

DAUGAVPILS UNIVERSITY
STUDY COURSE DESCRIPTION

Course	Military History: XX - XXI centuries.
Course code (DUIS)	Vēst1152
Scientific discipline	History
Course level	
Credits	3
ECTS credits	4
Total number of study room hours	48
Number of lecture hours	28
Seminar's hours	20
Practical work hours	
Number of hours of laboratory work	
Number of student's independent working hours	72
Course author (-s)	
Dr. hist., as. prof. H. Soms	
Course lecturer (-s)	
Dr. hist., as. prof. H. Soms	
Background knowledge	
The course does not require any prior knowledge	
Course abstract	
<p>During the course, students learn the 20th century and beginning of the 21st century military history (military science): strategy, tactics.</p> <p>Military history course introduces military theory, addressing both the nature and character of war. In applying military theory to contemporary security challenges, students will be able to better anticipate and respond to operational problems across the range of military operations.</p> <p>During the study course students analyze the theoretical literature on the military history, participate in seminars, write reviews on individual publications. Students do research on a specific work of a military history researcher within one topic or study an expertise of a military leader according to the scientific literature. During the course the theoretical writings of classical military theorists will be examined, as well as the evolution of warfare and military thought over the XX - XXI centuries</p> <p>The aim of the course is to analyze the components and principles of military history in order to create a lasting idea of the close connection between military history and the historical and national peculiarities, geographical conditions and economics of countries.</p> <p>Course tasks:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - to promote students' deepening of knowledge about the history of military history in the context of world history; - to analyze and compare the history of military history of different authors' concepts; - to develop students' ability to independently search and use information, identify, analyze and evaluate various aspects of military history; - to promote the development of independent work skills and critical thinking in the work of reviewing and defending a report on a selected topic. 	

<i>Course plan</i>
Lectures 28 h, seminars 20 h, independent work 72 h
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Basic military history categories. Notable war theorists. Sun Tzu, Carl von Clausewitz, Antoine-Henri Jomini and others. L6 2. World War I. L8 3. World War II. L 16 4. Military history after 1945 L12 5. Warfare today (since the 90s of the 20th century) L6
<i>Course outcomes</i>
<p>KNOWLEDGE:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Obtaining a systematic picture of military history. 2. Understanding the historical, political and economic environment that determines the development of military history, understand both the nature and character of war, as well as continuity and change in warfare. <p>SKILLS:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 3. Analyzes and compares different periods in the history of military history. 4. Is able to structure the acquired information and present it to the audience. <p>COMPETENCE:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 5. Able to independently formulate and critically analyze the peculiarities of military history in different countries and arguably discuss contradictory problems. Apply military theory to understand and address contemporary and future operational security challenges.
<i>Description of students' independent work organization and tasks</i>
<p>Independent work:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - getting acquainted with scientific literature and analysis of information during preparation for seminars and review presentation - 28 hours; - identification and selection of scientific literature for the preparation of a report - presentation - 14 hours; - PowerPoint report - presentation preparation - 6 hours
<i>Requirements for obtaining credit points</i>
<p>The final grade for the study course is formed by summing up the results of the independent work, which are discussed in seminars - 20%, presentation of the review - 40%, as well as successfully passing the test - defense of the report on the chosen topic - 40%.</p> <p>INTERIM TEST</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Participation in discussions in seminars - 20%. 2. Presentation of the review - 40%. <p>FINAL TEST</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 3. Defense of the report - presentation on the chosen topic - 40%. <p>CRITERIA FOR ASSESSING STUDY RESULTS</p> <p>At the end of the course, the achieved knowledge is assessed on a 10-point scale in accordance with the laws and regulations of the Republic of Latvia and the "Regulations on studies at Daugavpils University" (approved at the DU Senate on the 17.12 2018., protocol #15) following such criteria: the amount and quality of the knowledge acquired, the skills gained; the acquired competence in accordance with the planned study results.</p>

ASSESSMENT OF STUDY RESULTS

Type of a test	Study results						
	1.	2.	3.	4.	5.	6.	7.
1. Work during seminars			+	+	+	+	
2. Presenting the review	+	+	+	+	+	+	+
3. Defense of the report - presentation on the chosen topic during the test	+	+	+	+	+	+	+

Contents of the course

Lecture topics:

I Basic war history categories. Notable war theorists. Sun Tzu, Carl von Clausewitz, Antoine-Henri Jomini and others.

1. History of war: Strategy, operational tactics, tactics. L2

2. Chinese war strategist Sun Tzu's work 'The Art of War'. French war theorist Antoine-Henri Jomini's views on war. L2

3. The views of the Prussian war theorist Carl von Clausewitz (1780-1831) On war. S2

Independent work. Analysis of Carl von Clausewitz's works.

Seminar. Carl von Clausewitz's contribution to the development of warfare.

II World War I

4. The warfare in the context of the development of science and technology in industrial society in the second half of the 19th century and in the beginning of the 20th century. Strategic goals of the Entente and the Trinity, views of the warring states on war. L2

5. The main fronts of war. The biggest battles (Verdun, Somme). Land and naval military operations. S2

Independent work. Analysis of the literature dedicated to the First World War.

Seminar. Battle of Verdun (February-July 1916), Battle of Somme (June-November 1916).

6. The most significant commanders, the most important weapons of the land, navy and air forces. S2

Independent work. Analysis of the literature dedicated to the First World War.
Seminar. World War I military commanders (of choice).

