Syllabus: SCAND 454 / HSTEU 454 Baltic History, Winter Quarter 2024

Class meets Tuesdays and Thursdays 12:30-2:20, Smith Hall 307*

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Course Description:
This course surveys history of Estonia, Latvia and Lithuania and the broader Baltic region, with deepened focus on the indigenous population’s agency from the end of serfdom in the 19th century to parliamentary democracies of 2024. We will pay particular attention to the experiences of individuals in historical context: How did they respond to historical events as they unfolded, how did they affect the course of history? Students will explore and critique a variety of primary and secondary sources used in historical research about the Baltic countries.

Course Objectives:
- Learn a detailed timeline of Baltic History; encounter at least three different ways of writing about that timeline.
- Compile a timeline of individual lives in Baltic history, to explore the problem of individual experiences as a component of historical narratives
- Learn how to do critical analysis of primary and secondary sources
- Formulate a research question, and develop a thesis to answer the question

Grades:
- Three exploratory essays (various formats possible!) about individuals in Baltic history 30%
- Final essay, combining the three essays 10%
- Contributions to class discussions 30%
- Quizzes and Final exam 30%

Required Readings:
- Andrejs Plakans, A Concise History of the Baltic States (Cambridge, 2011)
- Violeta Kelertas, ed. Marriage for Love (Birchwood, 2020)
- Modris Eksteins, Walking since Daybreak (Boston, 1999)
- Selected articles and sources (Links/pdf copies on Canvas website)

Reference:
- Saulius Sužiedėlis, Historical Dictionary of Lithuania (2011) [e-book in UW Libraries Catalog]
- ...and other web resources in Estonian, Latvian, Lithuanian, and other languages, machine-translated!

* Washington state law requires that UW develop a policy for accommodation of student absences or significant hardship due to reasons of faith or conscience, or for organized religious activities. The UW’s policy, including more information about how to request an accommodation, is available at Religious Accommodations Policy (https://registrar.washington.edu/staffandfaculty/religious-accommodations-policy/). Accommodations must be requested within the first two weeks of this course using the Religious Accommodations Request form (https://registrar.washington.edu/students/religious-accommodations-request/).
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<th>Week</th>
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| Week 1 Jan 3-5 | Prehistory (-1200) | Introducing the region  
**Reading discussed during class:**  
- Plakans (pages xii-xvi) + map 361  
- People: Vikings! |
| Week 2 Jan 8-12 | **Read this before class:**  
Map Quiz! Plakans, page 361  
- Plakans 1 (pages 1-32)  
- People: Albert (37); Mindaugas | Becoming West European, 1200-1500  
**Read this before class:**  
- Plakans 2 (33-76)  
- People: Plettenberg (83); Gediminas (51) |
| Week 3 Jan 15-19 | Becoming Protestant, 1500-1700  
- Plakans 3 (77-124)  
- Kettler (97); Mažvydas, Raabe | Imperial Colonialization, 1700-1800  
- Plakans 4 (125-169)  
- J.G.Herder (150), Kościuszko, Kikul |
| Week 4 Jan 22-26 | Emerging Agency, 1800-1855  
- Plakans 5 (170-214)  
- Plater (199); Mickiewicz (202); Kreutzwald (211) | Liisi Esse (Stanford U) guest speaker  
- Read Esse, “Estonian soldiers in WWI”  
**Summary discussion + In-class-essay quiz!** |
| Week 5 1/29-2/2 | Estonian & Latvian Emancipation, and Decolonization begins  
- Plakans 6.1 (215-234)  
- Koidula (219); Kronvalds (230)  
- Kelertas/Žemaitė/Racys (17-106, 303-9) | Remembering Lithuanian Politics  
- Plakans 6.2 (234-241)  
- People: Basanavičius (239)  
- Kelertas/Žemaitė (1-15, 107-176)  
**Essay 1 due (+peer reviews)** |
| Week 6 Feb 5-9 | Empowering Herstory  
- Kelertas/Žemaitė (177-96, 259-302)  
- Eksteins (ix-xiv, 1-32) | Becoming Urban, 1855-1905  
- Plakans 6.3 (241-265)  
- Köler oral history  
- Pliekšane, Kudirka |
| Week 7 2/12-16 | Creating a Post-Imperial World, 1905  
- Plakans 7.1 (266-307)  
- Zalkin, in Sirutavicius (21-44)  
- Eksteins 2 (33-60) | End of Empire/Birth of Republics, 1918  
- Plakans 7.2 (307-319)  
- Eksteins 3 (61-95)  
**Essay 2 due (+peer reviews)** |
| Week 8 2/19-23 | Following leaders back to monarchy? 1926-1934-1939  
- Plakans 7.3 (319-335)  
- People: Smetona, Ulmanis, Pāts (321)  
- Eksteins 4 (6-130) | Empires Return, with a vengeance, 1939-1953  
- Plakans 8.1 (336-369)  
- Eksteins 5 (131-170) |
| Week 9 2/26-3/1 | Life goes on in a Stagnating Empire, 1953-1991  
- Plakans 8.2 (369-401)  
- Šmidchens, A Baltic Music ( ) | Remembering the 20th Century  
- Eksteins 6 (171-220)  
- Šmidchens, Power of Song (1-23) |
| Week 10 Mar 4-8 | Rebuilding European Social Democracies  
- Plakans 9 (402-448)  
- People: Meri, Ulmanis, Brazauskas  
**Wednesday: Essay 3 due + peer reviews** | Republic vs. Empire, continued  
- Tallis, “New Idealism”  
**Final portfolio due (revised & combined Three lives)** |
| Exams Week | | Thursday Feb 14, 10:30-12:20  
Final Exam |