



ЦЕНТЪР ЗА ОБУЧЕНИЕ – БАН

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Basic Information:

Course Title: Black Sea Security

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)

This course explores security issues in the Black Sea region, starting with a discussion of what the region consists of and setting it in the context of European and regional security: military-strategic security, economic security, energy security, etc. It discusses the Black Sea policy of the main actors in the region: Russia, Turkey, Bulgaria, Ukraine, Romania, and Georgia, as well as economic, strategic, and energy perspectives of “the Wider Black Sea” area in the 21st century. The course also discusses the “frozen conflicts” and other threats to security in the Black Sea region. Another important issue will be Black Sea security perspectives related to NATO enlargement, and EU enlargement in the western Balkans. Another important focus will be the role of Bulgaria as a valuable partner and a reliable member of the EU and NATO and its Black Sea policy in the XXI century. The lecture course concludes by discussing prospects for Black Sea security.

Course content (brief description by topics or modules)

Topic / Module 1: Definition and conceptualization of the Black Sea region within the broader context of European security.

Topic / Module 2: Analysis of military-strategic, economic, and energy security dimensions in the regional landscape.

Topic / Module 3: Evaluation of the Black Sea policy and strategic interests of the Russian Federation.

Topic / Module 4: Examination of Turkey’s regional influence and its diplomatic approach to Black Sea security.

Topic / Module 5: Comparative study of the national security perspectives of Ukraine, Romania, and Georgia.

Topic / Module 6: Exploration of the economic and energy perspectives of the “Wider Black Sea” area in the 21st century.

Topic / Module 7: Assessment of “frozen conflicts” and emerging non-traditional threats to regional stability.

Topic / Module 8: Impact of NATO and European Union enlargement on the security dynamics of the Western Balkans and Black Sea.

Topic / Module 9: The role of Bulgaria as a reliable EU and NATO partner and its specific Black Sea policy objectives.

Topic / Module 10: Prospects and strategic forecasts for long-term security and cooperation in the Black Sea region.



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Teaching and assessment methods

Hybrid form of learning

Written form of assessment

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

- The ability to evaluate the Black Sea region through the specialized lenses of military-strategic, economic, and energy security.
- Proficiency in identifying and analyzing the competing strategic interests of key regional powers, including Russia, Turkey, and Bulgaria.
- The skill to identify "frozen conflicts" and modern security threats to determine their impact on regional and European stability.
- The capacity to assess the influence of NATO and EU enlargement on the security policies of Western Balkan and Black Sea littoral states.

Literature:

- Akgul, Pinar. "The Impact of the Russia-Ukraine War on the Black Sea Economic Cooperation: Adapting Economic Cooperation to Security Challenges." *Journal of Southeast European and Black Sea Studies* [ABINGDON], March 2026, pp. 1–20
- Åtland, K. and Kabanenko, I. (2020) 'Russia and its Western Neighbours: A Comparative Study of the Security Situation in the Black, Baltic and Barents Sea Regions', *Europe-Asia Studies*, 72(2), pp. 286–313.
- Baldiran, Selen, et al. "The Importance of the 1936 Montreux Convention for the Black Sea Security: A Close Look into Russia-NATO Controversy on the Russian-Ukrainian Conflict in 2022." *Information & Security* [Sofia], vol. 51, 2022, pp. 11–23
- Boyadjieva, Nadia. *Russian Security Strategy in the Balkans.* – Kanet, R. (Ed.). (2019). Routledge Handbook of Russian Security. London: Routledge. 2019, pp. 366-376
- Brânda, Oana Elena. "A sea of trouble. Black sea security policies between NATO and the European Union." *Defense Resources Management in the 21st Century*, vol. 14, no. 14, 2019, pp. 18–25.
- Chihaia, Mihai Sebastian. "The Baltic Sea and the Black Sea: Security Challenges and Vulnerabilities after the Cold War." *Revista Română de Studii Baltice Și Nordice*, vol. 7, no. 2, 2015, pp. 153–66.
- Chiriac, Olga R., and ProQuest. *The Foreign Policy of the Russian Federation: Implications for Black Sea Security.* Palgrave Macmillan, 2023
- Neag, Mihai, and Elisabeta-Emilia Halmaghi. "Energy security. Black sea – Caspian Sea corridor." *Defense Resources Management in the 21st Century*, vol. 11, no. 11, 2016, pp. 214–19.
- Nikolko, Milana. "The annexation of Crimea and continuing instability in the Black Sea region Dynamics of Regional Security and New Challenges for the Organisation for Democracy and Economic Development (GUAM)." *Shima (Sydney, N.S.W.)* [Sydney], vol. 13, no. 1, January 2019, pp. 27–43
- Panait, Mihai. "Opportunities and challenges regarding the regionalization of security at the Black Sea. Perspectives concerning economic cooperation in the Black Sea and its impact on regional security." *Bulletin of "Carol I" National Defense University* [Bucharest], vol. 9, no. 2, 2020, pp. 43–49



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Pavliuk, Oleksandr, et al. *The Black Sea Region: Cooperation and Security Building*. M.E. Sharp, 2004.

Proedrou, Filippou. “In Quest of Governance: The Failures of Regionalism, a Pan-European Security Architecture and ‘bigemony’ in Black Sea Politics.” *Journal of Southeast European and Black Sea Studies* [ABINGDON], vol. 18, no. 3, July 2018, pp. 439–56

Scipanov, Lucian Valeriu, and Marian-Vasile Sava. “Doctrinal approach to gain seabed control – the case of Black Sea security.” *Strategic Impact* [Bucharest], vol. 91, no. 2, October 2024, pp. 87–96

Tykhonenko, Iryna, and Yelyzaveta Rachynska. “The «Turkish» Factor in the Transformation of the Black Sea Regional Security System Under the Influence of Russian-Ukrainian War.” *Acta de Historia & Politica: Saeculum XXI* (Online), no. 10, June 2025, pp. 124–34

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

The course is held in English.