



ЦЕНТЪР ЗА ОБУЧЕНИЕ – БАИ

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Basic Information:

Course Title: 'ETHNOLOGY OF THE BALKANS'

Lecturer: Assoc. Prof. Mila Maeva, PhD

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Assistant: Assist. Prof. Mina Hristova, PhD

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Total Teaching Hours: 30

Annotation (up to 150 words)

This doctoral lecture course aims to provide an overview of the history and ethnology of the Balkans in both their past and modern dimensions. It covers relevant conceptual apparatus and multidisciplinary approaches to processes and trends occurring at the local, national, and regional levels. Thus, the training will equip doctoral students with knowledge of the groups, communities, and societies in the Balkans, within a chronological framework spanning from the pre-industrial world to the post-globalisation stages of their development. The course also delves into the Balkans' place in Southeast Europe.

The lecture course encompasses a variety of topics, including social structures, ethnicities, identifications, religious transformations, migrations, and mobility in the region. It will also cover topical issues such as human and minority rights, inequality, and the construction of new identities.

The key objective of the course is to provide each student with a better perspective on the multicultural societies of the Balkans in the post-global and post-COVID context. Therefore, the course is beneficial not only to doctoral students in Ethnology but also to those with backgrounds in fields such as History, Folklore Studies, Anthropology, Sociology, Cultural Studies, and Political Science.

The lectures will be delivered by the members of the "Balkan Ethnology" Department.

Course content (brief description by topics or modules)

Module 1. History and ethnography of the Balkan peoples. Historiographical problems and research approaches.

Module 2. Historical, political, religious and cultural borders and spaces of the Balkans.

Module 3. Collective and social memory, trauma and oblivion.

Module 4. Formation of the Balkan nations. Balkan nations and nationalisms.

Module 5. Social structures and individualism.

Module 6. Religious communities and religious transformations.

Module 7. Mobility, migration, emigration and immigration. Balkan culture of mobility.

Module 8. Minorities, identities and (self) identifications.

Module 9. Contemporary rethinking of local and foreign cultural heritage and influences. General and specific in the Balkan cultural heritage.

Module 10. Human rights, inequalities and genocide.

Teaching and assessment methods

Teaching method: Lectures (in-person and distance learning). The course is available in both Bulgarian and English.

Assessment method: Written assignment.



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

- Acquisition of in-depth knowledge of the historical, cultural, religious and social processes of the Balkans in their dynamics from pre-modernity to modernity.
- Development of skills for analysis and interpretation of processes related to ethnicity, identities, nationalism, religious transformations, mobility and migrations in the Balkan and European context.
- Mastering interdisciplinary methodological and analytical approaches in the field of ethnology, anthropology, Balkan studies and research on cultural memory, heritage and social inequalities.
- Formation of competencies for critical reflection on problems related to human and minority rights, cultural diversity, social integration and intercultural communication in contemporary societies.
- Development of abilities for independent research work, academic writing and preparation of analytical texts and publications on topics related to the Balkans and Southeastern Europe.

Literature:

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Лулева, А., И. Петрова (съст.) *Изследвания на културната памет, културното наследство и идентичности*. София: Гутенберг.

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Yiakoumaki, V. (2006). 'Local, 'Ethnic' and 'Ritual' Food: On the Emergence of 'Cultural Diversity' in Greece since Its Integration in the European Union. *Journal of Modern Greek Studies* 24, no.2, 415-445.

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

The course is targeted at doctoral students in ethnology, cultural anthropology, sociology, psychology, history, and other fields within the humanities and social sciences.