

<i>Course title</i>	European Studies in Trans-Border Perspective: The East European and Baltic Region (part I)
<i>Course code</i>	PolZ1010
<i>Branch of science</i>	Political Science
<i>Sub-branch of science</i>	Political Science
<i>Credit points</i>	2
<i>ECTS credit points</i>	3
<i>Total number of contact hours</i>	32
<i>Number of hours for lectures</i>	32
<i>Number of hours for seminars and practical tasks</i>	
<i>Number of hours for laboratory assignments</i>	
<i>Number of hours allocated to term paper</i>	

Course developers:

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

none

Course abstract:

The research on border areas has traditionally been the sphere of comparative studies; they include the introduction to the history, the cultural history and the peculiarities of everyday life in the region, as well as the introduction to the modern political and economic history. At the same time, special attention is paid to the search for similarities and differences in the fate of the inhabitants of border areas and to the perception of the border not only as a divisive, but also as a unifying factor.

Learning outcomes:

Scope: the present study course is envisaged for the students interested in the investigation of the problems of the post-Soviet space and the issues related to the formation of *a new* European identity.

Scientific discussions on the problems of border areas have been taking place for more than two centuries, but they became particularly relevant after the collapse of the Soviet Union and the formation of independent states.

The study course is focused on the following problem categories:

- the problem of constructing the national identity of the region's population;
- the issues related to the integration into various international organizations;
- the problems of the respect for the ethnic minorities' rights;
- the reasons for choosing differently directed models of economic and political development of the states in the region, etc.

The students develop their **academic** competence:

- know and appropriately use political terminology;
- demonstrate their knowledge of regularities of socio-political processes;

- are ready to draw conclusions concerning the significance of socio-political processes in the development of a political nation;
- understand and are able to explain the mutual interaction of political processes in functioning of social processes.

Students develop their skills to apply their **academic competence in practical activity**:

- demonstrate skills in finding and selecting information, its analysis and comparison, as well as its use in the analysis of a definite situation, argumentative discussion;
- demonstrate skills to select study materials and are aware of the basic principles of their use.

Students develop their skills to use their **academic competence in value-oriented action**:

- demonstrate critical understanding of the transformations in the treatment of the history of Baltic Region under the influence of political regimes and are able to discuss controversial issues in the history of Baltic and post-Soviet Region.

During the implementation of the study course the students:

- demonstrate knowledge about politics;
- are able to independently search for information that is necessary for the analysis of a definite situation, particularly emphasizing the possibilities and the restrictions of the information analysis;
- gain knowledge of topical issues of political science and real policy;
- will be able to analytically and critically discuss the developments in international and regional policy by discussing the topicalities of contemporary politics;
- are aware of the outer and inner factors that influence countries' foreign policy and internal politics;
- will be able to express and defend their findings by using academic and other sources;
- will be able to discuss the alternatives of the development of states, poles of personalities in politics and the role of individuals in political processes.

Methods of instruction: The methods of instruction include lectures, discussions of assigned readings.

Course content:

Introduction in Regional Studies; Brief history of Latvia, Lithuania, Estonia, Poland and Belarus; Particularities of the intercultural communication in the region; Everyday culture and spiritual heritage – traditions, rituals, customs, business etiquette in Latvia and Lithuania; Everyday culture and spiritual heritage – traditions, rituals, customs, business etiquette in Poland and Belarus; The structure of the region's economy; The introduction to Sovietology and the history of the USSR; The process of the disintegration of the USSR – the theoretical aspect; The vectors of mutual relations between Poland, the Baltic states and Russia; The common and the different in the historical memory of the inhabitants of the region – the heroes and the traitors; the alternatives of the development of cross-border relations in the region.

Course plan:

Lectures and seminars– 32 acad. hours.

