Cultures and Identities in the Baltic-Black Sea Region

Brief description: The course is dedicated to main peculiarities of national cultures and identities of the Baltic-Black Sea Region and the meaning of collective identities of two regions, respectively.

The course focuses on the main trends of transformation of national cultures and perception of national and collective identities in conditions of integration and globalization processes.

Objectives of the course:

• to establish the understanding of the concepts of culture and identity in terms of their correlation and evolution due to the current developments on the international scene;

• to identify the cultural peculiarities of the states belonging to the Baltic and Black Sea Regions;

• to generalize the sense of common culture (values) and collective identity within those two regions which are diverse and multicultural.

Learning outcomes:

• To develop broader understanding of the concepts of “culture” and “identity”;

• To identify the main components of culture and identity;

• To characterize the social and cultural heritage of the Baltic an Black Sea Region, taking into account the particular nature of systemic changes and developments thought the history;

• To analyze the cultural diversity of contemporary Baltic and Black Sea Region;

• To study main trends and to address key issues which currently are relevant for the Baltic-Black Sea region including the extent to which it was affected by different social and cultural changes;

• To analyze the forms of intercultural interactions in the Baltic and Black Sea Regions.

Study materials, including bibliography:

Obligatory:

1. Allan, Kenneth (1998). The Meaning of Culture: Moving the Postmodern Critique Forward, Greenwood Publishing Group.

2. Balzer, Marjorie Mandelstam (2015). Religion and Politics in Russia, Routledge.

3. Bäckström, Anders (2014). Religion in the Nordic Countries: Between Private and Public, in: Journal of Contemporary Religion, 29(1).

4. Ben Rafael, Eliézer, Sternberg, Yitzhak (2002). Identity, Culture and Globalization, BRILL.

5. Bernstein, Eckhard (2004). Culture and Customs of Germany, Greenwood Publishing Group.

6. Bruce, Steve (2000). The Supply-Side Model of Religion: The Nordic and Baltic States, in: Journal for the Scientific Study of Religion, Vol. 39, No. 1, pp. 32-46.

7. Dawisha, Karen, Starr, S. Frederick (1994). National Identity and Ethnicity in Russia and the New States of Eurasia, M.E. Sharpe.

8. Gerlach, Julia, Töpfer Jochen (2014). The Role of Religion in Eastern Europe Today, Springer.

9. Giesen, B., ed. (1991). Nationale und kulturelle Identitat: Studien zur Entwicklung des kollektiven Bewustseins in der Neuzeit, Frankfurt/Main: Suhrkamp.

10. Gӧtz, Norbert ed. (2014). The Sea of Identities: A Century of Baltic and East European Experiences with Nationality, Class, and Gender, Elanders, Stockholm.

11. Henningsen, B. (2011). On Identity – No Identity: An Essay on the Constructions, Possibilities and Necessities for Understanding a European Macro Region: The Baltic Sea, Copenhagen: Baltic Development Forum.

12. Huntington, S.P. (1996). The Clash of Civilizations and the Remaking of World Order, New York: Simon & Schuster.

13. Lehti, Marko (2005). The Baltic as a Multicultural World: Sea, Region and Peoples, BWV, Berliner Wissenschafts-Verlag.

14. Lieven, Anatol (1993). The Baltic Revolution: Estonia, Latvia, Lithuania and the Path to Independence. New Haven, Conn.: Yale University Press.

15. Maciejewski, Witold (2002). The Baltic Sea Region: Cultures, Politics, Societies, Baltic University Press.

16. Makarychev, Andrey, Yatsyk, Alexandra (Eds.). (2017). Borders in the Baltic Sea Region. Suturing the Ruptures. Palgrave.

17. O’Connor, Kevin (2006). Cultures and Customs of the Baltic States, Green Wood Press.

18. Schartau, Mai-Brith, Berglund, Sten, Lagerspetz, Mikko, Henningsen Bernd (2011). Political culture Texte imprimé values and identities in the Baltic Sea region The Baltic Sea region: Northern dimensions - European perspectives, BWV Verlag.

19. Solitander, Adrian (2014). Portfolio of Baltic Sea Region: Images and Identities, Tendensor.

20. Vogt, Roland, Cristaudo, Wayne, Leutzsch, Andreas (2014). European National Identities: Elements, Transitions, Conflicts, Transaction Publishers

21. Waever, Ole (1990). Culture and Identity in the Baltic Sea Region, Centre for Peace and Conflict Research (COPRI).

Recommended:

1. Bandle, Oskar (2005). The Nordic languages: an international handbook of the history of the North Germanic languages, Walter de Gruyter.

2. Brüggemann, K. (2003). Leaving the ‘Baltic’ States and ‘Welcome to Estonia’: Re-Regionalising Estonian Identity, in: European Review of History 10 (2).

3. Cool North - Cultural Diplomacy in the Nordic Countries “Strategies for Regional Development, Cooperation, Good Neighbor Relations”, Copenhagen; September 8th - 9th, 2014.

4. Davies, N. (2001 [1984]). Heart of Europe: The Past in Poland’s Present, Oxford: University Press.

5. Donskis, Leonid (2002). Identity and Freedom: Mapping Nationalism and Social Criticism in Twentieth-Century Lithuania, New York: Routledge.

6. Domsch, Michel E., and Désirée H. Ladwig, eds. (2000). Reconciliation of Family and Work in Eastern European Countries. Frankfurt: Peter Lang.

7. Hoppenbrouwers, Frans (1999). Romancing Freedom: Church and Society in the Baltic States since the End of Communism, in: Religion, State & Society, 27, no. 2.

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9. Knox, Zoe (2004). Russian Society and the Orthodox Church: Religion in Russia after Communism, Routledge.

10. Levin, Dov (2000). The Litvaks: A Short History of the Jews in Lithuania. Jerusalem: Vad Yashem.

11. Musiał, Kazimierz (2002). Approaching Knowledge Society in the Baltic Sea Region, Gdańsk-Berlin.

12. Preece, Julian, Finlay, Frank (2010). Religion and Identity in Germany Today: Doubters, Believers, Seekers in Literature and Film, Peter Lang.

13. Sanandaji, Nima (2015). Scandinavian Unexceptionalism: Culture, Markets and the Failure of Third-Way Socialism, The Institute of Economic Affairs.

14. Smith, David James, Pabriks,Artis, Lane, Thomas, Purs, Aldis (2002). The Baltic States: Estonia, Latvia and Lithuania, Psychology Press.

15. Toivo U. Raun (1987). Estonia and the Estonians, Stanford, Calif.: Hoover Institution Press.

Additional sources:

1. German Culture, available at: https://culturalatlas.sbs.com.au/german-culture

2. Polish Culture, available at: https://culturalatlas.sbs.com.au/polish-culture

3. Russian Culture, available at: https://culturalatlas.sbs.com.au/russian-culture

4. Swedish Culture, available at: https://culturalatlas.sbs.com.au/swedish-culture