The Byzantine Discovery of Eastern Europe

History

First and Second Degree

ECTS points 6

Description of the course:

The purpose of the course is to characterize the Byzantine diplomatic and ecclesiastical activity in Eastern Europe until the 15th century.

The student obtains detailed knowledge of the relations between Byzantium and the peoples and states of Eastern Europe from the end of antiquity to the end of the Middle Ages. The student increases his/her philological proficiency gaining knowledge of the history and culture of Eastern Europe in the light of the medieval Byzantine tradition.

The education effects and conditions for obtaining credits are:

Learning methods are: working with texts, discussion and activity during classes, ongoing control during classes, discussion, short utterance (in English) regarding a selected issue in the form of a presentation.

The student is required to obtain at least 3 points for discussion and/or a presentation (basing on modern literature and ancient texts) by the end of a semester.

3 points - 3,0; 4 points - 3,5; 5 points - 4; 6 points - 4,5; 7 points and more – 5.

Schedule:

1. Geography of Eastern Europe after the Byzantine embassies in the 6th-9th centuries.
2. The political and geographical image of Eastern Europe - the evolution of Byzantine geographical knowledge in the 7th-15th centuries
3. Christianization of Eastern Europe - projects and attempts at implementation.
4. The Bulgars, Western Turks, Khazars, Pechenegs, Cumans, Russian states, Golden Horde as potential and actual partners of Byzantium.
5. The image of Eastern Europe from the perspective of Al-Andalus and Byzantium: similarities and differences.

Basic literature:

1. Sp. Vryonis, *Byzantium and Europe*, London 1967.
2. T.E. Gregory, *A History of Byzantium*, Oxford 2005.

Other materials:

1. Boba, *Nomads, Northmen and Slavs. Eastern Europe in the Ninth Century*, Wiesbaden 1967.
2. F. Curta, *Eastern Europe in the Middle Ages (500-1300)*, Leiden-Boston 2019 (fragments).
3. A.M. Feldman, *The Monotheisation of Pontic-Caspian Eurasia. From the Eight to the Thirteenth Century*, Edinburgh 2022.
4. D. Obolensky, *The Byzantine Commonwealth*. *Eastern Europe. 500-1453*, London 1971 (or later editions).
5. A. Paroń, *The Pechenegs. Nomads in the Political and Cultural Landscape of Medieval Europe*, Leiden-Boston 2021.
6. A. Toynbee, *Constantinus Porphyrogenitus and his World*, London 1973.

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