

Learning plan (for group learning)  
of the course **”Lithuanian Folklore, Traditions, Mythology”**

Lecturer – Jurgita Macijauskaitė-Bonda

Course outcomes

After the course the students will be able:

- to identify the main features and sources of traditional Lithuanian culture;
- to describe the main genres of Lithuanian folklore;
- to briefly describe the Baltic mythological tradition;
- to describe the main traditional calendar, work-related and family festivals, and the main national holidays;
- to identify the realia of ethnic Lithuanian material culture.

All meetings with the lecturer will take place online via the *MS Teams* platform on Mondays 15.00-16.30

Topic	Week	Contact hours	Assessments
<p><b>1. Introduction</b> Course aim, course outcomes and content, study methods, methods of learning achievement assessment and homework assignments, distribution of workload for students, structure of cumulative score, recommended reference materials.</p>	1	5 February 2024 15:00 – 16:30	
<p><b>2. The development of traditional Lithuanian culture</b> The Palemon legend, the origins, Baltic tribes, Baltic languages and Baltic countries, the most significant historical events, ethnic culture and the natural environment, the development of rural communities, types of villages, ethnic costume, diet, religion, etc. in different periods of time.</p>	2-3	12 and 19 February 15:00 – 16:30	
<p><b>2) Lithuanian calendar festivals</b> The calendar, the great or annual festivals and national festivals, St Andrew’s Day, Advent, Christmas Eve, Christmas, Christmas Eve night beliefs and divinations, New Year Epiphany, midwinter, Tuesday before the fasting of Lent, St Casimir’s Day and <i>Kaziuko</i> fair, Palm Sunday, Easter, St John’s Day, All Souls’</p>	4-5	26 February and 4 March 15:00 – 16:30	

Day, and other festivals, folklore, and folk beliefs related to them.			
<p><b>3) Lithuanian Family Customs and Traditions: Funerals and Weddings</b></p> <p>The rites of passage, function of rituals, traditional weddings, traditional wedding structure, folk beliefs, songs, and traditions related to weddings, folk beliefs, customs, and traditions related to funerals.</p>	6-7	<p>11 March is a public holiday 18 March</p> <p>15:00 – 16:30</p>	
<p><b>Midterm Test</b></p> <p>It covers topics: 1) The development of traditional Lithuanian culture, 2) Lithuanian calendar festivals, and 3) Lithuanian Family Customs and Traditions: Funerals and Weddings</p>	8	<p><b>25 March</b> <b>15:00 – 16:30</b></p>	<p><b>Midterm Test</b></p> <p>20 short questions of different types (multiple choice, true / false, etc.)</p>
<p><b>4) Ancient Religion and Mythology</b></p> <p>Lithuanian etiological legends about the creation of the world and the world of Lithuanian belief legends, main characters and plots, examples of folk narratives and their interpretation, general characteristics of ancient religion, major sources, stages of the religious tradition, pantheon, and cult.</p>	9-11	<p>8, 15 and 22 April</p> <p>15:00 – 16:30</p>	
<p><b>5) Lithuanian Folk Songs</b></p> <p>Ancient Lithuanian music tradition, multipart songs <i>sutartinės</i>, their types and categories, characteristics of texts and melodies, performers, performing styles, other folk songs, traditional laments, work songs, songs of the calendar cycle</p>	12-13	<p>29 April and 6 May</p> <p>15:00 – 16:30</p>	
<p><b>6) Lithuanian folk costume</b></p> <p>Archaeological or historical costumes of the Baltic tribes, the reconstruction of ancient costumes, traditional women's and men's costumes in the 19<sup>th</sup> c., traditional clothing in different regions.</p>	14	<p>13 May</p> <p>15:00 – 16:30</p>	

<p><b>7) Traditional Cuisine</b> Major influences, development, traditional diet and products, everyday food and dishes consumed during festivals, regional cuisine.</p>	15	20 May  15:00 – 16:30	
<p><b>Individual Written Homework Assignment</b> 2 options (students have to choose one): 1) an ethnographic analysis of 4-5 different events related to the traditional Lithuanian culture; 2) a collection of children's and youth folklore.</p>	14	<b>Deadline:</b> 6 May	Written Homework Assignment
<p><b>Final exam</b> It covers topics: 4) Ancient Religion and Mythology, 5) Lithuanian Folk Songs, 6) Lithuanian folk costume, 7) Traditional Cuisine</p>		<b>3 June</b> (time will announced later)	<b>Final exam</b> 30 short questions of different types (multiple choice, true / false, etc.)
<p><b>Consultations</b> Held in real time after each lecture.</p>	Weeks 1-15	From 5 February to 20 May	

Assessment strategy

Assignment	Percentage of the final grade
Final exam	50%
Midterm test	30%
Written homework assignment	20%
all assignments = final grade	= 100%