity. Folklore's educational, nurturing and aesthetic function.
5. Russian heroic epos. Bylina. Periodization. Scenes and characters. Epic stories of Kiev period. Novgorod's epic stories and characters.
6. Historical songs. Genre formation and transformation. Historical songs' events and characters. Historical song poetics. Lyrical songs as a folklore genre. Song characteristics. Classification. Themes and stories. Song poetics. Chastushkas. Chastushka's genre characteristics. Themes and characters. Chastushka's genre variants. Chastushkas in literary texts.
7. Fairy-tale genre in Russian folklore. Fairy-tale variants. Poetics of tales. Tales about animals. Miracle tales. Everyday Tales. Composition types of tales text . Role of tale formula. Fairy-tales portraying expressions.
8. Modern folklore. The essence of post-folklore. Post-folklore genre specifics.

### **Themes of the practical classes/ seminars:**

(themes of the practical classes/ seminars should be distributed according to the number of lectures)

1. The lowest level of Slavic mythology. House spirit. The myth of the origin of the house spirit. House spirit's appearance and features. Legends about a house spirit.
2. Leshiy: origin, appearance and function. Legends of a leshiy (the forest spirit).
3. Vodyanoy (the water spirit): origin, appearance and function. Legends about a vodyanoy. Mermaid. Legends about a mermaid. Mermaid in folklore and literature.
4. Analysis of Bylina. Epic poetry.
5. The calendar poetry. People's calendar. Time cycles. Permanent and rolling (from Easter dependent) holidays. Christmas. Shrovetide. Easter. Summer holiday. Solstice (Ivan Kupala).
6. Web folklore. Main approaches and methods for web folklore research.
7. Children's folklore. Pupils' folklore. Student folklore characteristics. Classification. Narrative poetics. Everyday folklore. Toy folklore. Pleasure folklore. Children's folklore pedagogical role.
8. The Folklore of Baltic Russians.

**Students' independent work:** Preparing for the seminars and final exam students get acquainted with the main texts of Eastern mythology and Russian folklore, describe the semantics and poetics of the texts basing on literature included in Compulsory and Further reading lists. Students prepare summaries and reports; during the seminars they present them, then discussion is made and students listen to other students' opinion on the subject.

1. Russian folk calendar.
2. Winter Festival calendar peculiarities of the Slavic culture.
3. Traditional culture of 'Svyatki' .
4. Spring Festival calendar peculiarities of the Slavic culture.
5. Summer holiday calendar peculiarities of the Slavic culture.
6. Autumn Festival calendar peculiarities of the Slavic culture.
7. 'Own' and 'strange' land opposition in Slavic mythology and folklore.
8. Sea in Slavic folklore.
9. White and black opposition in Russian folklore.
10. The left and right opposition in Russian folklore.
11. Traditional Russian ornaments and patterns.
12. Mythological and folk stories in Russian painting.
13. Mythological and folk stories in Russian literature.
14. Mythological and folk stories in Russian music.

***Requirements for awarding credit points:***

Regular attendance and active work 10%  
participation in seminars 40%, final examination - 50%.

***Compulsory reading:***

1. Haney J. An Introduction to the Russian Folktale. New York, 1999.
2. Haney J. An Anthology of Russian Folktales. New York, 2009.
3. Лаврентьева Л.С. Культура русского народа: обычаи, обряды, занятия, фольклор. Санкт-Петербург: Паритет, 2005.

4. Новиков Ю., Петкевич Г. Национальная картина мира в русском фольклоре. Вильнюс, 2008.
5. Панченко А.А. Интернет и фольклористика // Актуальные проблемы современной фольклористики и изучения классического наследия русской литературы. Сборник научных статей памяти профессора Е.А. Костюхина. СПб., 2009. С. 104-122.
6. Пропп В.Я. Исторические корни волшебной сказки. Морфология сказки. С.-Петербург, 1998.
7. Пропп В.Я. Поэтика фольклора. С.-Петербург, 1998.
8. Русский фольклор в записях студентов Даугавпилсского университета (1963- 1991). Daugavpils: Saule, 2008.
9. Рыбаков Б. Язычество древних славян. Москва: «Культура», «Академический проект», 2015.
10. Тихомиров С. Фольклор современной городской молодежи: аксиологический аспект. Санкт-Петербург, 2009.

***Further reading:***

1. Haney J. Russian Wondertales. New York, 2001.
2. Haney J. An Introduction to the Russian Folktale. New York, 1999.
3. Kõiva M., Liisa V. Contemporary Folklore, Internet and Communities at the beginning of the 21st Century. Media & Folklore // Contemporary Folklore IV. Tartu, 2009. P. 97–117.
4. Азбелев С.Н. Историзм былин и специфика фольклора. Ленинград, 1982.
5. Аникин В.П., Круглов Ю.Г. Русское народное поэтическое творчество. Ленинград, 1983.
6. Аникин В.П. Русский богатырский эпос. Москва, 1964.
7. Афанасьев А.Н. Поэтические воззрения славян на природу: в 3 т. Москва, 1994.
8. Былины. Москва, 1988.
9. Ведерникова Н.М. Русская народная сказка. Москва, 1975.
10. Веселовский А.Н. Работы о фольклоре на немецком языке: Тексты. Опыт параллельного перевода. Москва: ИМЛИ РАН, 2004.
11. Жирмунский В. М. Фольклор запада и востока: Сравнительно-исторические очерки. Москва: ОГИ, 2004.
12. Еремина В.И. Поэтический строй русской народной лирики. Ленинград, 1978.
13. Еремина В.И. Ритуал и фольклор. Ленинград, 1991.
14. Инфантьев Б.Т. Балто-славянские культурные связи: лексика, мифология, фольклор. Рига: Веди, 2007.
15. Лихачев Д.С., Панченко А.М. «Смеховой мир» Древней Руси. Ленинград, 1976.
16. Мельников М.Н. Русский детский фольклор. Москва : Просвещение, 1987.
17. Неклюдов С.Ю. Несколько слов о постфольклоре // Тубалова И.В., Эммер Ю.А. Язык фольклора. Учебно–методическое пособие. Томск: Филол. ф–т ТГУ, 2005. С. 65–66 (<http://www.ruthenia.ru/folklore/postfolk.htm>).
18. Новикова А.М., Александрова Е.А. Фольклор и литература. Семинарий. Москва, 1978.

19. Русский фольклор в Латвии: песни, обряды и детский фольклор / сост. И.Д. Фридрих. Рига: Лиесма, 1972.
20. Русский фольклор в Латвии: Сказки / Сост.И.Д.Фридрих. Рига: Лиесма, 1980.
21. Славянская мифология. Энциклопедический словарь. Москва, 1995.
22. Современный городской фольклор / Отв. ред. С.Ю. Неклюдов. Москва, 2003.
23. Структура волшебной сказки / Мелетинский Е.М., Неклюдов С.Ю., Новик Е.С., Сегал Д.М. М.: РГГУ, 2001 (Традиция–текст–фольклор: типология и семиотика).
24. Фольклор, постфольклор, быт, литература : сборник статей к 60-летию Александра Федоровича Белоусова. Санкт-Петербург: СПбГУКИ, 2006

***Periodicals and other sources:***

«Живая старина»

«Славяноведение»

«Словѣне»

<http://www.virginia.edu/~slavic/seefa/INDEX.HTM>

<http://www.ruthenia.ru/folklore/>

<http://rusfolklor.ru/>

<http://lib.pushkinskiydom.ru/>

***Remarks:***

***To which study programmes and their parts (A, B, C, D) this course belongs:***

Bachelor's study program "Philology" Part A