

COURSES IN ENGLISH for ERASMUS INCOMING STUDENTS

at Sofia University

FACULTY OF PHILOSOPHY

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Program: BA Program Cultural Studies

Course code according to the curriculum	Course title in English	Language of instruction	Course offered to BA/M A/PhD	Course duration (winter/summer semester/full year)	Credits	Number of hours			Lecturer/s	E-mail/s
						Lectures	Exercises/Seminars	Practical work		
	Politics of memory	English	BA	Winter	5	45	15	15	Assoc. Prof. Daniela Koleva	koleva@phls.uni-sofia.bg

Short description of the course

The course aims to introduce interested students to the rapidly developing field of Memory Studies, as well as to a group of qualitative research methods increasingly applied in contemporary social sciences and historical research. After an introductory module discussing the key concepts, class discussions will focus on case studies to help students work on their own mini-project.

Programme: MA Program “Women’s and Gender History” (MATILDA)

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						Lectures	Exercises/ Seminars	Practical work		
	Masculinity and Politics in Modern Bulgaria (1878-1944)	English	MA	summer	5	30			Assoc. Prof. Stephan Detchev	

Short description of the course

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	Women’s Movements and Feminisms: US, Western Europe and Eastern Europe, 19th-20th C	English	MA	summer	5	20	10		Assoc. Prof. Krassimira Daskalova	daskalova@phs.uni-sofia.bg

Short description of the course

This course introduces in the history of women's movements and feminisms East and West, during the 19th and 20th C. It differentiates between women's movements and feminisms and tries to articulate the various influences – of liberalism, nationalism, social democracy and state socialism – on their developments. It also pays attention to some recent debates in the women’s and gender history and feminist theory relevant to this topic. (Such as: «Is State Socialism Feminism a Contradictio in Terminis?» «How can we name ‘women’s friendly’ policies of state socialism?» “Is feminism only a Western phenomenon?)

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	Gender and popular culture East and West	English	MA	summer	5	30			Prof. Kornelia Slavova	

Short description of the course

The course aims to acquaint students with popular culture practices in Eastern Europe and the West from a gender perspective. More precisely, students will analyze how popular culture provides new role models for the changing understanding of femininity and masculinity in public perception, and, on the other hand, how gender characteristics of identity affect the way popular culture products are consumed and disseminated. The lectures will trace the tensions between the socialist sacrificial models of femininity/ masculinity and the new post 1989 models, influenced by Western consumer and celebrity cultures, as well as gender representations in post-socialist and global media today. For the critical analysis of textual and visual material from the media, popular music, film, the fashion industry, TV culture, sports, and other terrains of pop culture will be used intersectional as well as comparative cross-cultural approaches. Students will be expected to prepare an oral presentation as well as a research project.

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	Tales of love: Gender and History of emotions	English	MA	summer	5	30			Assoc. Prof. Nadezhda Alexandrova	n.alexandrova@slav.uni-sofia.bg

Short description of the course

The aim of this course is to introduce the significance of the application of gender aspect onto the history of emotions and more specifically onto the way 'love' was conceptualized in the philosophy and literature of Southeastern Europe.

During each class the students are invited to reflect on the works of writers from the region of Southeastern Europe. They could use methodology from gender studies and literary history and philosophy to problematize specific aspects of the notion of love, such as the Platonic tradition, the Near eastern Medieval perspective, as well as the Western European legacy of love treatises from Ovid to Descartes. Furthermore they learn to contextualize the literary works within historical periods and detect fluxes of cultural influences that came to the literatures of Southeastern Europe during the Enlightenment together with the grand narratives of progress and civilization.

The grade is based upon students' participation in class (50%) and a final essay (50%).

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	HISTORY OF THE CITY AS A WAY OF LIFE	English	MA	summer	5	30			Prof. Rayna Gavrilova	

Short description of the course

The main objective of the course is to introduce the thinking of the city as a way of life; to survey the important periods in its evolution and some theories regarding urban life. A special attention will be devoted to exploring the gendered city, i.e. the participation of women in urban life. At the end of the course, participants should be familiar with the key concepts in urban history and theory and the basics of urban research.