



## ЦЕНТЪР ЗА ОБУЧЕНИЕ – БАН

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### **Basic Information:**

Course Title:

### **TRADITIONAL INSTITUTIONS AND NORMATIVE CULTURE ON THE BALKANS**

**Lecturer:** Assoc. Prof. Petko Hristov, PhD

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**Total Teaching Hours:** 30

**Annotation** (up to 150 words)

The course of lectures is devoted to traditional folk institutions in the Balkans. Its aim is to introduce Ph.D. students to the strengthened principles of integration, forms of regulation and functional modes of those social and cultural communities in which everyday Balkan social and cultural life passes. The course is focused on the most important principles and traditional values for the relevant traditional culture, such as: the principles of reproduction and inheritance, territorial and religious principles, the principle of gender and age division, principles of profession and occupation for community foundation and the duplicating principle of the blood relationship: the principle of the ritual relationship for construction of alternative social structures. Simultaneously these basic for the Balkan people social and cultural communities will be studied in their time and space dynamics: how much the traditional principles of integration and regulation of the social and cultural life are reproduced during the process of social mobility (migration) and in the conditions of modernization in the modern Balkan national states; how much they determine the modern life strategies in the conditions of globalization; do these traditional institutions define the cultural identity of the different Balkan nations.



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**Course content** (brief description by topics or modules)

1. Introduction to the study of traditional institutions and folk norms in the Balkans: discussions on their terminology, character and history; Balkan archaism – real or “invented”. (3 hours)
2. Marriage and kinship, family and social networks in the Balkans. Is there a specific “Balkan Family Pattern”? The ritual creation and maintenance of an alternative kinship structure in the Balkans (godfathership/ *kumstvo*, fraternization/sisterhood, adoption). (3 hours)
3. Tribal organization in the Western Balkans and the generic principle in the construction of blood-kinship communities. The metamorphoses of patrilineality in the overall economic, social, ritual, ideological and political life; Andrew Simić and the “cryptomatriarchy” of the Balkans. (3 hours)
4. Territorial-neighbourhood communities and their institutions: rural/urban municipalities and their regulatory role for the overall social life in the Balkans. (3 hours)
5. Religious communities I: the church community/parish, its organization, functions for the ritual process and modeling significance for the overall cultural life of Orthodox and Catholics; the essence of folk Christianity in the Balkans. (3 hours)
6. Religious communities II: the Muslim community/ummah, its organization, functions for the ritual process and modelling significance for the overall cultural life of Sunnis and heterodox Muslims in the Balkans. The role of the jam in the Tariqa orders. (3 hours)
7. Institutions of gender-age division of the traditional village in the Balkans: old and young, ancestors and descendants, traditional gender roles and normativity. Ritualized forms of social communication: pre-marital gatherings of the young, the Balkan pub and the city cafe. (3 hours)
8. Traditional professional and leisure activities and forms of their folk regulation I: Organization and functioning of the guild in the Balkans. (3 hours)
9. Traditional professional and leisure activities and forms of their folk regulation II: Forms and organization of temporary labor migrations (*gurbet*) in the Balkans; male *gurbetchiyski taifi* and maiden reaping bands (*cheti*). (3 hours)
10. Paths and dynamics of modernization in the Balkans in the 19th-20th centuries: the relationship between national institutions (state, church, school, army) and folk forms of regulation of the social life of small communities - traditions and changes. (3 hours)

**Teaching and assessment methods**  
Face-to-face and online, in English  
The course concludes with a coursework and (optional) publication



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

- Acquisition of in-depth knowledge of traditional folk institutions, forms of social organization and normative systems in the Balkans in historical and comparative terms.
- Development of skills for analysis of socio-cultural processes related to kinship, religious communities, local forms of self-government, professional organizations and traditional mechanisms for social regulation.
- Mastering interdisciplinary methodological approaches for the study of traditional culture, social normativity, identities and processes of modernization and transformation in the Balkans.
- Formation of competencies for critical interpretation of the relationship between traditional institutions, social memory, cultural identity and contemporary processes of mobility, migration and globalization.
- Development of abilities for independent research work, academic writing and preparation of analytical texts and publications in the field of ethnology, anthropology and Balkan studies.

### Literature:

#### A/ BASIC

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**Тодорова, М.** Балканското семейство. С., 2002

**Тодоров, Н.** Балканският град. С., 1972.

**Христов, П.** Увод в изучаването на институциите в българската народна култура. – В: Сборник в памет на Татяна Колева. София, 1998, 27-34.

**Христов, П.** Нормите на поведение и социалното конструиране на пола: полови (gender) особености в процеса на “наследяване” на ритуалните роли в южнославянските култури на Балканите през първата половина на ХХ век. – В: Балканистичен форум. 1-2-3, Благоевград, 2002, 66-69.

**Христов, П.** Общности и празници. Служби, слави, събори и курбани в южнославянското село през първата половина на ХХ век. С., 2004

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### В/ ADDITIONAL

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