



## ЦЕНТЪР ЗА ОБУЧЕНИЕ – БАН

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### Basic Information:

Course Title: OUTSIDE THE "BOUNDARIES" OF MEDIEVAL SOCIETY

Lecturer: Assoc. Prof. Desislava Naydenova, PhD

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Total Teaching Hours: 30

### Annotation:

Why do the rules of the Ecumenical Councils prohibit the wearing of masks, the changing into animal skins, the wearing of men's clothes by women and of women's clothes by men? Why was the greatest threat to medieval society the heretics, whose abstinence closely resembled that of the saints? Eastern despots or pious monks were the Byzantine rulers? What were the rights of women? Why are children almost absent from medieval texts? These and other questions related to the structure of medieval society will be discussed in this course. At its core is the thesis that the medieval world was a strictly ordered space corresponding to divine hierarchy. A variety of symbols and signs denote certain boundaries: artifacts, natural objects, everyday practices such as eating, dressing, and speaking. Their violation confuses the order and is dangerous for society. What we will be interested in, analyzing medieval texts and drawing on contemporary sociological and anthropological theories, is how the law functions to ensure that 'boundaries' are respected and how the social status of individuals subjected to punishment changes, falling into a marginal, intermediate, isolated position

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

1. Introduction to the Problems and Concepts of Medieval Law.
2. Law and Canon: The Byzantine Legal System.
3. Narrative of the Good Ruler or Normative Text? The Laws of Khan Krum.
4. Legal Texts in Medieval Bulgaria.
5. Theoretical Perspectives on the Boundaries of Medieval Society.
6. Punishment and Penance in Medieval Society.

7. The King's Two Bodies: The Possibility and Impossibility of Royal Assassination.
8. Outside the Boundaries of Medieval Society: Jews, Heretics, Armenians, Latins, and Muslims.
9. Outside the Boundaries of Medieval Society: Women, Violence, and Marriage.
10. Outside the Boundaries of Medieval Society: Magicians, Sorcerers, and Other Forms of Otherness.

Teaching and assessment methods

In person or on-line

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:

Critically analyze representations of the “Other” and marginal groups in medieval society.

Interpret medieval sources within their cultural, religious, and social contexts by applying the methods of historical anthropology and cultural history.

Trace the mechanisms of social exclusion, fear, and stigmatization, and examine their relationship to power, ecclesiastical institutions, and normative models of medieval society.

Apply an interdisciplinary approach to the study of the Middle Ages.

Literature:

Билиарски, Ив. Публично-правна и каноничноправна лексика в българското средновековно пространство. Варна, 2011.

Георгиева, С. Жената в българското средновековие. Пловдив, 2011.

Дагрон, Ж. Императорът и свещеникът. Етюд върху византийския "цезаропапизъм". София, 2006.

Медведев, Д. Правовая культура Византийской империи. СПб., 2001.

Найденова, Д. Извън границите на средновековното общество. Старобългарска литература, 63-64, 2021, 279-300.

Найденова, Д. Евреите в каноничноправните текстове (ръкопис З-І-63 и З-І-68 от сбирката на Груич в Музея на Сръбската православна църква в Белград). Средновековният българин и „другите“. Сборник в чест на 60-годишнината на проф. дин Петър Ангелов, 2013, 319-330.

Николов, А. Между Рим и Константинопол. Из антикатолическата литература в България и славянския православен свят (XI – XVII в.). София, 2016.

Фуко, М. Анормалните. София, 2000.

Фуко, М. Надзор и наказание. Раждането на затвора. София, 1998.

Цибранска–Костова, М.: Покаяната книжнина на Българското средновековие IX–XVIII в. (езиково-текстологични и културологични аспекти). София: Валентин Траянов, 2011.

Naydenova, D. Anti-Armenian Polemics in a Slavic Canon-Law Miscellany (Ms. Slav. No 461 from the Manuscript Collection of the Romanian Academy). *Etudes Balkaniques*, 50, 3, 2014, 82-95.

Penna, D., R. Meijering, *A Sourcebook on Byzantine Law: Illustrating Byzantine Law through the Sources*. Leiden, 2022.

Troianos, S. *Quellen des byzantinischen Rechts*. Berlin: De Gruyter, 2017.