



The Hebrew University of Jerusalem

Syllabus

Between Diversity and Unity: The History of Lithuania and the Struggle for Collective Rights - 390006

Last update 28-08-2025

HU Credits: 2

Degree/Cycle: 1st degree (Bachelor)

Responsible Department: History

Academic year: 2026

Semester: 2nd Semester

Teaching Languages: Hebrew

Campus: Mt. Scopus

Course/Module Coordinator: Prof. Raz Chen-Morris, Dr. Semion Goldin, Dr. Iris Nachum

Coordinator Email: raz.chen-morris@mail.huji.ac.il; semyon.goldin@mail.huji.ac.il; iris.nachum@mail.huji.ac.il

Coordinator Office Hours: Tuesday, upon appointment

Teaching Staff:

Prof. Raz Chen-Morris,
Dr. Semion Goldin,
Dr. Iris Nachum

Course/Module description:

The course, which includes a study trip to Lithuania, focuses on the history of this Baltic state from its medieval origins to the present day. Particular attention is devoted to the interwar period, with both the course and the excursion exploring Lithuania's diverse political, cultural, and social dimensions.

Course/Module aims:

This course aims to provide students with an in-depth exploration of Lithuania's history, with particular emphasis on its interwar system of collective and minority rights. Combining lectures with a one-week study trip to Lithuania – including visits to its major cities, Vilnius, Kaunas, and Klaipėda – the course examines the political, cultural, and social developments that have shaped the country's historical trajectory.

Learning outcomes - On successful completion of this module, students should be able to:

- Analyze key developments in Lithuania's history from the medieval period to the present, with emphasis on the interwar era.
- Evaluate the role of collective and minority rights in shaping Lithuania's political and social structures.
- Interpret historical sources and scholarship related to Lithuania's diverse cultural, political, and social dimensions.
- Compare Lithuania's historical trajectory with broader regional and European contexts.
- Synthesize insights gained from lectures and the study trip into a coherent understanding of Lithuania's historical development.

Attendance requirements(%):

100

Teaching arrangement and method of instruction: Lectures, discussions and excursion

Course/Module Content:

Tuesday, March 17, 2026, 12:30-14:00

Lecture 1: *The Grand Duchy of Lithuania and the Polish-Lithuanian Commonwealth*

Tuesday, March 24, 2026, 12:30-14:00

Lecture 2: *Lithuania during World War I and in the Interwar Period*

Tuesday, April 14, 2026, 12:30-14:00

Lecture 3: *From World War II to the 1990 Restoration of Independent Lithuania*

Sunday, April 19 to Sunday, 26, 2026

Study trip to Lithuania

Tuesday, April 28, 2026, 12:30-14:00

Lecture 4: *Concluding Session: Between Diversity and Unity: The History of Lithuania and the Struggle for Collective Rights*

Required Reading:

-Satoshi Koyama, "The Polish-Lithuanian Commonwealth as a Political Space: Its Unity and Complexity". In: Tadayuki Hayashi and Hiroshi Fukuda (eds.), *Regions in Central and Eastern Europe: Past and Present* (Sapporo: Hokkaido University, 2007), pp. 137-153.

-Thomas Lane, "Independent Lithuania Between the Wars". In: Thomas Lane, *Lithuania Stepping Westward* (Abingdon: Routledge, 2001), pp. 1-47.

-Dina Porat, "The Holocaust in Lithuania: Some Unique Aspects". In: David Cesarani (ed.), *The Final Solution: Origins and Implementation* (London: Routledge, 1994), pp. 159-174.

-Violeta Davoliūtė and Dovile Budrytė, "Entangled History, History Education, and Affective Communities in Lithuania". In: Cynthia M. Horne and Lavinia Stan (eds.), *Transitional Justice and the Former Soviet Union: Reviewing the Past, Looking toward the Future* (Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 2018), pp. 323-344.

Additional Reading Material:

Omry Kaplan-Feuereisen, "At the Service of the Jewish Nation: Jacob Robinson and International Law". In: *Osteuropa* 58 (2008), pp. 157-170.

Grading Scheme:

Essay / Project / Final Assignment / Home Exam / Referat 100 %

Additional information:

The seminar includes a study tour in Lithuania, partially funded by university authorities. The following are the conditions for participation in the course: 1. A request for participation must be submitted by September 30, 2025 to: iris.nachum@mail.huji.ac.il. The request should include a brief statement of interest in the seminar (up to half a page) as well as information about academic status (department, degree, year of study), 2. The seminar is intended for undergraduate students, and is also open to graduate students, 3. The study tour in Lithuania will take place between April 19-26, 2026, 4. Participation is mandatory in the three preparatory classes that will be held before the tour, and in the concluding class after it. The classes will be held on Tuesdays, between 12:30-14:00.