THE POLITICS OF CHANGE IN THE BALTIC STATES

This MA course aims to analyse the development of national identity and statehood in Estonia, Latvia and Lithuania in various stages of their histories: as part of the Romanov Empire, during the first period of independence, as part of the USSR and during the second period of independence after 1991. Throughout the course we will seek to discover the sources of political power in the Baltic States and understand the relationship between power, legitimacy and identity. Particular attention will be paid to the changes set in train by resumption of independence in 1991 and this part of the course will analyse issues relating to nation-building; citizenship and integration; political institutions and party politics; the politics of foreign policy; the politics of socio-economic change; EU and NATO enlargement and the problems of post-Enlargement. No prior knowledge is expected and there are no pre-requisites for the course.

SEMINAR TOPICS

1. The development of national consciousness
2. The period of independent statehood
3. World War II and Soviet occupation
4. The independence movements
5. Nation-building: citizenship and integration
6. Building democracy: political institutions and party politics
7. The politics of foreign policy: between Russia and Europe
8. The politics of socio-economic change
9. Return to the West? EU and NATO Enlargement
10. Problems of post-Enlargement
Course title: THE POLITICS OF CHANGE IN THE BALTIC STATES
Course code: tbc
Course-unit value: 20 credits / 8 ECTS

Availability: Term 2
Open to: MA Identity, Culture and Power
MA Politics, Security and Integration
MA Central and South-East European Studies
MRes East European Studies
International MA in Economy, State and Society

Course leaders: Dr Allan Sikk/Dr Richard Mole

Aims

The aims of the course are to:

• to analyse and evaluate a range of explanatory theories and perspectives on Baltic history and politics
• develop appropriate research strategies based on the specialist literature
• enable students to frame their dissertations within theories elaborated in this course

Objectives

At the end of this course students are expected to be able:

• to communicate effectively in writing;
• to use word-processing programmes, digital, library and web resources;
• to present (non-assessed) seminar papers;
• to discuss and debate ideas, interpretations and evidence introduced in seminars;
• to conduct research and data collection in respect of documents of Baltic governments and international organisations.

Teaching and Learning Methods

Seminars and self-study. A list of readings and questions accompanies each seminar topic. During the seminars one student will give a ten-minute presentation and one other will act as discussion leader (preparing questions for general discussion). ALL students are expected to participate in the discussion. The class teacher’s role is that of chair and not lecturer. You will be required to sign up for one presentation slot.

Written Work

Students are expected to write one 2,500-word essay plus weekly reflection sheets.

Assessment

50% coursework/50% exam