DEPARTMENT OF HISTORY

UNIVERSITY OF TORONTO

HIS 331H1-F

Modern Baltic History

# Fall Term, 2017

Instructor: Prof. Andres Kasekamp

Time: Wednesdays 12 - 2 p.m.

Location: Claude T. Bissell Building BL313

Office hours: T 10-11, 2-3, or by appointment (office: Munk 323N)

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Course Website: [https://portal.utoronto.ca](https://portal.utoronto.ca/)

## COURSE DESCRIPTION

## This course examines political, social, cultural and economic developments in Estonia, Latvia and Lithuania from the late nineteenth century to the present. We study the emergence of independent Baltic states in context of the Russian Revolution and World War One; nation-building and dictatorship during the interwar era; collaboration, genocide and resistance during World War Two; life under Soviet rule; the Singing Revolution and the restoration of independence; transition to democracy and Europeanization. The course will conclude with discussion of contemporary challenges, such as integration of ethnic minorities, memory politics and regional security.

**BASIC TEXTS**

Andres Kasekamp, *A History of the Baltic States*, Palgrave Macmillan, 2010;

Andrejs Plakans, *A Concise History of the Baltic States*, Cambridge UP, 2011;

Kevin O’Connor, *The History of the Baltic States*, 2nd ed.,Westport: Greenwood, 2015;

Aldis Purs, *Baltic Facades. Estonia, Latvia and Lithuania since 1945*. London: Reaktion, 2012;

Georg von Rauch, *The Baltic States: The Years of Independence. Estonia, Latvia, Lithuania 1917-1940*. London: Hurst, 1974;

Romuald Misiunas & Rein Taagepera, *The Baltic States: Years of Dependence, 1940-1990*. 2nd ed. Berkeley: University of California Press, 1993;

John Hiden and Patrick Salmon, *The Baltic Nations and Europe: Estonia, Latvia & Lithuania in the Twentieth Century*, 2nd ed., London: Longman, 1994;

David J. Smith, et al., *The Baltic States: Estonia, Latvia and Lithuania*. London: Routledge, 2002.

Toivo U. Raun, *Estonia and the Estonians*, Hoover Institution Press, 2nd ed., 2001; Andrejs Plakans, *The Latvians: A Short History*, Hoover Institution Press, 1995;

Alfonsas Eidintas et al., *Lithuania in European Politics: The Years of the First Republic, 1918-1940*. New York: St. Martin’s Press, 1997;

Course materials – including syllabus, schedule, weekly readings, and additional texts – will be posted on the course website.

**General Reference**

Andrejs Plakans, *Historical Dictionary of Latvia*, Rowman & Littlefield, 2nd ed., 2008; Toivo Miljan, *Historical Dictionary of Estonia*, Rowman & Littlefield, 2nd ed., 2015;

Saulius Sužiedelis, *Historical Dictionary of Lithuania*, R&L, 2nd ed., 2011.

**COURSE REQUIREMENTS**

Attendance, readings, participation (10%), mid-term test (20%), an essay (35%), and the final exam (35%). Late essays will lose one full grade per week.

## CLASS SCHEDULE AND TOPICS

### LECTURE 1 – Sept. 13

**Introduction.**

Course format, themes, sources, and practicalities.

The Baltic identity. Brief historical overview from the 13th to the 19th century.

**LECTURE 2 – Sept. 20**

**War and Revolution.**

Late 19th century socio-economic moderization. National movements. The 1905 Revolution. The impact of World War I and the Russian Revolution of 1917.

Required Readings: Rauch, pp. 1-39; Kasekamp 2010, pp. 68-94.

**LECTURE 3 – Sept. 27**

**Emergence of statehood.**

Between autonomy and independence. Self-Determination. German occupation. The Wars of Independence and the Russian Civil War.

Required Readings: Eidintas, 1997, pp. 11-31; Raun, pp. 99-111; Plakans, pp. 112-22.

