



Vilnius
University



Call for Applications:

“Implications of Crises on the State of Democracy: theoretical and methodological tools for studying the East of Europe” (5 ECTS)

Intensive course in Tartu, 11-17 September, 2022

Are you interested in gaining a complex view of the key issues that determine the state of democracy in the Eastern parts of Europe? We have experienced in the past two years the Covid-19 pandemic and most recently the war on Ukraine – all with devastating multiple consequences. Do you want to understand how crisis effects the rule of law? Have you ever thought what is the impact of security perceptions on people’s trust in institutions or how the role of populism and biopolitics is changing in a crisis-situation? How about comprehending the significance of the political use of history on everyday democracy?

If you like to learn more about these timely and extremely important topics – we offer you a course that combines four universities (University of Helsinki, University of Latvia, University of Tartu, Vilnius University) providing their top-notch expertise.

The course includes lectures on:

- The rule of crisis law: new and old alliances
- From biopolitics to necropolitics: from “Russian world” to Russia's war(s)
- Erosion of democracy and economic impact of populism
- Memory of the Second World War and the Soviet era

This is an opportunity to learn to use a wide multidisciplinary toolkit and improve inter/transdisciplinary thinking. You will be a part of an international group of students and will improve your oral and teamwork skills, debating skills, interview techniques and scientific writing.

You will experience that learning can be fun!

Structure and completion

The seven-day intensive course will consist of different study formats (e.g. lectures, workshops, NGO café, group work, individual work, and a fieldtrips). Students are required to:

- study the preliminary reading
- attend the intensive week programme
- prepare and present NGO café poster in groups
- submit a short learning diary about the fieldtrips
- prepare and present a group work
- submit an essay / blog text



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Applications and expenditures

The intensive course is jointly conducted by the

- University of Helsinki, Aleksanteri Institute,
- Vilnius University, Institute of International Relations and Political Science,
- University of Latvia, Master's Program in European Studies and Economic Diplomacy, and
- University of Tartu, Johan Skytte Institute of Political Studies.

The course is part of the Nordplus funded project "Baltic-Nordic Network for the Advancement of Methodology in Area Studies (BAMSE 2021)". [You can find more info at the BAMSE network website.](#)

Master's students and advanced bachelor's students of the universities listed above can apply. There are five places per university, except for the University of Tartu, from where 10 students can participate. Participants are selected by respective universities.

Ukrainian students who have fled the war and given a place to study in one of the networks partner institutions can apply. Also Ukrainian students, who already are on an exchange in one of the networks institutions and who due to the war cannot return home in order to give them the possibility to prolong their exchange can apply.

There are no tuition fees. Students from Latvia, Estonia and Finland receive a BAMSE 2021 grant for travel, accommodation and living expenses. Participants are expected to take care of their insurance themselves.

The course can be accepted to the following study programs:

- Vilnius University
 - Eastern European and Russian Studies
 - Contemporary Political Studies
 - Politics and Media
- University of Latvia
 - European Studies and Economic Diplomacy
 - International Economics and Commercial Diplomacy
 - Baltic Sea Region Studies
- University of Tartu
 - International Relations and Regional Studies (IRRS)
 - EU-Russia Studies (EURUS)
 - European Studies (EÕM)
 - Politics and Governance in the Digital Age (PGD)
- University of Helsinki / Aleksanteri Institute
 - Specialization studies in ECEBB studies (ALKU-IK533)
 - East Central European, Balkan and Baltic Societies and Cultures (ALKU-E313)
 - Expertise in Russian and Eastern European Studies (ExpREES) optional studies
 - Master's Programme in European and Nordic Studies, Optional methods course (ENS-308)
 - International MA programme in Russian Studies (MARS) optional studies



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A letter of motivation (max. one page) together with your **CV** and **academic transcript** needs to be submitted in order to apply. Please send your application via email attached as one PDF file to the contact person of your university. Give the following title to your email: “Tartu intensive course application”.

Deadline for applications is **16 June, 2022**.

Welcome to apply!

Contact persons:

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