

COURSES IN FOREIGN LANGUAGES for ERASMUS INCOMING STUDENTS

at Sofia University

FACULTY OF HISTORY

Faculty coordinator: Assoc. Prof. Mira Markova, PhD, miram@uni-sofia.bg

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)	ECTS	Number of hours			Lecturer/s	E-mail/s
						Lectures	Exercises/Seminars	Practical work		
Z 025	Contemporary History of Bulgaria	English	BA/M A/PhD	winter	4	45			Assoc. Prof. Dr. Rymiana Marinova-Christidi	

Short description of the course

The course “Contemporary History of Bulgaria” has as its purpose to introduce students to the most important events and trends in Bulgarian History during the second half of the 20th Century. It follows a chronological principle and covers the period from the beginning of World War II until the end of Socialism in 1989. During the course of the lectures, students should acquire knowledge about the main historical events and processes of contemporary Bulgarian history, and to develop their skills in selecting, and examining historical information. An important element of the course is the opportunity provided to the students to get acquainted with historical sources and to analyze them on their own. Video and photographic material will also be used, helping the students to visualize and to better memorize historical figures, places, events and objects.

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Z 019	Modern History of the Balkans	English	BA/M A	winter	5	45	15		Assoc. Prof. Dr. Naoum Kaytchev	
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Short description of the course

The course includes general introduction into the political and social development of the Balkan societies with particular focus on their interrelationship with major European countries. The course presents the major notions and images on Balkans and the region's development in interconnection with (West) European influences on it. Particular attention is paid to processes connected with the European integration of the region after 1960s.

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E 025	Media Presentation of History	English	BA/M A/PhD	winter	4	45			Assist. Prof. Dr. Radoslav Spassov	

Short description of the course

This is the distance course focusing on different ways to present a history. How we can use a history for resolve the conflicts or to produce a conflicts.

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E 701	History of the Bulgarian Jews, 1878 - Today	English	BA/M A/PhD	winter	4	45			Assoc. Prof. Dr. Rymiana Marinova-Christidi	

Short description of the course

The course “History of the Bulgarian Jews” has as its purpose to introduce students to Jewish life, the organization of the Jewish community and its relationship with the Bulgarian state since the establishment of the modern Bulgarian state in 1878. Following a small introduction to the Jewish presence in the Bulgarian lands from the Antiquity until the period of Ottoman rule, the course will seek to examine the position and development of Jewish communities into the new Bulgarian state concentrating upon 6 distinct periods: a. From 1878 until 1918, b. 1918 until 1940 c. 1940 until 1944, d. 1944 – 1947 e. 1947 – 1989 f. 1989 – today. During each period the course will examine Jewish community characteristics, its development, and its relationship with wider Bulgarian society as well with the state. In addition, as each of the six periods represents a distinct period in the evolution of the Bulgarian state the course will seek to examine a variety of cardinal issues in Bulgarian history and how Jews were affected from or positioned themselves towards: for example on the issue of territorial expansion after 1878 and Bulgaria’s participation in the Wars of 1885, 1912-13, 1915-1918 or how the ideological polarization and political instability of the Interwar years (1918-1939) affected the Jewish community. Special emphasis will be given on the terrible years of Bulgaria’s alignment with Nazi Germany. Especially on how the centuries long coexistence between Bulgarian and Jews, based on mutual respect and the development of close ties between the two communities, as well as the affiliation and loyalty of the Jews towards the new Bulgarian state, established in 1878, created the preconditions for their salvation during the Holocaust, a truly European exception. The first post-war years also deserve special attention: the community went through an “internal struggle” under the ideological allure of Zionism choosing to massively immigrate to Palestine and to newly-established Jewish state there. The Socialist period in Bulgaria presented particular challenges for the remaining Jewish community and the course will attempt to explain their complex relationship with the new Communist power, as well as the evolution of wider Bulgarian-Israeli relations. Finally after 1989, and the beginning of the so-called transition period in Bulgarian politics and economics, the course will examine the main challenges faced by the dwindling Jewish community.

During the course of the lectures, students should acquire knowledge about the main historical events and processes concerning Bulgarian Jews, and to develop their skills in selecting, and examining historical information. An important element of the course is the opportunity provided to the students to get acquainted with historical sources and to analyze them on their own. Video and photographic material will also be used, helping the students to visualize and to better memorize historical figures, places, events and objects.

