

<b>Course title</b>	<b>History of Latvian folklore and literature</b>
<b>Course code</b>	LitZ2002
<b>Credit points</b>	4
<b>ECTS creditpoints</b>	6
<b>Total Contact Hours</b>	<b>64</b>
<b>Number of hours for lectures</b>	64

#### **Course developers**

Valentīns Lukaševičs

#### **Course abstract**

The aim of the course is to introduce students with the basic facts, tendencies and persons in Latvian folklore and literature, as well as 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**

Lectures - 64 h.

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.Brīvēznieks, H.Visendorfs, K. Baronsin collection of Latvian folk songs. "Latvju dainas" - conditions of publication, structure, supplements.

Lecture 6. Folkloras krātuve (dib. 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 Friedrich 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.

Theme 4. First authors of Latvian nationality.

Lecture 17. A.Līventāls, A.Leitāns. "Latviešu avīzes" - first press in Latvian language. "Pēterbrugas avīzes" and "Mājas viesis" - cultural historical significance of these issues.

Theme 5. Neo-Latvians and other trends parallel to that.

Lecture 18. Neo-Latvians - chronology, aims, methods, persons. J.Alunāns.

Lecture 19. F.Mālberģis. Literary and social activity of K.Valdemārs, K.Barons, A.Kronvalds, Auseklis. Baumaņu Kārlis - author of text and music of Latvian anthem.

Lecture 20. J.Neikens, Aspīšu Jēkabs, Māteru Juris. M and R. Kaudzītes' "Mērnīeku laiki" - one of the two first Latvian novels.

Lecture 21. Andrejs Pumpurs. Composition, versification, ideas of epos "Lāčplēsis". A. Pumpurs and Daugavpils.

Theme 6. The New Current and other trends parallel to that.

Lecture 22. Jānis Rainis - thinker, poet, dramatist, politician.

Lecture 23. Drama, prose, poetry of Anna Brigadere. Aspazija. Zemgaliešu Biruta.

Lecture 24. R.Blaumanis, J.Poruks, V.Plūdons, F.Bārda. A.Upīts.

Theme 7. Latvian literature in the 1st part of the 20th century.

Lecture 25. Decadents - their manifestations, aesthetic and ideologic complaints. A.Čaks. J.Purapuķe and E.Virza.

Lecture 26. A.Saulietis and Tīrzmaliete. Direction of Positivism in Latvian literature in the 2nd half of 1930s. Reasons of popularity of V.Lācis' prose.

Theme 8. Latvian literature in the 2nd part of the 20th century.

Lecture 27. World War II, phenomenon of exile. Principles of social realism and introduction of this direction in Latvian literature. O. Poetry of O.Vācietis, I.Ziedonis, V.Belšeвица, M.Čaklais, K.Skujenieks.

Lecture 28. Regīna Ezera. A.Bels. M.Zariņš.

Lecture 29. Latvian literature in exile: poetry (V. Strēlerte, Z. Lazda, L. Tauns, G. Saliņš, M. Gūtmane e.a.), prose (J. Klīdzējs, I. Šķipsna, G. Janovskis), drama (M. Ziverts).

Lecture 30. Generation of 1980s (K. Elsbergs, A. Rancāne, P. Brūvers, G. Godiņš, M. Melgalvs, A. Aizpuriete. M.Zālīte e.a.).

Theme 9. Contemporary Latvian literature (the end of the 20th century - beginning of the 21st century).

Lecture 31. G.Berelis J.Einfelds, N.Ikstena, G.Repše. Commercial literature, its possibilities and reality in Latvia.

Lecture 32. Poetry of K.Vērdiņš, A.Draguna, P.Draguns Jo, I.Jansone. Prose of I.Ābele and L.Muktupāvela. Topical issues and tendencies in the most recent Latvian literature (A.Vīguls, Gaiķu Māris e.a.).

### **Requirements for awarding credit points**

Passed examination during the semester, passed differentiated test at the end of the course.

### **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”, „Latvju Teksti”, [www.lakuga.lv](http://www.lakuga.lv)

### **Notes**

ABSP "History" (cultural history) Part B.

### **Course content**

Theme 1. Latvian folklore, its uniqueness and diversity.  
Theme 2. First Latvian texts.  
Theme 3. First authors of Latvian nationality.  
Theme 4. First authors of Latvian nationality.  
Theme 5. Neo-Latvians and other trends parallel to that.  
Theme 6. The New Current and other trends parallel to that.  
Theme 7. Latvian literature in the 1st part of the 20th century.  
Theme 8. Latvian literature in the 2nd part of the 20th century.  
Theme 9. Contemporary Latvian literature (the end of the 20th century - beginning of the 21st century).