



RTU Course "Introduction to the History of the Baltic Languages"

0L000 Academy of Liepaja

General data

Code	LA1053
Course title	Introduction to the History of the Baltic Languages
Course status in the programme	Compulsory/Courses of Limited Choice
Responsible instructor	Ieva Ozola
Volume of the course: parts and credits points	1 part, 3.0 credits
Language of instruction	LV
Annotation	Understanding the foundations of Baltic ethnic and linguistic history and development, the current state of Baltic studies research, and its issues. Knowledge of the main differences between Latvian and Lithuanian languages, and the reasons for their emergence. Understanding the development of Baltic language orthography, techniques for reading old Latvian texts, and comprehension of their content.
Goals and objectives of the course in terms of competences and skills	<p>Aim of the course: developing an understanding of the Latvian language as one of the Baltic languages: the Baltic ethnic group and the development of their language.</p> <p>Tasks of the course.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Acquire knowledge and develop understanding of the history of Baltic languages (their origin and evolution), the formation and development of Latvian and Lithuanian languages. - Develop an understanding of the main differences between Baltic languages and their causes. - Enhance understanding of the historical circumstances of the formation and development of Baltic language orthography; develop techniques for reading ancient texts in Latvian and comprehension of texts.
Structure and tasks of independent studies	Students study and reflect on scientific literature in seminars; independently analyse lexical origins and semantic development using historical and etymological dictionaries; acquire and improve reading skills of Old Latvian written texts; explain the basic concepts and key issues of the course in the final exam.

Recommended literature	<p>Obligātā/Obligatory:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> Bušs, Ojārs (2013). Latvija un latvieši: vārdu cilme. Latvieši un Latvija, 1. sēj. Latvieši. Rīga: Latvijas Zinātņu akadēmija, 15.–29. lpp. (Pieejams: https://dom.lndb.lv/data/obj/569917.html) Bušs, Ojārs (2013). Latvieši starp baltu tautām un ciltīm jeb latviešu valoda pirms latviešu valodas. Latvieši un Latvija, 1. sēj. Latvieši. Rīga: Latvijas Zinātņu akadēmija, 156.–176. lpp. (Pieejams: https://dom.lndb.lv/data/obj/569917.html) Dini, Pjetro Umberto (2000). Baltu valodas. Rīga: Jāņa Rozes apgāds. (Papildināts izdevums angļu valodā pieejams: http://www.esparama.lt/es_parama_pletra/failai/ESFproduktai/2014_Foundations_of_Baltic_Languages.pdf) Jansone, Ilga, Stafecka, Anna (2013). Latviešu rakstības attīstība: lejzemeņu un augšzemeņu tradīcija. Latvieši un Latvija, 1. sēj. Latvieši. Rīga: Latvijas Zinātņu akadēmija, 204.–244. lpp. (Pieejams: https://dom.lndb.lv/data/obj/569917.html) Karulis, Konstantīns (1992; 2002). Latviešu etimoloģijas vārdnīca. Sabaļausks, Aļģirds (2014). Mēs – balti. Rīga: Latviešu valodas aģentūra. Stafecka, Anna (2013). Latgaliešu rakstu valoda. Latviešu valoda. Andreja Veisberga redakcijā. Rīga: LU Akadēmiskais apgāds, 267.–284. lpp. Vanags, Pēteris (2013). Latviešu rakstu valodas izveide un attīstība 16.–18. gadsimtā. Latviešu valoda. Andreja Veisberga redakcijā. Rīga: LU Akadēmiskais apgāds, 201.–240. lpp. <p>Papildu/Additional:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> Breidaks, Antons (1998, 1999). Ievads baltu valodniecībā: 1.–2. daļa. Daugavpils: Saule. Denisova, Raisa (2002). Senbaltu teritorija Eiropā. Vārds un tā pētišanas aspekti, Nr. 6. Liepāja: LiePA, 8.–17. lpp. Endzelīns, Jānis (1974). Par seno kursu (jeb kuršu) tautību un valodu. Darbu izlase, 2. sēj. Rīga: Zinātne, 454.–465. lpp. Endzelīns, Jānis (1982). Senprūšu valoda: ievads, gramatika un leksika. Darbu izlase, 4. sēj., 2. daļa. Rīga: Zinātne, 9.–351. lpp. Gimbutiene, Marija (1994). Balti aizvēsturiskajos laikos: Etnoģenēze, materiālā kultūra un mitoloģija. Rīga: Zinātne. Mugurēvičs, Ēvalds (2013). Rakstīto vēstures avotu senākās ziņas par baltu tautām (ģeogrāfiskā un ģeopolitiskā skatījumā). Latvieši un Latvija, 1. sēj. Latvieši. Rīga: Latvijas Zinātņu akadēmija, 30.–50. lpp. (Pieejams: https://dom.lndb.lv/data/obj/569917.html) Sedovs, Valentīns (2004). Balti senatnē: Otrais papildinātais izdevums. Rīga: Latvijas Vēstures institūta apgāds. Lībieši. Vēsture, valoda un kultūra. Rīga: Līvõ Kultūr sidām, 2013. Zinkevičs, Zigms (1996). Par latviešu valodas cilmi. LZA Vēstis: A daļa, 50. sēj. 29.–32. lpp. Citi informācijas avoti/Other sources of information: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> Elektroniska latviešu valodas vārdnīca: e-pupa. Pieejams: http://epupa.valoda.lv/ Latviešu valodas rokasgrāmata. Pieejams: http://valodasrokasgramata.lv Latviešu valodniecības attīstība: informatīvi izglītojoša elektroniskā karte. Pieejams: http://www.lingvistiskakarte.lv Lībiešu valodas, vēstures un kultūras portāls. Pieejams: http://www.livones.net/lv Latviešu valodas vēsturiskā vārdnīca: 16.–17. gadsimts. Pieejams: http://tezaurs.lv/lv/vv/ K. Mīlenbaha un J. Endzelīna „Latviešu valodas vārdnīca”: elektroniskā versija. Pieejams: https://tezaurs.lv/mev/ Nacionālā enciklopēdija. Pieejams: https://enciklopedija.lv/ Latviešu valodas seno tekstu korpus. Pieejams: http://senie.korpus.lv/toc.jsp Spektors, Andrejs et al. Tēzaurs.lv, 2023, Vasaras versija. Pieejams: https://tezaurs.lv/
Course prerequisites	No prior knowledge.