7. War outcomes, long-term consequences. Pacifism and the anti-war movement in the world. L2

III World War II

8. Causes of the Second World War, its nature. Strategy of the Warring States. Germany's "lightning war strategy". L2

9. The national, economic and social dimension of the global conflict: the militarization of the economy, the civilian war, the "total war". L2

10. The military dimension of the global conflict: land, naval and air forces, the most popular weapons, the use of special forces. L2

11. The most prominent military commanders. S2

Independent work. Analysis of biographical literature of military commanders.
Seminar. US, British, USSR and German Army Commanders (of choice)

12. The political dimension of the global conflict: Anti-Hitler coalition (USA, USSR, Britain, France), its formation, success, contradictions. Strategic cooperation between the Axis countries. L2

13. The main fronts of war. Warfare in Europe, Africa, the Middle East, Asia and the Pacific. L2

14-15. Theory of "turning points" in war. Major military operations: preparation, implementation, failure assessment (from both sides). S4

Independent work 1. Analysis of literature dedicated to the Second World War.

Seminar 1. Turning points: France (May 1940), Battle of Britain (August-September 1940), Operation Barbarosa (June-July 1941), Moscow (December 1941)

Independent work 2. Analysis of literature dedicated to the Second World War.

Seminar 2. Turning points: Pearl Harbor (December 7, 1941), Stalingrad (November 1942 - January 1943), Normandy (June-July 1944).

IV Military history after 1945

16. The emergence of nuclear weapons and the notions of great powers in the nuclear war time. The role of superpowers (USA, USSR) in the post-war world. L2

17. Technological development of nuclear weapons and its impact on warfare. S2

Independent work. Analysis of literature on the history of nuclear weapons.

Seminar. International crises and the threat of nuclear proliferation.

18. "Cold War": the role and significance of the military factor. The dangers of World War III. L2

19.-20. Post-war local wars and military conflicts: war in Korea, Vietnam, Afghanistan, civil war in China, Arab-Israeli wars, Iran-Iraq war, war in the Gulf. Participation and interests of great powers in military conflicts. S4

Independent work 1. Analysis of the literature on the Vietnam War.

Seminar 1. The Vietnam War (1956-1975): specifics, lessons learned.

Independent work 2. Analysis of the literature on the Gulf War.

Seminar 2. Gulf War (1990-1991).

21. Partisan war tactics: World War II experience, post-war development. S2

Independent work. Analysis of literature on guerrilla warfare.

Seminar. Tactics of guerrilla warfare

V Warfare today (since the 90s of the 20th century)

22. Dimensions of the modern system of international security and cooperation. The military dimension of the system. NATO's role. The idea of a European Union armed forces. L2

23. Modern military conflicts, their peculiarities. Conflicts on the territory of the former USSR. Direct methods of conflict resolution and indirect or hybrid methods. The Impact of Modern Technology on Warfare: Recent Trends. Modern weapons. L2

24. Hybrid warfare: emergence, examples of history, modern manifestations S2

Independent work. Analysis of literature on hybrid warfare.

Seminar. Modern manifestations of hybrid warfare.

Mandatory information sources

1. Kissinger, H. Diplomacy.

http://lib.yzu.am/disciplines_bk/1f6300e67784b164a9857efd25ed325b.pdf

2. Judt, T. Postwar: A History of Europe Since 1945. 2006 .

3. Sun Dzi. Kara māksla. Rīga, 2012

Sun Tzu. On the Art of War. <http://lib.ru/POECHIN/suntzu.txt>

Суньцзы. Искусство войны. <http://lib.ru/POECHIN/suntzur.txt>

6. Townshend, Ch. The Oxford History of Modern War. Oxford, 2000.

https://www.cia.gov/library/abbottabad-compound/4F/4FE6BEDB616C0FD2603CA0D307DEE670_MODERN_WAR.pdf

7. Willbanks, J. Vietnam War. N-Y, 2009, 589.

8. Клаузевиц К. О войне. 1934. / Clausewitz K. Vom Krieg. 1832/34.

<http://militera.lib.ru/science/clausewitz/index.html>

9. Жомини, Г. Аналитический обзор главных соображений военного искусства, и об отношениях оных с политикой государств.

http://militera.lib.ru/science/jomini_gv01/index.html

10. Жомини, Г. Краткое начертание военного искусства или новый аналитический обзор главных соображений стратегии, высшей тактики и военной политики.

http://militera.lib.ru/science/jomini_gv02/index.html

11. Эйлсби К. План Барбаросса. Москва, 2010.

Additional information sources

1. Halleck, H. Wager, (Mag.Gen.), Elements of Military Art and Science, D. Appleton & company, New York, 1862 <https://onlinebooks.library.upenn.edu/webbin/gutbook/lookup?num=16170>

2. Hastings, M. All Hell Let Loose: The World at War 1939-1945. 2012

3. History of Latvia the 20th Century. Riga: Jumava, 2006

<http://gramatas.lndb.lv/#searchResults!title:%22History%20of%20Latvia%22@mode:SCA>

4. Huntington, S. P. The Clash of Civilizations and the Remaking of World Order. Pieejams: <https://www.stetson.edu/artsci/political-science/media/clash.pdf>

5. Верт А. Россия в войне 1941-1945. Прогресс, 1967. 777 с. <http://prussia.online/books/rossiya-v-voyne-1941-1945-2>

6. The hidden and forbidden history of Latvia under Soviet and Nazi occupations, 1940-1991. Symposium of the Commission of the Historians of Latvia. Volume 14. Riga, 2005

<http://gramatas.lndb.lv/periodika2-viewer/?lang=fr#panel:pi|issue:640942>

7. Дубровская О. Краткая история войн и сражений. Москва, РиполКлассик, 2002.

8. История второй мировой войны 1939–1945 гг. (в 12 томах). Москва: Воениздат, 1973-1982. <http://militera.lib.ru/h/12/index.html>

Periodicals and other information sources

The Second World War. Chronology. <https://encyclopedia.ushmm.org/content/ru/article/world-war-ii-key-dates>

Remarks

The course is addressed to undergraduate students.