WORLD RELIGIONS AND SACRED TOURISM

Credit points:	**3 CP**
Study course annotation	**Aim of the studycourse** is to expand students' understanding of the meaning and role of religions in different cultures, to provide insight into traditions of pilgrimage, as well as the possibilities of using the sacred cultural heritage in the field of tourism. **Tasks of the study course**: • to expand understanding religion as a phenomenon of spiritual culture, its specifics and place of religions in the historical process; • to familiarize the students with the pilgrimages tradition in different religious practices and its ways of expression in modern culture; • introduce students to religious tourism specific and products in the context of the modern tourism industry; • to develop students' competences of designing religious tourism routes and to stimulate their professional interest in the development of religious tourism in Latvia.
Study results	**Knowledge** Upon successful completion of this course students will: • understand the specifics of religious tourism; • define types of religious tourism products; • describe the specific of religion as a cultural phenomenon; • understand forms of careful and responsible use of religious heritage in tourism. **Skills** Upon successful completion of this course students will: • tolerate and accept the diversity of modern religions; • compare the experience of using religious heritage in different regions; • have professional overview of the product offer in the field of religious tourism; • argumentative select sacred tourism products according to the interests of the target audience; develop a tourist route, taking into account the specifics of religious tourism. **Competences** Upon successful completion of this course students will: • correctly use relevant concepts, formulate a justified opinion, describing the religious community and its heritage; • recognize the specific of understanding of sacred places in different religious traditions; • creatively approache problem solving, organize and plan work both in a group and individually; • develop his cultural experience independently and consciously; • develop a responsible and caring attitude towards religious heritage.

Study course plan:

No.	Topics
1.	Introduction. Religious tourism: term and type of tourism
2.	Religious / sacred tourism: infrastructure forms and specific.
3.	Religious tourism resources.

4.	Ancient world religions. Concepts of sacred space. Ancient Greek and Roman religions. Public cults and mysteries. Sacred objects of ancient religions in the context of modern culture.
5.	Abrahamic religions. Judaism: origin, spread, basic principles, organization, modern trends. Jewish traditions, rituals and holidays. The Sacred Heritage of Judaism. Pilgrimages in Judaism.
6.	Christianity: From Early Community to Modern Denominations. Medieval Christian religious life: rituals, pilgrimages, St. relics. Catholicism and Orthodoxy. Main directions of Protestantism and influence on the formation of modern Western society. Christianity in Latvia. Christian cultural heritage as objects of sacred tourism.
7.	Islam: origin, basic principles and denominations. Pilgrimage tradition in Islam. Islamic sacred places.
8.	"Eastern" religions. The specific of worldviews and understanding of sacredness. Vedic religion. Brahmanism. Hinduism. Temple and rituals. The attractiveness of Hinduism culture and art in the religious tourism market.
9.	Buddhism: origin, basic principles and denominations. The Practice of Pilgrimage in Buddhism. Objects of sacred tourism in Buddhist countries.
10.	Religions in Latvia. Objects of sacred cultural heritage and opportunities for the development of sacred tourism in Latvia.
11.	Religions and religious traditions: cultural heritage and (or) tourism potential.

Form of final examination:	Written exam

Description of the study course acquisition results and assessment criteria:
The completion of the study course is assessed on a 10-grade scale in accordance with the Regulations of the Cabinet of Ministers No. 141, No. 512, No. 240 and the "Regulations on Study Course Exams and Tests at the Baltic International Academy" approved by the BIA Senate. Decision No. 211 based on the following criteria: the volume and quality of knowledge acquired; skills acquired;acquired competence according to the planned learning outcomes (www.BIA.edu.lv)

Mandatory literature of the study course (in English):
1. Holloway, Richard A little history of religion. New Haven : Yale University Press, 2016.
2. Religious Tourism and Pilgrimage Festivals Management. An International Perspective / edited by R. Raj, K. Griffin. 2nd ed. CABI, 2015.
3. Rituals and Traditional Events in the Modern World. Edited by Jennifer Laing and Warwick Frost. London: New York: Routledge, 2017.

Study course supplementary literature:
1. Dallen J. Timothy. Sociopolitical and economic implications of religious and spiritual tourism from: The Routledge Handbook of Religious and Spiritual Tourism Routledge. London: Routledge, 2021. https://www.routledgehandbooks.com/doi/10.4324/9780429201011-26
2. Pilgrimage in the age of globalisation: constructions of the sacred and secular in late modernity. Edited by Nelia Hyndman-Rizk. Newcastle upon Tyne : Cambridge Scholars Publishing, 2012.
3. Smith, Huston. The World's Religions: Completely Revised and Updated Edition of The Religions of Man. NY: Harper Collins, 2009.
4. The Oxford Handbook of the Archaeology of Ritual and Religion / edited by Timothy Insoll. Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2020.

Periodicals and other sources of information:
1. *International Journal of Religious Tourism and Pilgrimage.* Open access journal https://arrow.tudublin.ie/ijrtp/ 2. *Reliģiski filozofiski raksti.* https://dspace.lu.lv/dspace/handle/7/31603 3. *Religions.* International, interdisciplinary, peer-reviewed, open access journal on religions and theology. https://www.mdpi.com/journal/religions
During the study process changes and additions to the program and the list of references are possible