Course contents

Content	Full- and part-time intramural studies		Part time extramural studies	
	Contact Hours	Indep. work	Contact Hours	Indep. work
Baltic Studies as a Scientific Field. Introduction to the Content and Objectives of the Introductory Course in Baltic Linguistics. Baltic Studies as one of the branches of Indo-European Studies. The Interconnection of Baltic Studies with other Sciences.	2	4	2	6
The Term "Baltic" - Origin and History of Usage. Other Terms (Terminology) for Referring to the Baltic Language Group. The Name of the Baltic Sea - History of Usage and Etymology. Other Names for this Sea, Sources of Their Recording, Distribution, and Etymology. Baltic Languages - One of the branches of the Indo-European language family. Issues of Baltic Origin and Homeland: Contributions from Archaeology, Anthropology, and Linguistics. The Area of Baltic Hydronyms, its Research History, and Significance in Determining Baltic Origins and Inhabited Territories. Earliest Written Sources on Possible Baltic People.	6	8	2	8
Baltic and Their Geolinguistic Contacts. Question of Historical Connections between Baltic, Slavic, and Germanic Peoples. Theories on Geolinguistic Contacts between Baltic and Slavic Languages. Slavic Loanwords in Baltic Languages and Baltic Loanwords in Slavic Languages. Geolinguistic Contacts between Baltic and Finno-Ugric Peoples. Influence of Baltic Languages on Baltic Sea Finnish Languages: Lexical Balticisms in Finnish and Estonian, and their Research History. Influence of Finno-Ugric Languages on Baltic Languages, and their Research History.	4	8	2	10

