

Kristi Viiding
Estonian and Livonian Renaissance Humanism: Research Problems and Methodology

AUTHOR: Kristi Viiding

HOURS: Winter Semester, 6 hours

FREQUENCY: 4x45 per week since 6th December

THE COURSE CORRESPONDS TO TOPICS: Renaissance and Early Modern Intellectual History in the Northern Baltic, History of Education, History of Book

TIME AND VENUE:

Monday 6th December 2021, 10.00 - 11.30; Thursday 9th December 2021, 10.00 - 11.30;
Monday 13th December 2021, 10.00 - 11.30.

Starting date: December 6th, 2021

IFiS PAN (Staszic Palace) – Room to be defined.

ASSESSMENT

The course is available to all interested, and it is mandatory for students enrolled in the Early modern European intellectual history program.

Active participation is required. The students will be required to comment and discuss on short texts.

COURSE AIMS AND CONTENT

When and in what way did the Renaissance exist in a region where there were no courts and universities, where there were uninterrupted wars between the European powers Poland-Lithuania, Sweden, Denmark and Russia since the 1550s to 1721? In a region that was one of the first in Europe to adopt Protestant Lutheranism in the 1520s, was partially recatholized in 1580-1620 and then returned to Protestantism? What are the most important text collections, archives and libraries for the study of the intellectual history of the early modern period in Estonia and Livonia? What has been studied about the Renaissance of the Northern Baltic so far and what are the future research perspectives?

The aim of the course is to address these issues based on selected case studies.

KNOWLEDGE TO BE ACQUIRED

Participants should become general knowledge of the events and personalities that have most significantly influenced the intellectual history of the Northern Baltics in ca 1500-1640, as well as research problems and perspectives, and practical knowledge of the region's archives and libraries.

EDUCATIONAL OUTCOMES

Knowledge:

- Enriched knowledge regarding educational, cultural, and book history, authors and institutions in the Northern Baltics;
- Increased understanding of the relevance of intellectual history and research on intellectual networks to the interpretation of historical and literary issues.

Skills:

- Orientating in the key developments and influences of the Renaissance and Early modern intellectual history in the Northern Baltic area;
- Finding and contextualizing early modern sources about Livonia with appropriate research tools;
- Selecting and analysing relevant secondary literature, and online databases;
- Raising critical questions when reading sources about Renaissance and Early modern Livonia and Estonia.

Social competences:

- Understanding the dynamics of scientific production in the field of humanities;
- Understanding the importance of Europe's cultural diversity and heritage;
- Taking into account cultural differences through a historical perspective.

CRITICAL LITERATURE

Critical literature will be distributed at the beginning of each seminar.