



ЦЕНТЪР ЗА ОБУЧЕНИЕ – БАН

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Basic Information:

Course Title: CYRILLO-METHODIAN OEUVRE AND NATIONAL IDENTITY

Lecturer: Asoc. Prof. Desislava Naydenova, PhD

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Total Teaching Hours: 30.

Annotation:

The course introduces PhD students to critical approaches to historical narratives, cultural memory, and identity. It equips them with the conceptual and analytical framework necessary for advanced scholarly research on the political, cultural, and ideological uses of the past. The course explores the various interpretations of the Cyrillo-Methodian oeuvre in both Slavic and non-Slavic countries within the broader context of political, cultural, and ideological processes from the Middle Ages to the present day. Special attention is devoted to the role of Saints Cyril and Methodius, their disciples, and Slavic literacy as symbols of national identity, cultural memory, and political legitimation. The course further considers the development of historical research and national narratives through the prism of modern theories of memory, identity, and cultural heritage. It incorporates the concepts of Jan Assmann, Pierre Nora, and other scholars of nationhood, cultural memory, and historical myths. The Cyrillo-Methodian legacy is examined through the perspectives of different historiographical turns, including positivism, romanticism, and Marxism. Particular emphasis is placed on the institutionalization of Cyrillo-Methodian studies, the role of Saint Clement of Ohrid, and the significance of the Cyrillic and Glagolitic alphabets as symbols of cultural and civilizational belonging.

Course content (brief description by topics or modules)

1. The Historian Between Objectivity, Historical Evidence, and Interpretation.
2. The Emergence of National Ideologies and National Narratives in the Nineteenth Century.
3. Political and Cultural Dimensions of the Slavic Idea: The Cyrillo-Methodian Oeuvre as a Pan-Slavic Symbol.
4. Byzantium and the Balkans: Between Civilizational Model and National Narrative.
5. Why Cyril and Methodius? The Place of the Holy Brothers in the Bulgarian National Pantheon.

6. Sources on the Life and Work of Cyril and Methodius: Historical Debates and National Uses of the Past.
7. The Political Map of Europe and the Cyrillo-Methodian Oeuvre: The Collapse of Empires and the Birth of the new Nation-States.
8. The Cyrillo-Methodian Oeuvre Between the Two World Wars: Nationalism and the Institutionalization of Historical Narratives.
9. Saint Clement of Ohrid as a Symbol of Education and Slavic Literacy.
10. The Institutionalization of Cyrillo-Methodian Studies: Historical Research and the Cyrillo-Methodian Oeuvre in the Twentieth Century.
11. The Cyrillo-Methodian Oeuvre During the Socialist Era and the Post-Socialist Reinterpretation of Historical Narratives.
12. European Politics of Memory, Cultural Heritage, and Identity: St. Cyrill and Methodius as Co-Patrons of Europe.
13. The Alphabet as a Cultural and Political Symbol.

Teaching and assessment methods

In-person or online/remote.

Term paper or presentation, followed by an interview.

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

By the end of the course, PhD students will be able to

1. Critically analyze national and historical narratives related to the Cyrillo-Methodian oeuvre through contemporary theories of memory, identity, and nationalism.
2. Apply interdisciplinary methods in the study of cultural heritage and historical memory.
3. Conduct independent scholarly research on issues related to Cyrillo-Methodian studies, cultural identity, and the historical representation of the past.

Literature:

Асман, Я. Културната памет. Писменост, памет и политическа идентичност в ранните високоразвити култури. София, 2001.

Баталова, С. Мотиви за българите в латинската историографска традиция XIV–XV в. София, 2018.

Бърлиева, С. CYRILLO-METHODIANA ET VARIA MEDIAEVALIA: Паметници на кирило-методиевската традиция. София, 2019.

Даскалов, Р. Големите разкази за българското средновековие. София, 2018.

Джевиецка, Е. Юбилейно и модерно. Кирило-методиевският разказ през социализма в България. София, 2020.

Желязкова, В, Найденова, Д. Кирил и Методий. Образ. Памет. Идентичност. София, 2021.

Желязкова, В.. За Кирил и Методий. „Несериозно“ (по материали от българския периодичен печат до 1944 г.). *Palaeobulgarica*, 43, 3, 2019, 123-148.

Зашев, Е. Бератската памет за св. Седмочисленици. КМНЦ – БАН. София, 2024.
Чешмеджиев Д. Кирил и Методий в българската историческа памет през Средните векове. София, 2001.

Найденова, Д. Кирило-методиевото дело и създаването на историческа памет в социалистическа България. *Jazyk a kultúra v slovanských súvislostiach Kliment Ochridský a jeho prínos pre slovanskú a európsku kultúru (k 1100. výročiu jeho smrti)*, 2017, 137-156.

Найденова, Д.. Проучванията по кирилметодиевистика в Българската академия на науките. *Palaeobulgarica*, XXXIV, 4, 2010, 3-17.

Преплетените истории на Балканите. Т. 1-4. София, 2019.

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Is Byzantine Studies a Colonialist Discipline?: Toward a Critical Historiography. Ed. by B. Anderson, M. Ivanova. Penn State University Press, 2023.

Ivanova, M. *Inventing Slavonic: Cultures of Writing Between Rome and Constantinople*. Oxford, 2024.

Mishkova, D. *Rival Byzantiums: Empire and Identity in Southeastern Europe*. Cambridge, 2023

Rohdewald, S. *Götter der Nationen: religiöse Erinnerungsfiguren in Serbien, Bulgarien und Makedonien bis 1944*. Köln, 2014.