



ЦЕНТЪР ЗА ОБУЧЕНИЕ – БАН

1000 София
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Basic Information:

Course Title: Euro-Atlantic Integration and the Western Balkans

Lecturer: Professor Nadia Boyadjieva, Ph.D. in History (Modern and Contemporary World History (Balkan History), Doctor of Sciences in Law (International Law & International Relations)

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Total Teaching Hours: 30 hours lecture course, 20 credits

Annotation (up to 150 words)

The course explores interstate relations in the Western Balkans region after the collapse of the bipolar international system at the beginning of the 1990s, tracing it to the present day. Students will be acquainted with important socio-political and socio-economic processes that have taken place in the countries of the Western Balkans and the steps taken by individual states to gain membership in NATO and the European Union. The course discusses challenges and successes in the process of integration into Euro-Atlantic structures.

Emphasis is placed on human and minority rights issues in individual countries, regional security, democratization and the rule of law in the region. The course will also review the current situation in the Western Balkans, as well as Bulgaria's presidency in 2018 of the Council of the European Union and its priorities. It assesses the net results achieved in finding long-term solutions to issues important for the Western Balkans, the EU, and NATO.

Course content (brief description by topics or modules)

Topic / Module 1: Post–Cold War transformation of the Western Balkans and the collapse of the bipolar system.

Topic / Module 2: Euro-Atlantic integration processes in the Western Balkans.

Topic / Module 3: Pathways to NATO membership for Western Balkan countries.

Topic / Module 4: European Union enlargement and accession negotiations in the region.

Topic / Module 5: Political and economic transitions in Western Balkan states.

Topic / Module 6: Regional security challenges and cooperation in the Western Balkans.

Topic / Module 7: Democratization, governance, and the rule of law in the region.

Topic / Module 8: Human and minority rights issues in Western Balkan countries.

Topic / Module 9: The role of the EU and international actors in regional stabilization.

Topic / Module 10: Current situation in the region: specific EU initiatives and the foreign policy priorities of individual countries in the context of the challenges posed by wars and conflicts. The role of Bulgaria in maintaining security and stability in the Balkans and the Black Sea region.

Teaching and assessment methods

Hybrid form of learning

Written form of assessment

Competencies acquired as a result of training (3–5 points)



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- Understanding of Euro-Atlantic integration processes and their impact on the Western Balkans.
- Ability to analyze political, economic, and institutional developments in the region.
- Knowledge of EU and NATO enlargement policies and accession mechanisms.
- Capacity to evaluate regional security challenges and international cooperation efforts.

Literature:

Boyadjieva, N. Diplomacy, International Intervention and Post-War Reconstruction: Interactions between States, International Organisations and Local Authorities in the Implementation of the Dayton Accords for Bosnia and Herzegovina” (co-author K.Grozev). – In: Jovan Kurbalija and Hannah Slavik (Eds.), Intercultural Communication and Diplomacy, DiploBooks, Malta, 2004, pp. 331-350.....

Boyadjieva, N. The Russian Federation and the Balkans in the 21st Century. – In: Contemporary Balkans: The Challenges of the 21st Century. A. Kostov (ed.). Sofia. Tendril, 2021, pp. 229-246, Available at: https://www.balkan-challenges.eu/images/docs/Contemporary_Balkans_F.pdf

Contemporary Balkans: The Challenges of the 21st Century. A. Kostov (ed.). Sofia. Tendril, 2021, pp. 229-246; Available at: https://www.balkan-challenges.eu/images/docs/Contemporary_Balkans_F.pdf.

Boyadjieva, N. Russian Security Strategy in the Balkans. (Chapter 31). – Kanet, R. (Ed.). (2019). Routledge Handbook of Russian Security. London: Routledge. 2019, pp. 366-376

Caiani, Manuela, et al. European Narratives and Euroscepticism in the Western Balkans and the EU. Routledge, 2024

EU-Western Balkans: Boosting Digital Connectivity. Publications Office, 2018

Lampe, John R. and Ulf Brunnbauer, eds., The Routledge Handbook of Balkan and Southeast European History. London: Routledge, 2021

MacQueen, Norrie. “Humanitarian Intervention and Coercive Action: The Balkans.” – Humanitarian Intervention and the United Nations, Edinburgh University Press, 2022, pp. 141–76

Next Level Partnership: Bolstering EU-NATO Cooperation to Counter Hybrid Threats in the Western Balkans. Publications Office, 2023

Pecotić Kaufman, Jasminka, et al., editors. Competition Law and Policy in the Western Balkans. Springer Nature Switzerland, 2026

Preljevic, Hamza, et al. Shifting Paradigms: Three Decades after the Signing of the Dayton Peace Agreement. Palgrave Macmillan, an imprint of Springer Nature Switzerland, 2025

Trauner, Florian. The Europeanisation of the Western Balkans: EU Justice and Home Affairs in Croatia and Macedonia. Manchester University Press, 2011

Uvalić, Milica, and ProQuest. Integrating the Western Balkans into the EU: Overcoming Mutual Misperceptions. Edited by Milica Uvalić, Palgrave Macmillan, 2023

Boyadjieva, N. The Kosovo Crisis (1999) and Its Consequences for Russian Security Policy and Russian-NATO Relations. – Proceedings Annual University Conference 28-29 May 2020. Veliko Tarnovo, Vol. 9, National Military University Vasil Levski Publishers, 2020, pp. 186-196

Boyadjieva, N. "NATO Peacekeeping and Balkan Security". – In: " Knowledge, Science, Technologies, Innovations “. Scientific Conference Proceedings, Veliko Tarnovo, 2024, Vol.1, pp. 703-718



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Rasidagic, Esref Kenan, and Todor Koburov. “Bosnia and Herzegovina at 20: Two Views on Current Challenges.” *International Journal on Information Technologies and Security*, vol. 5, no. 1, 2013

Stoyanova, Dobrinka, et al. “Social Cohesion (Bulgaria – EU – Western Balkans).” *Ikonomicheski Izsledvaniia*, no. 3, 2019, pp. 96–123.

Szymanska, Agata. “Demographic Changes in the Countries of the Western Balkans – A Comparative Analysis with the European Union.” *Comparative Economic Research. Central and Eastern Europe [Łódź]*, vol. 25, no. 3, January 2022, pp. 161–82

Woodward, Susan L., and Brookings Institution. *Balkan Tragedy: Chaos and Dissolution after the Cold War*. Brookings Institution, 1995.....

Additional information (optional) Lists of recommended reading (in addition to required reading) will be provided to students as the course progresses.

The course is offered in English and in Bulgarian.