

PEDAGOGY OF TEACHING GEOGRAPHY AND HISTORY

Educational qualification: BACHELOR

Professional qualification: GEOGRAPHY AND HISTORY TEACHER

From of study and duration: full-time, four years /8 semesters/

Specialty "**Pedagogy of Teaching Geography and History**", from professional direction 1.3. "Pedagogy of Teaching in...", educational and qualification degree "Bachelor" is accredited for a period of study of six years (until 2026).

The main goal of the training for the acquisition of the "Bachelor" OKS is for graduates to be prepared at a high scientific and methodological level for teaching the relevant subjects in the Bulgarian school, therefore the content of the curriculum is consistent with the State Educational Standards for educational content in the individual grades.

Additional goals are the formation of personal competencies, providing the future specialist with opportunities for timely adaptation to the conditions and requirements of the professional environment, as well as for their own further professional growth: geographical, historical, methodological and didactic competence, high language culture for oral and written expression, computer literacy, ability to work in a multicultural and interethnic environment, ability to work in a team, display of tact and ethics.

The achievement of the goals is ensured through:

- Building an optimal educational environment, stimulating professional communication at a high level and providing opportunities for creative expression.
- Developing and updating educational documentation that meets contemporary trends in geographical and historical science and pedagogical theory and practice.
- Using modern teaching methods, consistent with the best pedagogical practices in the country and abroad.
- Modern information provision of the educational process and its planning and maintenance in accordance with the goals and objectives of the training.
- Providing opportunities for international and interuniversity mobility.
- Scope of professional competencies

The structure and content of the curriculum provides students with broad-based theoretical and practical training in basic geographical, historical and pedagogical disciplines. During their studies, students receive the necessary fundamental knowledge in geography and history and acquire practical methodological skills for practicing the teaching profession, as well as opportunities to form and improve their personal competencies.

Opportunities for realization

The knowledge, skills and competencies acquired during the training enable successful professional realization of graduates of the specialty mainly in the field of education as:

- **teachers of geography and economics and history** and civilization in all types of schools in Bulgaria
- **experts in geography and history** at the regional education departments (RED)
- **experts in the structure of the Ministry of Education and Science (MES)**
- **in Sunday schools as teachers of geography of Bulgaria and history of Bulgaria** in all countries around the world where there are Bulgarian communities
- **experts in visitor centers at natural and national parks, tourist information centers and museums, in other scientific and cultural institutions that require a bachelor's degree and training in geography or history**, as well as in the field of environmental protection, tourism or regional development and territorial planning
- **directors of educational institutions**

The quality of the training received corresponds to public expectations and the goals of training in the specialty.

C U R R I C U L U M

Duration of study: 8 semesters

FIRST YEAR			
First semester	ECTS kredits	Second semester	ECTS kredits
<u>Compulsory subjects</u>		<u>Compulsory subjects</u>	

