

Course title	History of Latvian folklore and literature I
Course code	LitZ1044
Credit points	2
ECTS creditpoints	3
Total Contact Hours	32
Number of hours for lectures	32

Course developers

Valentīns Lukaševičs

Course abstract

The aim of the study course - to provide students with knowledge of Latvian folklore and literature in comparative and cultural historical perspective.

Tasks of the course -

- 1) to acquaint the students with special peculiarities of Latvian folklore and literature, its differences from other similar phenomena;
- 2) common features of Latvian folklore and literature with similar phenomena of neighbouring countries, Europe and world;
- 3) the main, most significant key features in Latvian folklore and literature.

Learning outcomes

Students, having acquired the study course

- demonstrate understanding of Latvian folklore and literature as a separate, but specific and internally structured system in Latvian culture,
- have read, possess skills to analyse the most significant texts in Latvian folklore and literature,
- are aware of the main periods, directions, persons in Latvian folklore studies and literature,
- are able to freely and analytically compare Latvian folklore and literature with corresponding European and world texts,
- have developed percept and their own opinion on specificity, pros and cons of Latvian folklore and literature, students can evaluate these phenomena in perspective of cultural history.

Course plan

32 lectures:

Theme 1. Latvian folklore, its uniqueness and diversity.

Lecture 1. Latvian folklore and literature as part of Latvian culture. Notion "culture", its ethnic, social, artistic and cognitive dominances.

Lecture 2. Latvian folk tales - their genres, functions. Contribution of A.Lerhis-Puškaitis, P.Šmits and G.Pakalns in collection and research of Latvian folk tales.

Lecture 3. Comparison of Latvian folk tales and Latvian literary tales.

Lecture 4. Latvian folk songs - their oldness, genres, content peculiarities, form regularities.

Lecture 5. Contribution of F.Brīzemnieks, H.Visendorfs, K. Barons in collection of Latvian folk songs. "Latvju dainas" - conditions of publication, structure, supplements.

Lecture 6. Folklore storage - its foundation, activity. Future plans. Latvian folk songs in holdings of Folklore storage.

Lecture 7. Song and dance festivity. Latvian traditional costumes.

Lecture 8. Latvian pagan mythology.

Lecture 9. Latvian historical and descent tales. Legend, its features and functions. Riddles, proverbs. Anecdote - specific folklore genre. SMS folklore.

Lecture 10. Folklore and folklore studies in internet resources. Place and role of folklore in contemporary society.

Theme 2. First Latvian texts.

Lecture 11. J.Gutenberg's invention, N.Mollinus - the first typographer in the territory of Latvia.

Lecture 12. Beginning of the period of sacred texts in Latvian literature.

Lecture 13. G.Elger. Jesuits and their contribution to Latvian culture. First books in Latgalian written language.

Lecture 14. Gotthard Friedrisch Stender and Classicism / Enlightenment.

Lecture 15. Bible - original languages, translations. E.Glik.

Theme 3. First authors of Latvian nationality.

Lecture 16. Neredzīgais Indriķis, his life, views, literary contribution.

Requirements for awarding credit points

Differentiated test.

Compulsory reading

Berelis G. Latviešu literatūras vēsture. Rīga, 1999.
Blanks E. Latvju tautiskā kustība. - Rīga: Zvaigzne, 1994.
Čakars O., Grīgulis A., Losberga M. Latviešu literatūras vēsture. Rīga, 1987.
Freudenfelds K. Īsa latvju literatūras vēsture skolai un pašmācībai. - Rīga: Valters un Rapa, 1928.
Frīde Z. Ienest sveci istabā. Latviešu literatūras veidošanās aspekti 19. gadsimta pirmajā pusē. - : LU Literatūras, folkloras un mākslas institūts, 2011.
Kursīte J., Stafecka A. Latgale: valoda, literatūra, folkloras. Rēzekne, Latgales kultūras centra izdevniecība, 2003.
Latviešu literatūras vēsture (6 sējumos). - Rīga, 1935.-1937.
Salceviča I. Gadsimts latgaliešu prozā un lugu rakstniecībā: 1904-2004. - Rīga: Zinātne, 2005.
Zeiferts T. Latviešu rakstniecības vēsture 1.-2. - 1991.

Further reading

Kiršentāle I. Latviešu romāns. Rīga: Zinātne, 1979.
Kīkāns V. Eiropas literārie virzieni Latvijā. Rīga: RaKa, 2003.
Priedītis A. Latvijas kultūras vēsture. No vissenākajiem laikiem līdz mūsdienām. - Daugavpils: A.K.A., 2000.
Scholz F. Die Literaturen des Baltikums. Ihre Entstehung und Entwicklung. - Opladen, 1990.
Scholz F. Die lettische Literatur. Kindlers Literatur Lexicon. Band 20.-1996.
Šuvajevs I. Prelūdijs. Kultūrvēsturiskas un filosofiskas studijas. - Rīga: Intelekts, 1998.

Periodicals and other sources

„Karogs”, „Kultūras Forums”, „Jaunā Gaita”, „Latvju Teksti”.

Notes

ABSP "History" (cultural history) Part B.

Course content

Theme 1. Latvian folklore, its uniqueness and diversity. L20
Theme 2. First Latvian texts. L10
Theme 3. First authors of Latvian nationality. L2