

Study Course Title        **The Baltic states during World War II**

Study Course Code        Vēst3014

Branch of Science        History

Sub branche of Science

Credits 2

European Credit Transfer and Accumulation System Credits        3

Total Number of Contact Hours 32

Number of Lecture Hours        22

Number of hours for seminars 10

Course lecturer(-s)

Mg.hist., lekt. Dmitrijs Oļehnovičs

#### Study Course Abstract

The aim of the course is to provide basic knowledge of main research issues in the history of World War II, as well as to form comprehension of the most significant basic statements in historiography of the issue. Within the course chronology and logic of events of World War II is disclosed, as well as role of powers in fate the Baltic States, at the same time special attention is paid to "controversial historical issues". Within the course ability to analyse course of historical events independently and on proper scientific level will be developed. In the study course the following problematic issues are studied: occupation, annexation, incorporation, holocaust, genocide, units of ancillary police, Voluntary SS legion, totalitarianism, crime against humanity. Alongside the lectures, course studies involve also tasks, which should be accomplished independently - preparation of a discussion and independent report.

#### Tasks of the course:

-to promote improvement of students' knowledge in history of the Baltic States during World War II;

-to foster formation of comprehension of periodization and most significant problematic issues of World War II; -to develop students' skills to independently search, analyse and apply information; to compare information from various sources.

## Course Plan

Course structure: lectures - 22 h., seminars - 10 h.

Themes of lectures:

1. Introduction to requirements for awarding credit points. Periodization and problems of definition of chronological frames. Essence of Nazism and Communism.
2. Political and military plans of Nazi Germany in war against the USSR. Molotov - Ribbentrop pact. Occupation of the Baltic States. Repression of Soviet regime against civil population.
3. Invasion of Nazi Germany in the Baltic in June - beginning of August 1941: flight of Soviet army. Formation of German occupation regime: civil governance and military governance. Position of Baltic nations against German occupation power.
4. Holocaust in Latvia, Lithuania and Estonia. Essence of holocaust. Participation of inhabitants of the Baltic countries in war crimes. Elimination of Gypsies and mentally handicapped people.
5. Lithuanian, Latvian, Estonian and other national divisions in German occupation service. Impact of Nazi propaganda onto inhabitants of occupied territories.
6. Latvian and Estonian SS (Waffen) legion in the context of Nazi occupation policy. Lithuanian military divisions. Russian liberation army.
7. "Voluntary" SS legions: position in historiography. Latvians, Lithuanians and Estonians in the Red Army (Soviet army).
8. Policy of occupation power in the sphere of culture, education and economics. Church during World War II. Everyday life in the occupied territories. Problem of resistance and collaboration. Resistance movement in Latvia: types and content. Guerilla units. Guerilla or saboteurs?
9. Teheran, Yalta and Potsdam conferences and their significance in the fates of world and European nations. Beginning of the second Soviet occupation: 1944-1945: position in historiography.
10. The Red Army entrance in the Baltic. "Kurzeme fortress". Fugitive movement.
11. Consequences of German occupation: in politics, demography, economics: position in historiography. Nuremberg process. World War II: versions of winners and losers.

Themes of seminars:

1. Nazism ideology in guidelines.
2. Problem of resistance and collaboration.

3. Plans of Nazis regarding Baltic space and its population.
4. Baltic national units in the armies of warring parties. Position in historiography
5. Nuremberg process. World War II: versions of winners and losers.

Themes of independent works are edited every year.

#### Learning Outcomes

Through gaining knowledge of topical issues of Baltic history in World War II students will improve their academic competence:

1. They will be aware of causes and reasons of history of World War II;
2. They will be able to explain common and diverse features of ideologies of Nazism and Communism;
3. They will be competent to make conclusions on significance of socio-political processes in World War II;
4. They will possess skills to study common and diverse features in history of the Baltic States, the USSR and Europe;
5. They will possess skills to discuss possible alternatives of inhabitants of the Baltic States during the war.