**LECTURE 4 – Oct. 4**

**Independent states: the democratic era 1920 – 1934.**

Political System. Social, economic and cultural transformation.

Required Readings: Plakans, pp. 122-40; Raun, pp. 112-38; Eidintas, pp. 33-58.

**LECTURE 5 – Oct. 11**

**Independent states: authoritarian regimes 1934 – 1940.**

The demise of democracy and the emergence of authoritarian regimes.

Required Readings: Rauch, pp. 146-88; Kasekamp, “Fascism”.

**LECTURE 6 – Oct. 18**

**In search of security.**

The foreign and security policies of the Baltic states. Baltic cooperation. The Nazi-Soviet Pact of 1939, WWII and the era of Soviet military bases. The Soviet occupation.

Required Readings: Kirby, “Incorporation”, pp. 69-85; Ilmjärv, *Silent Submission*, pp. 923-43; Hiden & Salmon, pp. 59-75, 88-114; Misiunas & Taagepera, pp. 15-46;

**LECTURE 7 – Oct. 25**

**The Nazi occupation and the Holocaust, 1941-1944.**

The Nazi *Ostland*. The Holocaust. Collaboration and Resistance. Military campaigns in the Baltic. Refugees.

Required Readings: Misiunas & Taagepera, pp. 47-73; Hiden & Salmon, pp. 115-25; Dieckmann & Suziedelis, pp. 97-175.

**TERM TEST & LECTURE 8 – Nov. 1**

**Mid-term test (45 min.).**

**The Stalinist Era 1944-1953.**

The return of the Soviets. Resistance, collectivization, and mass deportations. Everday life under Stalinism.

Required Readings: Misiunas & Taagepera, pp. 76-130.

*READING WEEK - Nov. 6 - 10*

**LECTURE 9 – Nov. 15**

**Baltic Peoples under Soviet Rule, 1953-1985.**

“Thaw” and “Stagnation”. Communist Parties. Social and cultural life under Soviet rule. Demographic changes and Russification. Dissent.

Required Readings: Plakans, pp. 156-66; Raun, pp. 189-220; Lane, pp. 67-82; Purs, pp. 49-76.

**LECTURE 10 – Nov. 22**

**The Singing Revolution and the Collapse of the Soviet Union, 1985-1991.**

Gorbachev’s reforms. The ‘Singing Revolution’. Popular movements. The drive for independence. International recognition.

Required Readings: Misiunas & Taagepera, pp. 303-35.

Film: “The Singing Revolution” (part one, 45 min.).

**LECTURE 11 – Nov. 29**

**Transition, 1991-2004.**

Restoration of statehood. Political systems. Transition and reforms. Ethnic minorities.

Required Readings: Kasekamp 2010, pp. 172-87; Auers, pp. 42-194.

**LECTURE 12 – Dec. 6**

**European integration.**

European integration and security policies: the EU and NATO. Relationship with Russia. Contemporary societal challenges. Future prospects.

Required Readings: Kasekamp 2010, pp. 188-97; Purs, pp. 172-83; Auers, pp. 195-228.

**IMPORTANT DATES**

**Essays** (ca. 12 pages) due – Nov. 22

**Classes end** – Dec. 6

**Final exams** – Dec. 10 – 28

**Please note:**

**Academic Integrity**

The University of Toronto treats cases of plagiarism very seriously. The *Code of Behaviour on Academic Matters* (<http://www.governingcouncil.utoronto.ca/policies/behaveac.htm>) outlines the behaviours that constitute academic dishonesty and the procedures for addressing academic offenses. If you have questions or concerns about what constitutes appropriate academic behaviour or research and citations methods, you should seek information from your instructor or other university resources.

See <http://www.utoronto.ca/academicintegrity/resourcesforstudents.html>

**Accessibility**

The University provides academic accommodations for students with disabilities in accordance with the terms of the Ontario Human Rights Code. For information on services and resources, see <http://www.studentlife.utoronto.ca/as>