The peculiarities of Lithuanian geopolitical situation

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Prerequisites: none
Local credits:
ECTS credits:
Weekly hours/seminars
Duration: one semester
Form of examination: individual papers, presentations, final test

Objectives of the course:
The course is mainly devoted to introduce students with the peculiarities of Lithuanian and other Baltic countries geopolitical situation, its influence on national security policy and participation of Lithuania in the Baltic Sea region cooperation.

The course shall discover and explain features of geopolitical situation and how it influences Lithuanian integration in NATO and EU, paying attention to specialty of geographical situation of Kaliningrad oblast. What are the main points of Lithuanian position in relationship between Russia, EU, and NATO?

Lectures:
1. Definition of geopolitics
2. Definition of security
3. Regional cooperation
4. Main interpretations of concept of periphery
5. Main challenges and Strategy of Lithuanian National security.
6. Changes of Lithuanian geopolitical situation.
7. Lithuania as EU periphery
8. Changes of Lithuanian foreign policy after integration in EU and NATO
9. Relations between Lithuania and Latvia and Estonia and Poland.
10. Kaliningrad region and relations between Lithuania and Russia
11. Political situation in Belarus
12. Geopolitical conflicts in post-communistic area

Seminars:
1. Geopolitics of your country
2. Cooperation in Baltic Sea region. Regional organizations
3. The Baltic Sea Region and the new European security structure
4. Lithuanian security policy and role in the world
5. Lithuania and the "color revolutions"
6. Lithuania and "powerful states"
7. Conclusions of the Course

Reading list:
- Geopolitics of European Union enlargement : the fortress empire / edited by Warwick Armstrong and James Anderson Routledge research in transnationalism. ondon New York (N.Y.) : Routledge, : Taylor & Francis Group, 2007

- Oliver P. Richmond Emerging concepts of security in the European order: Implications for 'Zones of conflict' at the fringes of the EU // *European security* // vol. 9, No. 1, 2000, p 41-67
- M. Wight See Power and Land Power // *Power politics* // New York, 1995, p. 68-81
- Tunader O., Baev P., Einagel V.I. (eds.) *Geopolitics in Post-wall Europe: Security, Territory and Identity*. Oslo, London: Sage. 1997, p. 45-93; 94-119; 147-173; 196 - 213
- Česlovas Laurinacičius, Raimundas Lopata, Valdas Sirutavičius. *Military transit of the Russian federation through the territory of the Republic of Lithuania,* Vilnius 2002
- James N. Danziger. Politics between States // Understanding the Political world: a comparative introduction to political science // 2003 p. 291-295, 303-309
- James Hughes and Gwendolyn Sasse. Comparing Regional and Ethnic Conflicts in Post-Soviet Transition States: An Institutional Approach http://www.essex.ac.uk/ECPR/events/jointsessions/paperarchive/grenoble/ws2/hughes_sasse.pdf
- James N. Danziger. Politics between States // Understanding the Political world: a comparative introduction to political science // 2003 p. 291-295, 303-309
- Kristian L. Nielsen. Opportunities and Limitations for the Baltic States of the EU-Russia Strategic Partnership // Baltic Security & Defence Review Volume 9, 2007; P. 109 **http://se1.isn.ch/serviceengine/FileContent?serviceID=PublishingHouse&fileid=B58B1352-2461-FB8A-FDFF-3F9ACB41FD15&lng=en**

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