Students improve skills to express academic competence in practical activity - they demonstrate skills of searching, selection, analysis, comparison and use of information in analysis of particular situation, in substantiated discussion.

Students improve skills to apply academic competences in values orientated action - they will demonstrate critical understanding of transformations of interpretation of Latvian history under the impact of political regimes and are able to provide conceptual and substantiated judgements on controversial issues in history of Baltic.

During realization of the study course students:

- confirm their knowledge during fulfilment of seminars and independent works;
- are able to independently find information, needed for analysis of particular situation, especially emphasizing possibilities and limitations of information analysis

Requirements for Awarding Credits

Requirements for acquisition of the study course - regular attendance of classes and active work in them - 70%, fulfilling of independent works - 30%.

#### Course content

Periodization and problems of definition of chronological frames. Essence of Nazism and Communism. Political and military plans of Nazi Germany in war against the USSR. Invasion of Nazi Germany in the Baltic in June - beginning of August 1941. Formation of German occupation regime. Holocaust in Latvia, Lithuania and Estonia. Impact of Nazi propaganda onto inhabitants of occupied territories. Policy of occupation power in the sphere of culture, education and economics. Problem of resistance and collaboration. Teheran, Yalta and Potsdam conferences. Nuremberg process. World War II: versions of winners and losers.

#### Compulsory Reading List

1. Aust, Anthony (2005). Handbook of International Law. Cambridge University Press. ISBN 978-0-521-53034-7.
2. Frucht, Richard (2005). Eastern Europe: An Introduction to the People, Lands, and Culture. ABC-CLIO. p. 132. ISBN 978-1-57607-800-6.
3. Hiden, Johan; Salmon, Patrick (1994) [1991]. The Baltic Nations and Europe (Revised ed.). Harlow, England: Longman. ISBN 0-582-25650-X.
4. Hiden, John; Vahur Made, David J. Smith (eds) (2008). The Baltic question during the Cold War. Routledge. ISBN 0-415-37100-7.
5. Mälksoo, Lauri (2003). Illegal Annexation and State Continuity: The Case of the Incorporation of the Baltic States by the USSR. M. Nijhoff Publishers. ISBN 90-411-2177-3.
6. Misiunas, Romuald J.; Taagepera, Rein (1993). The Baltic States, years of dependence, 1940–1990. University of California Press. ISBN 0-520-08228-1.
7. O'Connor, Kevin (2003). The History of the Baltic States. Greenwood Publishing Group. pp. 113–145. ISBN 978-0-313-32355-3.
8. Plakans, Andrejs (2007). Experiencing Totalitarianism: The Invasion and Occupation of Latvia by the USSR and Nazi Germany 1939–1991. AuthorHouse. p. 596. ISBN 978-1-4343-1573-1.
9. Rislakki, Jukka (2008). The Case for Latvia. Disinformation Campaigns Against a Small Nation. Rodopi. ISBN 978-90-420-2424-3.
10. Talmon, Stefan (1998). Recognition of governments in international law. Oxford University Press. ISBN 978-0-19-826573-3. 11. Wyman, David; Charles H. Rosenzweig (1996). The World Reacts to the Holocaust. JHU Press. pp. 365–381. ISBN 978-0-8018-4969-5.