Lecture topics:

1. Introduction in Regional Studies;
2. Brief history of Latvia;
3. Brief history of Lithuania;
4. Brief history of Estonia;
5. Brief history of Poland;
6. Brief history of Belarus;
7. Particularities of the intercultural communication in the region (I);
8. Particularities of the intercultural communication in the region (II);
9. Everyday culture and spiritual heritage – traditions, rituals, customs, business etiquette in Latvia and Lithuania;
10. Everyday culture and spiritual heritage – traditions, rituals, customs, business etiquette in Poland and Belarus;
11. The structure of the region's economy;
12. The introduction to Sovietology and the history of the USSR;
13. The process of the disintegration of the USSR – the theoretical aspect;
14. The vectors of mutual relations between Poland, the Baltic states and Russia;
15. The common and the different in the historical memory of the inhabitants of the region – the heroes and the traitors;
16. the alternatives of the development of cross-border relations in the region

Requirements for awarding credit points:

Participation in lectures – 30 %, graded test at the end of the semester – 70%

Compulsory reading:

1. Andres Kasekamp. A History of the Baltic States. Palgrave Macmillan:Houndmills, 2010.
<https://books.google.lv/books?id=AThdAQAAQBAJ&printsec=frontcover&hl=ru#v=onepage&q&f=false>
2. Bojtár, Endre (1999). Foreword to the Past: A Cultural History of the Baltic People. Budapest and New York: Central European University Press. p. 9
3. Porter, Brian (2001). When Nationalism Began to Hate: Imagining Modern Politics in Nineteenth-Century Poland. Oxford: Oxford University Press.
4. Nikolas K. Gvosdev; Christopher Marsh (2013). Russian Foreign Policy: Interests, Vectors, and Sectors. CQ Press.
https://books.google.lv/books?id=CduOAQAAQBAJ&pg=PA217&redir_esc=y#v=onepage&q&f=false

Further reading:

1. Disruptive Religion: The Force of Faith in Social-movement Activism. Books.google.com. Retrieved 9 September 2013.
https://books.google.lv/books?id=39SoSG4NGAoC&pg=PA77&lpg=PA77&dq=poland%27s+millennium&sig=uQ-qK9oxqMuHmVvZJj8lszrm1&redir_esc=y#v=onepage&q=poland's%20millennium&f=false
2. Timothy Snyder (2003). The Reconstruction of Nations: Poland, Ukraine, Lithuania, Belarus, 1569–1999. Yale University Press. p. 111. ISBN 0-300-12841-X. Commonwealth became the breadbasket of Western Europe, wrote

Timothy Snyder, thanks to the presence of fertile southeastern regions of Podolia and east Galicia.

3. Timothy Snyder (2010) *Bloodlands: Europe Between Hitler and Stalin*. Basic Books
4. USA, IBP (3 March 2012). "Poland Country Study Guide Volume 1 Strategic Information and Developments". Retrieved 25 April 2017 – via Google Books. <https://books.google.com.au/books?id=RmrdCwAAQBAJ&pg=PA141&lpg=PA141&dq=Warsaw%20leads%20Central%20Europe%20in%20foreign%20investment&source=bl&ots=RkGa21v9nn&sig=J4E34TtQu5X6Uktd2sMoKkWk0Rk&hl=en&sa=X&ved=0ahUKEwjXstia277TAhVFS7wKHaTVDvwQ6AEILzAA#v=onepage&q=Warsaw%20leads%20Central%20Europe%20in%20foreign%20investment&f=false>

Periodicals and other sources:

1. <http://itameri.kyamk.fi/e.html>
2. On the Boundary of Two Worlds: Identity, Freedom, and Moral Imagination in the Baltics
3. Journal of Baltic Studies, journal of the Association for the Advancement of Baltic Studies (AABS)
4. Lituanus, journal dedicated to Lithuanian and Baltic art, history, language, literature and related cultural topics
5. The Baltic Course
6. Baltic Reports
7. The Baltic Review
8. The Baltic Times
9. The Baltics Today

Remarks:

If necessary, the themes considered in the framework of the study course may be adjusted according to the students' professional interests.

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

C