



Course title	East-Slavic Mythology and Russian Folklore (Russian as the second language)
Course code	<i>Folk1004</i>
Branch of science	Philology
Sub-branch of science	Folklore Studies
Credit points	2
ECTS credit points	3
Total number of contact hours	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>	

Course developers:

Dr.philol., researcher Žans Badins
Dr.philol., doc. Genādijs Markovs

Preliminary knowledge (course title, part of programme, in which the course is to be acquired)

No

Course abstract:

The study course is envisaged for philology students in the sphere of literary science. Within the course, the students get acquainted with the main paradigms of the Slavic mythology, the nature of folklore and the history and poetics of folklore genres; they study the principles of interaction of folklore and literature.

Learning outcomes:

Course content:

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 – 16 acad. 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.

Presentation topics:

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

Requirements for awarding credit points:

Regular attendance and active work in 10%
participation in seminars 40%, final examination - an examination of 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. McClelland Bruce. Online Orality: The Internet, Folklore and Culture in Russia // Culture and Technology in the New Europe: Civic Discourse in Transformation in Post-Socialist Nations. Stamford, 2000. P. 179-194.

4. Зеленин Д.К. Восточнославянская этнография. М., 1991.
5. Лаврентьева Л.С. Культура русского народа: обычаи, обряды, занятия, фольклор. Санкт-Петербург: Паритет, 2004.
6. Новиков Ю., Петкевич Г. Национальная картина мира в русском фольклоре. Истоки. Динамика развития Текст. Вильнюс: изд-во ВПУ, 2008.
7. Пропп В.Я. Исторические корни волшебной сказки. Морфология сказки. Москва: «Лабиринт», 1998.
8. Пропп В.Я. Поэтика фольклора. Москва: «Лабиринт», 1998.
9. Русский фольклор в записях студентов Даугавпилсского университета (1963 - 1991). Daugavpils: Saule, 2008.
10. Рыбаков Б. Язычество древних славян. Москва: «Культура», «Академический проект», 2015.
11. 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. Азбелев С.Н. Историзм былин и специфика фольклора. Ленинград, 1982.
4. Аникин В.П., Круглов Ю.Г. Русское народное поэтическое творчество. Ленинград, 1983.
5. Аникин В.П. Русский богатырский эпос. Москва, 1964.
6. Афанасьев А.Н. Поэтические воззрения славян на природу: в 3 т. Москва, 1994.
7. Былины. Москва, 1988.
8. Веселовский А.Н. Работы о фольклоре на немецком языке: Тексты. Опыт параллельного перевода. Москва: ИМЛИ РАН, 2004.
9. Виноградова Л. Народная демонология и мифо-ритуальная традиция славян. Москва: Индрик, 2000.
10. Жирмунский В. М. Фольклор запада и востока: Сравнительно-исторические очерки. Москва: ОГИ, 2004.
11. Еремина В.И. Поэтический строй русской народной лирики. Ленинград, 1978.
12. Еремина В.И. Ритуал и фольклор. Ленинград, 1991.
13. Инфантьев Б.Т. Балто-славянские культурные связи: лексика, мифология, фольклор. Рига: Веди, 2007.
14. Кербелите Б.П. Типы народных сказок. Москва: РГГУ, 2005.
15. Лихачев Д.С., Панченко А.М. «Смеховой мир» Древней Руси. Ленинград, 1976.
16. Макашина Т.С. Фольклор и обряды русского населения Латгалии. Москва: Наука, 1979.
17. Мельников М. Н. Русский детский фольклор. Москва : Просвещение, 1987.
18. Новикова А.М., Александрова Е.А. Фольклор и литература. Семинарий. Москва, 1978.
19. Разумова И.А. Потаенное знание современной русской семьи. Быт. Фольклор. История. — Москва: Индрик, 2001.

20. Русский фольклор в Латвии: песни, обряды и детский фольклор / сост. И.Д. Фридрих. Рига: Лиесма, 1972.
21. Русский фольклор в Латвии: Сказки / Сост.И.Д.Фридрих. Рига: Лиесма, 1980.
22. Славянская мифология. Энциклопедический словарь. Москва, 1995.
23. Славянский фольклор. Москва, 1987.
24. Смирнов Ю. И. Восточнославянские баллады и близкие им формы. Опыт указателя сюжетов и версий. М., 1988.
25. Современный городской фольклор / Отв. ред. С.Ю. Неклюдов. Москва, 2003.
26. Фольклор, постфольклор, быт, литература : сборник статей к 60-летию Александра Федоровича Белоусова. Санкт-Петербург: СПбГУКИ, 2006.

Periodicals and other sources:

«Живая старина»

<http://haldjas.folklore.ee/folklore/index.html>

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

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

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

<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 B