#### Further Reading List

1. Aizsilnieks A. Latvijas saimniecības vēsture, 1914. – 1945. – Stokholma, 1968;
2. Anušauskas A. Collaboration and Crimes to Humanity in the Occupied Baltic States in 1940-1941 Against the Background of World War II // LVKR 1, 107.-114.lpp.;
3. Dokumenti liecina: Latvijas vēstures dokumentu izlase skolām, 1939.-1991.- Rīga, 1999;
4. Dribins L. Antisemitisms un tā izpausmes Latvijā: Vēstures aspekts. // LVKR 4. – Rīga, 2002. Stockholm Documents: The German Occupation of Latvia, 1941-1945. What did America Know? /ed. By A.Ezergailis. // LVKR 5. – Rīga, 2002.
5. Evarts E. Nacistu ekonomiskā politika okupētajā Latvijā: historiogrāfisks apskats // LVKR 10, 352. – 370. lpp.
6. Ezergailis A. Rumbula: A Perspective on the Perception of the Holocaust // LVKR 8, 24. – 38. lpp.;
7. Feldmanis I. Latvija vācu okupācijas laikā (1941. – 1945.): aktuālās izpētes problēmas // Totalitārie režīmi un to represijas Latvijā 1940. – 1956. gadā// LVKR 3. – Rīga, 2001, 174. – 185. lpp.;
8. Feldmanis I. Vācu okupācija Latvijā (1941. – 1945.): izpētes aktuālās problēmas un risinājumi // LVKR 11, 59. – 71. lpp.; Strods H. Baltijas valstu okupācija: ieskats terminoloģijā, periodizācijā, izpētē //LVKR 9, 35. – 49. lpp.;
9. Hosking G. The First Socialist Society: A History of the Soviet Union from Within. – Cambridge (Mass.), 1985, p. 251.
10. Kangeris K. Hitleriešu plāni Baltijas tautu evakuēšanai 1944.gadā // Vācija un Baltija: Rakstu krājums.- Rīga, 1990, 129.-139.lpp.;
11. Kangeris K. Nacionālsociālistiskās Vācijas plāni Baltijā un to izpausmes Latvijas ģenerālapgabalā. Kultūrpolitika // Bibliotēka, grāmatniecība, ideoloģija Otrā pasaules kara laikā, (1939.-1945.): Materiālu krājums. – Rīga, 1999, 24.-44.lpp.,
12. Kangeris K. Nacionālsociālistiskās Vācijas plānotā represīvā politika pret latviešu inteliģenci 1941. un 1942.gadā // LVKR 3, 240.-266.lpp.;
13. Kreituse I. Kolaboracionisms Latvijas okupācijas un aneksijas laikā 1940.gada jūnijā – augustā. Problēmas nostādne // LVKR 7, 35.-56.lpp. u.c.
14. Latvijas likteņgadi. I – VI. – Rīga, 1988.
15. Misiunas R.J., Taagepera R. The Baltic States: Years of Dependence, 1940 – 1980. – Berkely, 1983
16. Neiburgs U., Ērglis Dz. Nacionālā un padomju pretošanās kustība: kopīgais un atšķirīgais

(1941. – 1945.) // LVKR 3, 267. – 329. lpp. (sk.: 282. – 314. lpp.);

17. Oļehnovičs D. Karikatūra kā “kara ierocis”: dažas tendences nacionālsociālistiskajā propagandā // LVKR 11, 30. – 39. lpp. u.c.

18. Press B. Judenmord in Lettland, 1941-1945. – Berlin, 1992.

19. Pretestības kustība okupācijas varām Latvijā. – Rīga, 1997;

20. Rauch G. The Baltic States. The Years of Independence. Estonia, Latvia, Lithuania 1917 – 1940. – London, 1974, p. 234 u.c.

21. Rumpeters A. Soviet Aggression against the Baltic States. – New York, 1974; Rauch G. The Baltic States: The Years of Independence., pp. 189 – 255; Rauch G. A History of Soviet Russia. – New York, etc., 1975

22. Saleniece I. Vērmahta karavīri Latvijas iedzīvotāju atmiņā (pēc mutvārdu vēstures avotiem) //LVKR 11, 40. – 47. lpp.

23. Shtromas A. Soviet Occupation of the Baltic States and their Incorporation into the USSR: Political and Legal Aspects. Part I: Political Aspects //East European Quarterly, September 1985, vol. XIX, no 3, p.300 u.c. Rakowska-Harmstone T. Baltic Nationalism and the Soviet Armed Forces //JBS, Fall 1986, vol. XVII, no 3, pp. 187 – 188; Shtromas A. Baltic Problem and Peace Studies //JBS, Spring 1978, vol. IX, no 1, p. 4.

