

Course title	NATO – Russia Relations and Baltic States' Defence Policy
Course code	
Branch of science	Political Science
Sub-branch of science	Political Science
Credit points	2
ECTS credit points	3
Total number of contact hours	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 study course aims to discuss the relations between NATO, the Russian Federation and the Baltic states in the 21st century, as well as to consider contemporary topicalities in the East European defence policy. During the implementation of the study course the basic issues in mutual relations between Russia and NATO are analysed by projecting them to the place and role of the Baltic states in the context of defence policy in Europe and the world.

Learning outcomes:

The students develop their **academic** competence:

- know and appropriately use political and military terminology;
- demonstrate their knowledge of regularities of socio-political processes;
- understand and are able to explain the mutual interaction of political processes in functioning of social and defence 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 States under the influence of political regimes and are able to discuss controversial issues in the relations and the history of NATO, Russia and the Baltic States.

During the implementation of the study course the students:

- prove their knowledge on the world and regional defence policy;
- are able to independently find information necessary for the analysis of a definite situation, paying particular attention to possibilities and restrictions of its analysis and use;
- become aware of the topical issues in political science and the global real policy;
- are able to analytically and critically discuss processes of international and regional policies by considering the topicalities of contemporary defence policy;
- are aware of external and internal influencing factors of foreign policy and internal politics;
- are able to express and defend their own findings by using academic and other sources;
- are able to discuss the alternatives of state development, personality pole in politics and the place of an individual in political process.

Course content:

Fundamentals of military and defence policy. Terminology topicalities. The notion of safety / defence and its dimensions. Understanding of the notion “defence” in the space of the Baltics. The history of NATO development. The relations: NATO – PUSSR – the Russian Federation. History of defence policy in the Baltic States. Army restoration. Exit of the Russian Army from the Baltic States. The problem of Russian military-pensioners. The way of the Baltic States’ to NATO. Transformation problems. The transformation of the Russian Federation military policy from demilitarization to “getting up from the knees”. Munich Summit. Russian – NATO relations after 2001. The new course of NATO. Participation of the Baltic defence forces in NATO operations, as well as in Iraq. The reaction of Russia. “Bronze Soldier Night” in Tallinn. Russo–Georgian war.

The reaction of the Baltic States and NATO countries. Political and social discourse in the Baltic States. Events in Ukraine. “Green people” and the annexation of Crimea. Anti-terrorist operation in Donbass. NATO’s reaction to the events in Ukraine. Society polarization in the Baltic States. Arguments pro and contra. Hybrid war, its notion. The policy of the Baltic States in combatting the hybrid war. NATO soldiers in the Baltic States and the reaction of Russia. The transformation of Baltic States’ armies after 2014. Problems and solutions. The contemporary challenges in the policies of the Baltic States. Transforming public awareness about the defence policy – problems and solutions.

Course plan:

Lectures – 32 acad. hours.

Lecture topics:

1. Introduction to political science. Fundamentals of military and defence policy. Terminology topicalities.
2. The notion of safety / defence and its dimensions. Terminological transformation. Understanding of the notion “defence” in the space of the Baltics nowadays.
3. The history of NATO development. The relations: NATO – PUSSR – the Russian Federation.
4. . History of defence policy in the Baltic States. Army restoration. Exit of the Russian Army from the Baltic States. The problem of Russian military-pensioners.
5. The way of the Baltic States’ to NATO. Transformation problems.
6. The transformation of the Russian Federation military policy from demilitarization to “getting up from the knees”. Munich Summit.
7. Russian – NATO relations after 2001. The new course of NATO.
8. Participation of the Baltic defence forces in NATO operations, as well as in Iraq. The reaction of Russia.
9. “Bronze Soldier Night” in Tallinn. Cyber-attacks and the reactiob of the Estonian government. Estonia as a winner in cyber-war?
10. Russo–Georgian war. The reaction of the Baltic States and NATO countries. Political and social discourse in the Baltic States.
11. Events in Ukraine. “Green people” and the annexation of Crimea. Anti-terrorist operation in Donbass.
12. NATO’s reaction to the events in Ukraine. Society polarization in the Baltic States.
13. Is there any possibility for “Latgale / Vilnius / Narva people’s republics”? Arguments pro and contra.
14. Hybrid war, its notion. The policy of the Baltic States in combatting the hybrid war.
15. NATO soldiers in the Baltic States and the reaction of Russia. The transformation of Baltic States’ armies after 2014. Problems and solutions.
16. The contemporary challenges in the policies of the Baltic States. Transforming public awareness about the defence policy – problems and solutions.

Requirements for awarding credit points:

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

Compulsory reading:

1. Ensuring Deterrence against Russia: The View from NATO's Front-Line States / <https://us.boell.org/sites/default/files/ensuring-deterrence-against-russia.pdf>
2. Russia's Secret Weapon to Invade the Baltics and Crush NATO: Soldiers Falling from the Sky. <http://nationalinterest.org/blog/the-buzz/russias-secret-weapon-invade-the-baltics-crush-nato-soldiers-19083>
3. Kudors, A. et.al. “Humanitarian Dimension”of Russian Foreign Policy toward Georgia, Moldova, Ukraine, and the Baltic States. 2010. <http://politika.lv/index.php?f=1571>

4. Kramer, M. „NATO, the Baltic States and Russia: A Framework for Sustainable Enlargement“ International Affairs Royal Institute of International Affairs 1944-. Vol. 78, No. 4
5. Why NATO Expected to Lose Most of Europe to Russia / <http://nationalinterest.org/feature/why-nato-expected-lose-most-europe-russia-15267>
6. Военная доктрина Российской Федерации / <http://static.kremlin.ru/media/events/files/41d527556bec8deb3530.pdf>

Further reading:

1. Rainer L. Glatz and Martin Zapfe „NATO Defence Planning between Wales and Warsaw Politico-military Challenges of a Credible Assurance against Russia“ https://www.swp-berlin.org/fileadmin/contents/products/comments/2016C05_glt_Zapfe.pdf
2. Simmons, K. et. Al. “NATO Public Opinion: Wary of Russia, Leary of Action on Ukraine” <http://www.pewglobal.org/2015/06/10/1-nato-public-opinion-wary-of-russia-leary-of-action-on-ukraine/#views-of-nato-generally-favorable>
3. Kingston, R. “NATO Weighs Nuclear Exercises,” Arms Control Today, November 2015, .
4. Katarzyna, K. at al. “Updating NATO’s Nuclear Posture: Necessary? Feasible? Desirable?” European Leadership Network, November 12, 2015.
5. Munich Security Report 2017: "Post-Truth, Post-West, Post-Order?" / <https://www.securityconference.de/en/discussion/munich-security-report/>

Periodicals and other sources:

<https://www.rand.org>

<http://foreignpolicy.com/>

<https://www.baltictimes.com>

<http://www.nato.int>

<http://www.natolibguides.info> (NATO Multimedia Library: Library Publications)

Remarks:

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

Part C.