

Study course title	History of the Era of the Second World War
Study course code	Vĕst1148
Credits	4 KP
European Credit Transfer and Accumulation System Credits	6 KP
Total Number of Contact Hours	64
Number of Lecture Hours	44
Number of hours for workshops	18
Number of hours for practical classes	2
Course developer	
Dr. hist., as. prof. Henrihs Soms	
Study course abstract	
<p>This course looks at the Second World War from its origins to the results. The role of the world's major powers (Germany, USSR) in the cause of war and the position of other major powers (the United States, France, the United Kingdom) before the war are analyzed in depth. Describe the most important military operations of war in different regions of the world. Many battles take place in historiography in Russia, the United States, Britain and Germany. It is important to find out why such a situation has arisen, what circumstances determine it. The Nazi German occupation regime, especially the Holocaust, has been separately explained. Attention is drawn to the resistance movement in the occupied countries. The formation and contradictions of the anti-Hitler coalition (USSR, US, France, UK) are explained. The results of the war and their different interpretations in the scientific literature (the so-called "winning version" etc.) were analyzed.</p>	
Course content	
<p>The course will provide students with in-depth knowledge of the Second World War: causes, progress, results. Relevant historical literature studies will enhance the ability to analyze and compare different views of the Second World War.</p>	
Course plan	
<p><i>Structure of the course: Lectures - 44 h., Workshops - 18 h., Practical tasks - 2 h.</i></p> <p><i>Lectures:</i></p> <p><u>Pre-war situation in the World (4 h.)</u> Increase in contradictions in the Versailles-Washington international relations system. System revisionists and status quo supporters. Austrian "Anschluss" and the pre-war political crisis. Munich deal. Western countries' attitude towards the aggressive plans of Germany, Italy. Molotov - Ribbentrop Pact.</p> <p><u>World War II: inducement and character (4 h.)</u></p>	

The causes of war and the responsibility of states to start it. The beginning of war and warring parties. War's main stages, character, strategy of warring states. The " Phoney War " in Europe.

World War II: War and Major Battlefields (14 h.)

Critical Battle Theory. The most important operations in the Polish campaign and the Winter War. Operation Weser Training. Plan "Gelb", "Dynamo". Battle for England. "The Barbara Plan". The beginning of the Soviet-German war. Concept of preventive war. Moscow Battle. Decisive battles in North Africa and the Pacific. Battle of Stalingrad and Kursk. Opening the Second Front. Air War Against Germany. The Berlin operation. War against Japan in the summer of 1945.

World War II: Nazi German Occupation Policy and Resistance Movement (12 h.)

Governance and economic life in the occupied territories. Collaboration, its forms. The Holocaust. Forms of resistance movement. Charles de Gaulle and "Free France". Polish resistance movement. Partisan War in Russia.

World War II: International Relations Issues (6 h.)

Allied relations during the war. Atlantic Charter. Western help, pendulum. The different views of big countries on the world post-war order. Tehran Conference. The second front issue. Yalta Conference. Berlin - Rome - Fracture of the Tokyo axis. Italy's withdrawal from the war.

World War II results (4 h.)

German Nazism, Italian Fascism, Japan's militant disruption. The victory of democracy. War winners: unity and contradiction. War losses: economic, social and humanitarian aspects.

Workshops

1. Molotov - Ribbentrop Pact and Its Role in War (2 h.)
2. Warring Party Strategy: Historiography Guidelines (2 h.)
3. USA involvement in war. Pearl Harbor 1941 (2 h.)
4. Most notable military operations in various war theaters (3 battles in different regions of the student's choice) (4 h.)
5. Proceedings, discussions and results of the Major Conferences (Tehran, Yalta, Potsdam) (4 h.)
6. Nazi German Occupation Policy and Resistance Movement (4 h.)

Practical tasks

Written test "Second World War" (2 h.)

Learning outcomes

Knowledge - a set of in-depth knowledge of the most important facts, phenomena and personalities.

Skills - to learn the history of war; should focus on scientific literature for studies, the ability to formulate the essential problems of war.

Attitudes - understanding of the range of democracy and summary.

Requirements for awarding credits

Lecture visits (10%); Written in seminars (40%); tests: Second World War (10%); recent scientific literature studies (20%); exam: Presentation of selected topics (20%)

Compulsory Reading List

1. Liddel Hart B. Vtoraja mirovaja voina. Moskva, 1999.
2. Mueller R. Der letzte deutsche Krieg. Stuttgart, 2006.
3. Boog. u.a. Der Angriff auf die Sowjetunion. Frankfurt am Main, 1991.
4. Davies N. Europe at war 1939- 1945. No Simple Victory. London, 2008.
5. Black J. World War Two: military history. London, 2003.

Further Reading List

1. Lācis, V. Otrās pasaules karš. 6 sēj. Rīga, 1993-2003.
2. Roberts, G. Stalins Wars. London, 2006.
3. Prazmowska A. Eastern Europe and the origins of the Second World War. London, 2000.
4. Bīvors, A. Berlīnes krišana 1945. Rīga, 2003.
5. Utkin, A. Mirovaja voina. Moskva, 2003.

Notes