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	Balkan Ethnology	English	BA/M A	winter	5	45			Assist.Prof. Dr. Violeta Kotseva-Popova	

Short description of the course

Balkan ethnology is a discipline that has its own development in each of the Balkan country. Traditionally, it follows the development of Balkan studies as a historical discipline. The countries of the Balkan Peninsula have shared a common historical destiny for a long time. Since the end of the 13th century, they gradually fall under the rule of the Ottoman Empire and become part of a different cultural, religious and administrative state. This changes ethnic, demographic, economic, cultural and linguistic characteristics of the Balkan countries and cultural traditions. To a considerable extent, the Ottoman Empire has, through its administrative and tax system, influenced a number of factors in the social life of the Balkan peoples. Its decay in the 19th century left the Eastern question of the distribution of the Ottoman heritage open. For its solution, the Balkan states are involved in a number of wars – First and Second Balkan war, First and Second World Wars. World War II imposes a new order. A large part of the Balkan countries fall into the orbit of the USSR, which also influences the culture traditions in the Balkan states.

A course in Balkan ethnology is also naturally developed in this spirit by combining both point of view. For reaching this goal the course focuses on several main themes whose projections are sought in the different Balkan cultures: 1. Terminological and geographic scope of the term Balkans 2. Development of ethnology in the individual Balkan countries 3. Traditional culture of peoples in the Balkan countries 4. Nomadic and agricultural crops on the Balkans 5. Religion and religiosity (holidays and weekdays) 6. Family and kinship 7. Ethnic groups in the Balkans 8. Nations and nationalism in the Balkans 9. Role of the border - symbolic and real in the Balkans.

In the research aspect, the course focuses on discovering the common traits of the different cultural traditions. The aim is to trace the role of the historical process for the formation of specific cultural systems in the Balkans. In practical terms, this would help to better understanding the causal links to the current situation across the region and would lead to the formulation of adequate policy decisions. Theoretically, the course is based on the local traditions represented by the different national ethnological schools (Greek, Turkish, Serbian, Bulgarian, Romanian, etc.) as well as by established world names, such as B. Anderson, E. Ericson, Jur. Habermas, E. Hobsbawm, G. Creed, J. Gudy and others.

The course is aimed at students oriented not only to studying Balkan history and ethnology, but also to those, who want to get gain knowledge about the cultures of the peoples in the Balkan states, as a basis for their future realization in different spheres such as politics, economy, social activities and others.

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	Semiotics of the votive monuments of the ancient Thracians	English	BA/M A/PhD	summer	4	45			Prof. Dr. Dr.Sc. Dilyana Boteva	

Short description of the course

Votive reliefs of the ancient Thracians are among the most numerous “local” monuments and this fact determines their importance for the study of the Thracian religious beliefs and practices. The lack of Thracian literary tradition and, accordingly, the lack of any trustful key to the way we are supposed to approach these monuments results in serious controversies among the researchers when interpreting the relevant manifestations of the Thracian religious life.

The lecture course aims at reasoning the necessity of approaching the votive monuments of the ancient Thracians with methods of the semiotics as one of the possibilities to get a correct reading of their visual texts. The main stress is laid on the thousand reliefs depicting the so called Thracian Rider/Thracian Heros (Albert Dummont), but representations of other divinities, found throughout the Thracian lands, are going to be taken into consideration as well.

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E 2121 Z 002	Everyday life in Bulgaria under Socialism	English	BA/M A	winter	5	45		15	Assist. Prof. Ilia Iliev	

Short description of the course

The course will offer a glimpse of the everyday life in Bulgaria in 1960s to 1980s. It will consist of two main parts. First, there will be ethnographic descriptions on nine key topics: housing, shopping and consumerist practices, agriculture and food production, travel and tourism, ageing and pensions system, family and gender relations, class and professional identity, religion and religiosity, institutional system and functioning of institutions. These descriptions will be based on specific archival documents - complaints, denotations, and suggestions written by citizens to institutions. In parallel, we will discuss papers on the same topics, written by modern historians, anthropologists, or researchers in cultural studies, arts, and literature. The students will be expected to read these papers on their own and to be able to comment upon them in class. We will investigate how the sources (archival documents from official institutions, documents produced by ordinary citizens, oral histories and memories, personal observations, arts and literature) used by the researcher impact her/his final analysis. The examination will be a short (5-8 pages) essay.