Western Baltics The Prussians in different historical sources. Borders and names of the Prussian inhabited lands (districts) in the 12th-13th centuries. Geolinguistic contacts of Prussians with other Whites, Slavs, Germanics. Subjugation, assimilation and extermination of Prusai. The question of Old Prussians and New Prussians. Prussian handwritten and printed monuments. Main features of Prussian lexis, phonetics, grammar. Information about the Yatvingians in Russian and Polish historical sources. Toponymic and anthroponymic evidence of Jataving language peculiarities. Polish-Yatvingian dictionary transcript, its characteristics. Ethnonym Kursi in historical sources: variants and etymologies. Curonian regions (lands) mentioned in 13th century documents. Different views on the ethnicity and place of the Curonians in the Baltic language group. Traces of the Curonian language in the toponyms and dialects of Kurzeme and Samogitia. The main features of the Curonian language.	4	6	2	8
Eastern Baltics in the Territory of Latvia: Semigallians, Selonians, Latgalians. Ethnonym "Semigallians" in Historical Sources, Its Etymology. Traces of Semigallian Language in Toponyms and Middle Dialect of Semigallian Area. Main Features of Semigallian Language. Ethnonym "Selonians" in Historical Sources. Traces of Selonian Language in Toponyms in Latvia and Lithuania. Ethnonym "Latgalians," Its Variants in 10th-13th Century Sources. Further Development of Latgalians as a Baltic Ethnic Group.	4	6	2	8
The term "Lithuanians" in Historical Sources, Its Etymology and Historical Usage. Samogitians and Highlanders. Comparison of Lithuanian and Latvian Languages: Main Lexical, Phonetic, and Grammatical Features.	4	6	2	8
The Origin and Development of Latvian Orthography. The First Printed Texts and Books in Latvian, Their Cultural-Historical Context, and Orthography. The First 17th Century Grammars and Dictionaries. Translation of the Bible, Its Writing, and Language. 18th Century Grammars and Dictionaries, Their Significance in Developing Writing Standards. Stylistic Variation in Latvian Language Texts.	4	6	2	8
The New Orthography, its Formation and Implementation in the Cultural-Historical Context. The Basic Principles of the Young Latvian Movement in the Formation and Development of the Latvian National Language. Orthographic Reform Projects in the Second Half of the 19th Century. The Work of the Knowledge Commission of the Riga Latvian Society in Orthographic Reform. The Orthographic Reform of 1908. Implementation and Consolidation of the New Orthography in the 20th-30th Centuries.	2	4	2	6
Latgalian written language. The origins, tradition and development of the Latgalian written language up to the 21st century.	2	4	0	6
Total:	32	52	16	68

Learning outcomes and assessment

Learning outcomes	Assessment methods
Knowledge and understanding of Baltic ethnogenesis, the Baltic language family and its development, as well as issues related to the ethnogenesis and development of Baltic languages.	Participation in workshops and seminars. Final exam (written).
Knowledge of terminology within the field.	Participation in workshops and seminars. Final exam (written).
Basic understanding of the main differences between Baltic languages and their causes.	Participation in workshops and seminars.
Basic knowledge of the origin and development of Latvian orthography, along with its cultural and historical context.	Participation in workshops and seminars. Intermediate test (Reading and interpreting an Old Latvian text).
The ability to independently enhance knowledge and skills by studying scientific literature in both printed and electronic sources.	Participation in workshops and seminars. Homework: describing loanwords using historical and etymological dictionaries. Final exam (written).
The skill to critically evaluate and analyze information and information sources.	Participation in workshops and seminars. Homework: describing loanwords using historical and etymological dictionaries. Final exam (written).
The ability to read and interpret texts in old print (Gothic script).	Intermediate test (Reading and interpreting an Old Latvian text).
Enhanced linguistic and socio-linguistic competence, developing the ability to apply acquired knowledge both professionally and for personal growth.	Participation in workshops and seminars. Intermediate test (Reading and interpreting an Old Latvian text). Final exam (written).
Improved communicative competence through collaboration in the preparation and resolution of seminar questions.	Participation in workshops and seminars.
Developed critical thinking skills: experience in elucidating issues in Baltic studies using scientific sources, comparing them with popular science and other types of information sources.	Participation in workshops and seminars. Homework: describing loanwords using historical and etymological dictionaries.
Enhanced digital competence, ability to independently select digital resources relevant to the topic.	Participation in workshops and seminars. Intermediate test (Reading and interpreting an Old Latvian text).

Evaluation criteria of study results

Criterion	%
Participation in workshops and seminars	20
Homework: describing loanwords using historical and etymological dictionaries	20
Intermediate test (Reading and interpreting an Old Latvian text)	20

Final exam (written)	40
Total:	100

Study subject structure

Part	CP	Hours			Tests		
		Lectures	Practical	Lab.	Test	Exam	Work
1.	3.0	16.0	16.0	0.0		*	