24. Silgailis A. Latviešu leģions: Dibināšana, formēšana un kauju gaitas Otrā pasaules karā. – Kopenhāgena, 1962.

25. Šneidere I. Padomju okupācijas režīms Latvijā: pētniecības virzieni un problēmas //LVKR 9, 25. – 34. lpp.

26. Spekke A. History of Latvia: An Outline. – Stockholm, 1957, p. 413; Seton-Watson H. Russian Nationalism in Historical Perspective //The Last Empire. – Stanford, 1986, p. 26;

27. Springfield S. Deportation of 1941 and Its Effects on the Jewish Community in Latvia // LVKR 6, 77.-86.lpp.;

28. Stranga A. Latvijas Valsts prezidentes Vēsturnieku komisijas ieguldījums holokausta problēmu izpētē // LVKR 8, 15. – 23. lpp.

29. Stranga A. Latvijas Vēsturnieku komisijas devums holokausta izpētē. [Rec.] // Latvijas Okupācijas muzeja gadagrāmata. 2001., 279. – 285. lpp.

30. Swain G. Between Stalin and Hitler: Class War and Race War on the Dvina, 1940 – 46. – London; New York, 2004 u.c.

31. Taurēns J. Latvijas ārpolitika un Baltijas Antante (1934. – 1940.): dažas problēmas

historiogrāfijā // LV, 1997, nr. 4, 94. – 106. lpp.

32. Vestermanis M. Holokausts Latvijā: historiogrāfisks apraksts // Ārzemju literatūra par Latviju. 1. laid. – Rīga, 1992, 122.-135.lpp.;

33. Zelče V. Dažas tendences Baltijas pētniecībā rietumos 20. gadsimta noslēgumā // Latvijas Arhīvi [Turpmāk – LA], 2000, nr. 3, 105.-124.lpp.;

34. Zunda A. “Vācu laiks” Latvijā (1941. – 1945.): izvērtējums historiogrāfijā //LV, 2003, nr.3, 107. – 115. lpp.;

35. Zunda A. Pretošanās kustība vācu okupētajā Latvijā: nostādnes vēstures literatūrā // LVKR 10, 216. – 239. lpp.un citi.

36. Zunda A. The Baltic States and Great Britain during the Second World War // Britain and the Baltic : Studies in Commercial, Political and Cultural Relations, 1500-2000. – Sunderland, 2003;

37. Zunda A. Vācu okupācijas varas politika Latvijā: nostādnes vēstures literatūrā // LVKR 3, 186. – 207. lpp.;

38. Žvinklis A. Latviešu prese nacistiskās okupācijas laikā //LVKR 1, 353. – 359. lpp.; 39.

Олехнович Д. «Сталин – еврей»: Антисемитские карикатуры в газете «Двинский вестник», (1942-1944 гг.) // Евреи в меняющемся мире.- Рига, 2002, с.212-216 u.c.

#### Periodicals and Other Sources

1. Latvijas Vēsture

2. Latvijas Vēstures institūta žurnāls.

3. Slavic Review.

4. American Historical Review

5. Journal of Baltic Studies

6. Новая и Новейшая история.

7. Lithuanian Historical Studies. 1997.-2011. Year book.

8. Lithuanian Foreign Policy Review. 1998.-2011.

9. Regional Report.

10. [www.genocid.lt](http://www.genocid.lt)

11. <http://www.s-keskus.arhiiv.ee/eng/next.htm>

12. <http://vip.latnet.lv/LPRA/> u.c. 13. <http://www.okupatsioon.ee/english/index.htm>

Notes

ABSP "History" Part B.