



**RIGA
GRADUATE
SCHOOL OF
LAW**

Course Outline

Course number	RBA308					
Course title	Contemporary World History					
Credit points	3 ECTS (2 LV)					
Total hours	80					
Contact hours	32					
Independent studies	48					
Course level	Bachelor					
Prerequisites	None					
Category	Mandatory	x	Restricted elective		Free elective	

COURSE RESPONSIBLE

<i>Name</i>	<i>Academic degree</i>	<i>Academic position</i>
Mārtiņš Hiršs	PhD	Lecturer

COURSE TEACHERS

<i>Name</i>	<i>Academic degree</i>	<i>Academic position</i>
Mārtiņš Hiršs	PhD	Lecturer

COURSE ABSTRACT

The course covers the historical reasons and motivations for situations and problematic issues that modern policy makers are coping with. The course is structured to cover the most important political and economic aspects and controversies in Europe, Americas, Africa, China, Middle East and Central Asia. With an emphasis on topics and international relations problematic, this course addresses history from an explanatory perspective. Regions and countries and their specific cultural, economic and political heritage will be discussed during interactive lectures, allowing the students to engage in an active exchange of ideas, and provide alternative perspectives on historic developments.

GRADING CRITERIA

<i>Criteria</i>	<i>Weighting</i>
Exam (multiple choice test and essay)	30%
Class attendance and seminar participation	30%
Country brief (10 pages)	40%

COURSE REQUIREMENTS

The aim of the **Country brief** is to develop research, investigative and analytical skills using good quality sources. The country brief should be no longer than 10 pages (~3000 words) not counting the title page and bibliography. Students must use academic and scientific language. References must be properly used and formatted as well.

Active participation in **seminars, lectures and presentations** of Country briefs during seminars 3 and 4 is required for students aiming for the highest grades in the course. Without the contribution to discussions, the highest grades for the course are unachievable even if the exam and report are excellent.

Exam will be 1 hour long online multiple choice test on all of the topics of the course.

A positive grade (4) in the exam and in the country brief is required to complete the course!

COURSE PLAN – MAIN SUBJECTS

<i>No.</i>	<i>Main subjects</i>	<i>Planned hours</i>
1	History of United States	10
2	History of Soviet Union / Russia	8
3	History of Middle East	8
4	History of Asia	6