University of Gdańsk

Subject card

Subject name and code	History of the Orient - lecture, PG_00190219		
Field of study	Slavic Studies		
Date of commencement of studies	October 2026	Academic year of realisation of subject	2026/2027
Education level	Master's studies	Subject group	Obligatory subject group in the field of study Optional subject group 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	1	Language of instruction	Polish
Semester of study	1	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 Zbigniew Landowski	
	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

To familiarize students of Slavic Studies with the cultural background of the Balkans, historical relationships and roots of many manifestations and aspects of local cultures, the basics of local variants of Islam as an integral part of the culture and identity of some groups and ethnos of the inhabitants of the Balkan Peninsula. Developing students' interdisciplinary approach to observing, analyzing and interpreting cultural phenomena in multicultural societies.

Learning outcomes

Course outcome	Subject outcome	Method of verification
[SLAWMU2_W11] Has in-depth knowledge of the cultural, ethnic and religious diversity of the Balkans, including the fundamental dilemmas of modern civilisation and the conflicts of values associated with political transition, European integration and the protection of the identities of national and religious minorities in the region.	Student: - recognizes and respects differences of viewpoints determined by different national and cultural backgrounds (K_K01); - is aware of the multicultural heritage of Southern Europe (K_K05).	[SW4] test/exam - oral or written [SW1] oral statement/ conversation/discussion
[SLAWMU2_W06] Posseses the structured and theoretically based knowledge about the cultural history and culture of the Balkans.	has detailed knowledge of the specifics of the former Ottoman Empire and neighboring countries, their history and mutual relations (K_W04); - has in-depth detailed knowledge in selected areas of cultural knowledge, including primarily the culture of South Slavic countries against the Balkan background (K_W05); - has knowledge about the contemporary cultural and geopolitical situation of South Slavic countries (K_W12).	[SW4] test/exam - oral or written [SW1] oral statement/ conversation/discussion
[SLAWMU2_W05] Has the deepened understanding of the connections between the South Slavic languages and the literature, culture and economy of the Balkan Peninsula.	Student: - understands the specificity of the subject of South Slavic literary studies, especially Bosnian (K_W02); - is able to use appropriate methodology and tools when describing oriental history and culture, if necessary using sources in South Slavic languages (Serbian or Croatian). (K_W03);	[SW4] test/exam - oral or written [SW1] oral statement/ conversation/discussion
[SLAWMU2_U01] Using Polish and South Slavic languages, one is able to search, analyze, evaluate, select and integrate information - with the use of various sources, and on its basis can formulate critical judgments regarding cultural, political and social relations.	Student: - has the ability to analytically use selected knowledge acquired during classes (K_U05); - is able to formulate his own critical opinions about the texts presented to him during classes and synthesize them using various media (K_U11).	[SU1] oral statement/conversation/ discussion [SU4] test/exam - oral or written

Subject contents

1. Historical background - the Ottoman period in the history of the Balkans.2. Basics of Islam - Muhammad, Koran, dogmas, sunna, first schism.3. Sufism. Sufism in the Ottoman Empire.4. Sufism in the Balkans. Tariki. Islamic languages in the Balkans.5. Turkization, Islamization. 'New' ethnos (Pomaks, Bosniaks, etc.). 6. Cyclical rituals, ceremonies, Muslim calendar.7. Interconfessional and interethnic relations in the Balkans during the Ottoman period.8. Education, cultural life, intelligentsia in the Balkans under the Ottomans. Istanbul.9. Family, woman, children - status and place in the everyday life of Muslims in the Balkans.10. Everyday life of Muslims in the Balkans under the Ottomans: cuisine, work, entertainment.11. Muslim holidays. Folk art of Balkan Muslims - dance, music, jewelry (calligraphy, architecture, clothing).12. City and village in the Balkans (urban planning, professions - Muslim tradition).13. High culture in the Balkans of the Ottoman period - the influence of Islam.14. The revival of Islam - turn of the 19th/20th century - fundamentalism.15. Muslim cultural relics in the Balkans (cultures of non-Muslim Slavs).

Prerequisites and co-requisites

Assessment methods and criteria

Subject passing criteria	Passing threshold	Percentage of the final grade
oral exam	51.0%	100.0%

Recommended reading	Basic literature	Women in the Ottoman Balkans, A. Buturovi, r.c.schick [red.], London 2007. Minkov A., Conversion to Islam in the Balkans: Kisve Bahasi Petitions and Ottoman Social Life, 1670-1730, Leiden 2004. Deliso Ch., Culture and Customs of Serbia and Montenegro, London 2009. Hupchick D. P., The Balkans from Constantinople to Communism, New York 2002. Boyar E., Ottomans, Turks and The Balkans, London 2007. **studied independently by the student** Riis C., Religion, Politics and Historiography in Bulgaria, New York 2002. Buchanan D. A., Balcan Popular Culture And Ottoman Eucumene, Toronto 2007.
	Supplementary literature	YAzyki i dialekty malykh etnicheskikh grupp na Balkanakh, Sankt-Peterburg 2004. Hawkesworth C., Voices in the Shadows. Women and Verbal Art in Serbia and Bosnia, New York 2000. Poulton H., Taji-Farouqi S., Muslim Identity and The Balkan State, London 1997. Fine, Jr. J.V.A., When ethnicity did not matter in The Balkans. A Study of Identity in Pre-Nationalist Croatia, Dalmatia, and Slavonia in the Medieval and Early-Modern Periods, Michigan 2006.
	eResources addresses	
Example issues/ example questions/ tasks being completed	The influence of Islam on the current ethnic structure of the Balkans. Writing systems of Balkan languages as a result of historical processes - the influence of Islam. Elements of Islamic culture in the everyday life of the Balkan peoples. Muslim ethnos in the Balkans. Cultural achievements of Balkan Muslims. Today's situation of Muslims in the Balkans.	
Work placement	Not applicable	

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