University of Gdańsk

Subject card

Subject name and code	Folk Culture of the Balkan Nations - lecture, PG_00189639						
Field of study	Slavic Studies						
Date of commencement of studies	October 2026		Academic year of realisation of subject	2027/2028			
Education level	Bachelor's studies		Subject group	Obligatory subject group in the field of study Subject group related to scientific research in the field of study			
Mode of study	full-time studies		Mode of delivery	at the university			
Year of study	2		Language of instruction	Polish			
Semester of study	4		ECTS credits	3.0			
Learning profile	academic		Assessment form	exam			
Conducting unit	Division of Slavonic and Balkan Studies -> Institute of Classical and Slavonic Studies -> Faculty of Languages -> Rector						
Name and surname of lecturer (lecturers)	Subject supervisor		dr Masa Gustin				
	Teachers						
Lesson types	Lesson type	Lecture	Tutorial	Laboratory	Project	Seminar	SUM
	Number of study hours	30.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	30
	E-learning hours included: 0.0						
Learning activity and number of study hours	Learning activity	Participation in didactic classes included in study plan		Participation in consultation hours	Self-study	SUM	
	Number of study hours	30		2.0	43.0	75	
Subject objectives	Acquiring knowledge about the broadly understood folk culture (spiritual and material) of the nations of the Balkan Peninsula with particular emphasis on rituals, beliefs, customs, cyclical holidays, magical practices, folk vision of the world, manifestations and values of tradition, the importance of symbols in the natural world, the essence of anthropocentrism, dichotomy , generalization and stereotyping in the view of the world. Understanding the manifestations of unscientific, common sense, "naive" thinking and folk philosophy. Relations between high and low, popular and folk culture.						

Learning outcomes

Course outcome	Subject outcome	Method of verification
[SLAWL3_W10] Has an advanced knowledge and understanding of key philosophical, ethical and social concepts, as well as the fundamental dilemmas of human existence as reflected in the literature, history and culture of the South Slavic countries.	The student has organized detailed knowledge about the folk culture of South Slavic countries (K_W10)	[SW4] test/exam - oral or written [SW1] oral statement/ conversation/discussion
[SLAWL3_U08] Has the ability to prepare oral presentations, in Polish or in the language of the field, on specific issues, using basic theoretical approaches and various sources.	The student has the ability to prepare oral presentations on specific issues related to folk culture (K_U08)	[SU1] oral statement/conversation/ discussion [SU2] presentation/project/paper/ report [SU4] test/exam - oral or written
[SLAWL3_U03] Is able to plan and organise – including in one of the South Slavic languages (Serbian or Croatian) – both individual and team work, solving unusual and complex problems in the field of Slavic studies	The student is able to organize both individual and team work, solving problems in the field of South Slavic folk culture (K_U03)	[SU1] oral statement/conversation/ discussion [SU4] test/exam - oral or written [SU8] observation of student's independent or team work
[SLAWL3_U01] Is able to research, analyse and critically evaluate cultural texts and social phenomena relating to the Southern Slavic region, placing them in the context of universal moral and existential dilemmas.	The student is able - in Polish or one of the South Slavic languages (Serbian or Croatian) - to search for information in the field of folk culture (K_U01)	[SU1] oral statement/conversation/ discussion [SU2] presentation/project/paper/ report [SU4] test/exam - oral or written
[SLAWL3_K05] Is ready to fulfill the professional role of an employee of companies operating on the European labor market or Polish companies cooperating with South Slavic countries, including the promotion of literature and culture and demonstrates competence in entrepreneurial thinking and action.	The student is ready to fulfill the professional role of an employee of tourist companies and cultural institutions cooperating with South Slavic countries (K_K05)	[SK1] oral statement/conversation/ discussion [SK4] test/exam - oral or written
[SLAWL3_K03] Is prepared to recognise the importance of philological and cultural studies in resolving social dilemmas and to seek expert advice when faced with difficulties in interpreting cultural facts	The student independently undertakes and initiates simple research activities in the field of folk culture of the Slavic part of the Balkans (K_K03)	[SK1] oral statement/conversation/ discussion [SK2] presentation/project/paper/ report [SK4] test/exam - oral or written

Subject contents

The meaning of concepts and definitions in the field of folk culture, such as folklore, folklorism, folkloristics, ethnology, ethnography, custom, custom, myth, ethnos, cult, tradition, etc.Explaining and understanding the mechanisms of beliefs, superstitions, folk knowledge about nature and the universe, and the resulting medical practices.Discussion of the essence of transposition, translation, creation, border and border, rites of passage, restitution, symbolism, connotations, generalization, etc.Folk beliefs related to the most important events in the life of the community, rituals and customs cultivated by individual nations;Folk costumes, their function and symbolism; meaning of colors;Ancestor worship, funeral customs; wedding rituals; folk predictions, dances and their symbolism (kolo/ oro/ horo/ sirtaki/halay); folk demonology; the problem of people's justice (prokletje); feast of the patron saint of the family, Slava; annual holidays (badnjak).The cult of masculinity - the tradition of virdžina in the Albanian community. Krvna osveta.Architecture of Balkan villages, characteristic decorative features; contemporary manifestations of folk art: painting on glass, embroidery, embroidery, sculpture, products made of tissue paper, straw, wood, leather, metal.The works of naivists, the most outstanding representatives and centers of individual countries of the Balkan Peninsula.

