

course beginning: autumn autumn

subject catalogue S23 K24

course code ÜAK627

name of course

Estonian Culture and Language for International Students

specification

for international and exchange students (BA, MA level)

academic instructor

M.Tarvas

prerequisite course

no of terms

1

contact hr/total

30.0

hr/term

30.0

hr/week

0.0

ECTS/total

3.00

Lect

30.0

Grp

0.0

Ind

0.0

Sem

0.0

Pract

0.0

graded or pass/fail exams

A

term

1

ECTS

3.00

aim of the subject

The aim of the subject is to create an opportunity for international students to assimilate more efficiently with the social and cultural space of Estonia. To achieve the goal the students will (1) learn the basics of Estonian language, (2) get a general look on Estonian history and culture, including national culture, (3) familiarise with local behavioural standards and more important traditions. ÜAK627 is included among the subjects supporting the field of the final thesis.

The subject is for MA students who have not yet passed this subject on the BA level.

content

Among the students of this subject there are vastly differing (1) levels of previous knowledge and experience concerning

European culture, (2) unevenness of English literacy, (3) and wide variety of national and cultural background. Therefore the study process is designed to be flexible. All traditional elements of the university level study process are used: (1) lecture, (2) individual reading (reading test); (3) written discussion (essay); (4) oral discussion (seminar); (5) studying musical styles by listening to music (listening tests).

A selection of themes that are approached:

- (1) Estonian culture in the context of European and World culture,
- (2) Estonian language in the family of European and World languages,
- (3) A brief overview of Estonian history,
- (4) Estonian nature, incl. most important nature monuments,
- (5) Estonian population – nationalities, languages, and religions,
- (6) Acquisition of elementary language skills for communicating with teachers and fellow students; understanding of simple written signs and announcements,
- (7) Estonian folk culture and runic song;
- (8) Estonian song festival culture,
- (9) Important Estonian cultural facilities,
- (10) Timing compliance and other European customs that are valued in Estonia.

learning outcomes

On completion of the course the student:

- (1) should be able to demonstrate awareness about Estonian language and culture in a wider cultural context,
- (2) should know the most important milestones in the history of Estonia,
- (3) should be able to describe Estonian climate and nature,
- (4) should know the composition of Estonian population,
- (5) should be able to utter basic expressions in Estonian and demonstrate understanding of most important public announcements,
- (6) should know Estonian usual customs.

assessment

Pass/fail exam that is composed of:

- (1) 25% class attendance (if not agreed on an individual programme),
- (2) 50% control of knowledge - written examination,
- (3) 25% control of knowledge - oral form.

assessment criteria

A student will pass if he/she

- (1) has attended at least 75% of lectures (not applicable if there is a special agreement with the tutor),
- (2) has completed control of knowledge in a written form (in classroom) that was agreed at the beginning of the term with 50% success,
- (3) has completed control of knowledge in oral form.

course reading material

Tuldava, Juhan: Estonian Textbook. Grammar. Exercises. Conversation. (Bloomington, Indiana 1994)

keeleklikk.ee

estonica.org

Materials prepared by the lecturer

author of course description

M.Tarvas