



ЦЕНТЪР ЗА ОБУЧЕНИЕ – БАН

1000 София
ул. „Сердика“ № 4
<http://edu.bas.bg>

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Basic Information:

Course Title: Bulgarian Folklore: Traditional and Contemporary Aspects

Lecturer: Assoc. Prof. Dr. Vihra Baeva

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Total Teaching Hours: 30

Annotation (up to 150 words)

This course introduces the specific characteristics, approaches, and methods of folklore studies, together with the main body of knowledge on Bulgarian folklore developed over the long history of the discipline in this country. It presents major theoretical concepts of folklore and outlines the features that distinguish folklore from other cultural phenomena. The introductory lectures trace the formation of folklore studies in both international and Bulgarian contexts and examine its position within the humanities and social sciences.

PhD students become acquainted with Bulgarian calendar rituals and rites of passage as the cultural environment in which folklore forms arise and function. The course focuses on the principal genres of verbal folklore—songs, fairytales, legends, personal narratives, and short forms—and introduces key folkloric characters. Special attention is given to the interrelations between Christianity and folklore, as well as to folkloric worldviews, their expression in human activity, and their role in shaping attitudes, behavioural models, and identities in traditional and modern societies.

The course is intended for PhD students in the humanities and social sciences.

Course content (brief description by topics or modules)

Module 1: What Is Folklore? The specificity of the folkloric; folkloristics as a scholarly discipline and its relationship to other fields; history of folkloristics.

Module 2: History of Bulgarian Folkloristics.

Module 3: What Is Ritual? Calendar rituals.

Module 4: Family Rituals and Rites of passage.

Module 5: Types and Genres of Verbal Folklore. Folk song traditions and principles for classifying folk songs.

Module 6: Folkloric Prose. Fairy tales, legends, folk history, personal narratives, and short folkloric forms.

Module 7: Folkloric Characters.

Module 8: Christianity and Folklore. Folkloric worldview and conceptions of the world.

Teaching and assessment methods:

Distance or in-person teaching, depending on the number of participants.

Ongoing assignments after each module: essays, reports, and practical exercises.

A final test is administered at the end of the course.

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

- Mastery of key folkloristic concepts – acquisition and accurate use of essential terminology in the field of folkloristics.



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- Knowledge of the development of folkloristics – including its methodology, major research problems, and disciplinary evolution.
- Understanding of Bulgarian ritual folklore – as well as the main types and “genres” of Bulgarian verbal folklore and its key folkloric characters.
- Ability to work with folkloric texts – interpreting them with regard to their semantics and functions.
- Initial skills in producing scholarly texts – foundational competence in writing within the field of folklore studies.

Literature:

Required literature:

Георгиева, Албена. (съст.). *Българска митология и фолклор.* София, 2006.

Данчев, Георги, Анчо Калоянов (съст.). *Христоматия по българска фолклористика.* София, 1991.

Етнография на България. Т. 3. София, 1985.

Иванова, Радост. *Българската фолклорна сватба.* София, 1984.

Маринов, Димитър. *Народна вяра и религиозни народни обичаи.* София, 1994 (2 издание); 2003 (3 издание).

Митология на човешкото тяло. Антропологичен речник. Съставителство и научна редакция: Минчо Георгиев Атанасов. София 2008. (2 изд. 2016).

Отченашек, Ярослав, Вихра Баева (съст.). *Речник на термините от словесния фолклор.* България. Прага – София, 2013.

Additional literature: will be specified for each individual module.

Sources:

Българско народно творчество в дванадесет тома. Ред. колегия: Михаил Арнаудов, Иван Бурин, Христо Вакарелски, Петър Динеков, Димитър Осинин (отг. редактор). 1961-1963.

Българска народна поезия и проза. В седем тома. Ред. колегия: Петър Динеков, Годор Ив. Живков, Петър Караангов, Стефана Стойкова. София, 1981-82.

Сборник за народни умотворения, наука и книжнина / (след 1913 г.) Сборник за народни умотворения и народопис. т. 1-62.

https://liternet.bg/publish/katalog/razdeli/f_m.htm

Змей. Змеица. Ламя и хала. Сборник с фолклорни текстове. Съставителство и редакция: Вихра Баева (отг. ред.), Албена Георгиева, Валентина Ганева-Райчева, Доротея Добрева, Николай Вуков, Светла Петкова. София: Изток – Запад, 2017.

Additional information (optional) (e.g., special requirements, laboratory equipment, prior knowledge)

Prerequisites for participants:

- An interest in and general knowledge of mythology and folklore.
- Ability to work with specialized literature: participants should be able to read and handle academic sources.
- Ability to present knowledge in written form: students must be able to articulate their understanding adequately in writing.



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- Access to a computer and internet: necessary for participation in the course.