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E 603	The Ottoman rule and the demographic changes – the Bulgarian lands, the Balkans and Europe	English	BA/M A	summer	3	45			Assist. Prof. Milena Petkova-Encheva, Ph D	

Short description of the course

The lectures reveal problems in the field of historical demography of Europe and the Ottoman Empire in general and the dynamics of the demographic changes of the Bulgarian lands as a case study. The dynamics and the demographic changes are presented through the analyses of the ongoing transformations in social, economic and political development of the Balkans, the Ottoman Empire and Europe. The lectures present the major principals and methodology applied to historical and demographic reconstruction of the Bulgarian lands under the Ottoman rule. The main topics to be discussed are: the major trends in the demographic development of Europe, Ottoman Empire and the Bulgarian lands, end of XIVth – XVII c.; reveals the historical evidences on the demographic history for the period under study; traces the demographic changes related to conversion to Islam, colonization of Muslim population, migrations, etc.

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IS 03	In the Antechamber of The Mediaeval Culture: Art And Society in Byzantium And West Europe (IV-XV C.)	English	BA/M A	winter	3	45			Assoc. Prof. Albena Milanova, PhD	

Short description of the course

This course aims to introduce students in the field of the mediaeval cultural model as a normative, symbolic system and its manifestation through different artistic forms in the two historically formed geographical and cultural European zones: Byzantium and West Europe. The parallel and comparative presentation of the processes and the cultural production in these two regions give students the opportunity to perceive the unity and the diversification of the mediaeval cultural space. The course seeks to analyze the forms of the visual art and the architecture from a variety of perspectives, especially in the original context of their making and reception and, in their relationship with the social environment that produces them. It teaches students how to engage, understand and interpret architecture and visual art and makes them familiar with their multiple meanings depending on the kinds of research and interpretative strategies that art historians bring into play.

The theoretical lectures are accompanied by series of extended visual and practical demonstrations and field research (research visits to different kinds of mediaeval monuments in Bulgaria and work with the original Byzantine manuscripts from the collection of the Research Center for Slavic and Byzantine Studies “Prof. Ivan Duychev”).

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E 702	The War in Medieval Europe and the Mediterranean	English/French	BA/M A	winter	3	30			Assist. Prof. Nikola Dyulgerov	

Short description of the course

The course examines the main aspects in the development of warfare in the Middle Ages in Europe and the Mediterranean. It examines the types of weapons, fortress construction, combat tactics and military contingents. The course focuses on the traditional warfare of the medieval nations and changes in it, as a result of various social, geographical, economic, political and ideological conditions. Attention is paid to the ideological preparation and the consequences of war in medieval Europe.

Subjects:

1. Warfare in "barbaric" kingdoms; 2. Warfare in Carolingian times; 3. Vikings; 4. Magyars; 5. Warfare in Byzantium; 6. Knighthood; 7. Warfare in the crusader states; 8. Protective clothing and arms and offensive weapons; 9. Castles, fortresses and siege equipment; 10. Sea warfare in XII-XV century; 11. The Hundred Years war; 12. The mercenaries; 13. War and noncombatants in the Middle Ages; 14. Innovations in warfare in the late Middle Ages.

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E 203	Regional Traditions and Museology	English	BA/M A	summer	3	30		15	Assoc. Prof. Mira Markova, PhD	miram@uni-sofia.bg

Short description of the course

The main goal of this course is to present variety and riches of Traditional Bulgarian Culture in their Locality connected with local touristic attractions and local museums. Theoretical and practical learning are present in common according dynamics of contemporary cultural environment. The course includes visits in different types of museums, practical trade, observations. The course is part of MA study of Museology. Part of MA study practices is connected to structure of this Academic course.

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IS 35	Celtic invasions and migrations to the Mediterranean area (5th- 1st century BCE)	English	BA/MA	summer	2	30			Assist. Prof. Julij Emilov, PhD	

Short description of the course

Focus of the course is on major historical events during the second half of the First Millenium BCE, related to the topic of „European barbarians“ (Iron Age communities in Temperate Europe) and their interrelations to contemporaries, partners or adversaries in the Mediterranean regions (Iberia, Italia, Hellas, Anatolia) and the nearest periphery (Illyria and Thrace).

Discussion of ancient written sources on Celtic migrations and mobility to the Apennines and the Balkans, as well as examination on the available archaeological evidence serve as basis to provide insight into general and regional patterns of interaction of „barbarians“ to „civilized“ communities in Pre-Roman Europe.