Prerequisites and co-requisites

None

Assessment methods and criteria

Subject passing criteria	Passing threshold	Percentage of the final grade
active participation in classes	60.0%	30.0%
oral exam	51.0%	70.0%

Recommended reading	Basic literature	• Balgarska mitologija. Enciklopedičen rečnik., Sastavitel Anani Stojnev, Sofija 1994; • Bosić M., Pogrebni običaji Srba u Vojvodini, Svetozarevo, 1991; • Bošnjak S. (red.) Balkan i Balkanci, Niš 2003; • Burszta J., Kultura ludowa (w:) Słownik etnologiczny. Terminy ogólne, pod red. Z. Staszczak, Warszawa-Poznań 1987; • Čajkanović V. Studije iz srpske religije i folklora, Beograd, 1994; • Čapo Žmegač J., Hrvatski uskrsni običaji, Zagreb 1997:Narodna umjetnost; • Engelking A., Rytuały słowne w kulturze ludowej. Próba klasyfikacji, Język a kultura t. 4, Wrocław 1991; • Kitevski M., Na kletva lek nema, Skopje 1991; • Kulišić, Petrović, Pantelić N., Srpski mitološki rečnik, Beograd, 1998; • Moszyński K., Kultura ludowa Słowian, t. 1-2. Warszawa, 1968; • Mladenović O., Kolo južnih Slovena. Doktorska disertacija, Beograd 1973; • Pac-Pomamacka L. Kult męskości. Tradycja Virdžiny w społeczności albańskiej. Zadruga w aspekcieprawa Kanun. Rozpr. Nauk. Akademii Wychow. Fizycz. We Wrocławiu, 2013, 43, s. 4-11. • Radenković Lj., Simbolika sveta u narodnoj magiji ju`nih Slovena, Beograd 1996; • Słownik stereotypów i symboli ludowych, pod red. J. Bartmińskiego, t.1. Kosmos, cz. 1, 2, Lublin 1996, 1999 i nn.; • Zorić S. Obred i običaj, Zagreb 1991. **studied independently by the student** • Folklorystyka. Dylematy i perspektywy, Opole (w:) Zeszyty Naukowe Uniwersytetu Opolskiego, Filologia Polska, od nr-u 36, w Folklorystyce nr 3: Z historii folkloru i folklorystyki; • Bielawski (red.), Taniec, muzyka, folklor, Warszawa 1997; [fragnemty] • Góra A., Bocian w słowiańskich wyobrażeniach ludowych, Etnolingwistyka 1995, nr 7: • Gennep A. Obrzędy przejścia (w:) Etnologia. Wybór tekstów, red. Z. Sokolewicz, Warszawa 1969; • Jezernik B. Dzika Europa, Kraków 2007; [fragmenty] • Podolak M. (red.) Bałkany: przeszłość-teraźniejszość-przyszłość, Lublin 2013; [wybrane artykuły] • Simonides D. Pojęcie folklor w myśli europejskiej, Zeszyty Naukowe UO, Filologia Polska 36, Folklorystyka 1, Opole 1995. • Walczak-Mikołajczakowa M. Bałkańskie rytmy życia, Gniezno 2001.
	Supplementary literature	• Buchowski M., Burszta W., Status języka w świadomości magicznej, Etnografia Polska 1986, t. 30, z. 1; • Budziszewska W., O niektórych nazwach chorób i związanych z nimi demonów w językach słowiańskich (w:) Paralele w rozwoju słownictwa języków słowiańskich, pod red. H. Popowskiej-Taborskiej, Wrocław 1989; • Engelking A., Klątwa. Rzecz o ludowej magii słowa, Warszawa 2000; • Folklorystyczne i antropologiczne opisanie świata. Księga ofiarowana Profesor Dorocie Simonides, red. nauk. Teresa Smolińska, Opole 1999; • Filipović-Fabijanić R. 1964: Narodna medicina i narodna verovanja. Glasnik zemaljskog muzeja u Sarajevu, n.s.Etnologija 19; • Ivančanin I., Geografska podjela narodnih plesova u Jugoslaviji, (w:) Narodna umjetnost3, 1964; • Jahoda G., Psychologia przesądu, Warszawa, 1971; • Kowalski P. 2000: Chleb nasz powszedni. O pieczywie w obrzędach, magii, literackich obrazach i opiniach dietetyków, Wrocław; • Krawczyk-Wasilewska W. 1986: Współczesna wiedza o folklorze, Warszawa; • Studia o literaturach i folklorze Słowian, pod red. T. Dąbek-Wirgowej, Warszawa 1991; • Vijesti Društva Folklorista Hrvatske, Zagreb
	eResources addresses	
Example issues/ example questions/ tasks being completed	Customs, Rituals, and Festivals Related to Spring in Selected Countries of the Region.	
Work placement	Not applicable	

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