Geomorphology	5	Climatology and Hydrology	6,5
History of the ancient world (Ancient Greece and Rome)	5,5	Medieval General History	6,5
Psychology	5,5	Pedagogy	6
Information and communication technologies in education and work in a digital environment	3	Sports	0
Geography of production and the service sector	5,5	<i>Elective Geography Courses</i> <i>(choose one course)</i>	5
Cartography	5,5	Biogeography and Soil Geography	
Sport	0	History of Geographical Knowledge	
		Written and Spoken Culture	
		<i>Elective courses in history</i> <i>(choose one course)</i>	3
		History of the Ancient East	
		Archaeology	
		<i>Elective courses in history</i> <i>(choose one course)</i>	3
		Bulgaria and Europe - historical cartography and symbolic geography	
		Thracology	
	Total 30		Total 30
SECOND YEAR			
Third semester	ECTS kredits	Fourth semester	ECTS kredits
<u>Compulsory subjects</u>		<u>Compulsory subjects</u>	
Medieval Bulgarian History	7	History of the Bulgarian people 15th-19th centuries	6,5
Geography of Population and Settlements	5,5	Natural geography of the continents	6,5
Selected Countries from the Regions of the World	4,5	Methodology of teaching history	5
<u>Elective Courses in Geography</u> <i>(choose one course)</i>	4,5	History observation	3
Political Geography and Geopolitics		<i>Elective subjects in pedagogy</i> <i>(two subjects are chosen)</i>	3
Political and Economic Organization of Regions		Development of lessons for learning in an electronic environment	
<u>Electives in Geography</u> <i>(choose one subject)</i>	5,5	Digital competence and digital creativity	
Geographic Information Systems		Civic education	
Thematic Mapping		Inclusive education for children and students with special educational needs	
<u>Electives in History</u> <i>(choose one subject)</i>	3	Communication skills in an educational environment	
<u>History of Byzantium</u>		Pedagogical interaction in a multicultural environment	
<u>Ethnology</u>		Environmental education	
		<i>Elective courses in history</i> <i>(choose one course)</i>	3
		Archivistics	
		Historical informatics	
	Total 30		Total 30
THIRD YEAR			
Fifth semester	ECTS kredits	Sixth semester	ECTS kredits
<u>Compulsory subjects</u>		<u>Compulsory subjects</u>	

History of the Balkan peoples Landscape studies	5		5,5
Methodology of teaching geography	4	Natural Geography of Bulgaria	6,5
Geography internship	5	New and Latest General History	4
<u>Elective subjects in pedagogy (two subjects are selected)</u>	3	Geography of European Countries	4
Modern means of testing and assessing knowledge in geography	3	Competency-Based Approach and Innovations in Education	
Electronic resources in the learning process in geography		Teaching Practice in History – Part I (Libraries, Museums, Archives)	3
Interactive methods in geography teaching		<u>Elective courses in geography (choose one course)</u>	4
Extracurricular forms in geography teaching		Climatology of Bulgaria	
The European model of history education		Hydrology of Bulgaria	
Methodology of teaching Man and Society		Geomorphology of Bulgaria	
<u>Elective courses in geography (choose one course)</u>	4	<u>Elective courses in history (choose one course)</u>	3
Geography of ethnicities and religions		Medieval Balkans	
Geography of the Balkan countries		Historical local history	
<u>Elective courses in history (choose one course)</u>	3	Audio-visual documents and archives	
History of the Ottoman Empire			
	Total 30		Total 30
FOURTH YEAR			
Seventh semester	ECTS credits	Eighth semester	ECTS credits
<u>Compulsory subjects</u>		<u>Compulsory subjects</u>	
Socio-economic geography of Bulgaria	5,5	Inclusive Education	3
New and recent history of Bulgaria	6,5	State Educational Standards	1
Current pedagogical practice in geography	4	Geography Internship	3
Current pedagogical practice in history	4	History Internship – Part III (Libraries, Museums, Archives)	3
Teaching practice in history – part II	3	Geography Internship	5
<u>Elective disciplines in geography (choose one discipline)</u>	4	History Internship	5
Landscape and Environmental Problems of Bulgaria		Degree – State Exams:	10
Regional Development and Regional Policy of Bulgaria		State Practical Exam in Geography	
Protected Areas in Bulgaria		State Practical Exam in History	
<u>Elective Courses in History (choose one course)</u>	3	Written State Exam in Geography	
Eastern Europe after World War II		Written State Exam in History	
International Organizations in the Global World			
Multimedia in history teaching			
	Total 30		Total 30

CURRICULA

GEOMORPHOLOGY

ECTS credits: 5 Weekly hours: 2 lectures + 1 exercise Form of knowledge assessment: continuous control and exam Type of exam: written Semester: I

Methodological guidance:

Department of Geography, Ecology, and Environmental Protection
Faculty of Natural Sciences

Lecturers: Senior Assistant Dr. Miroslav Ivanov

Email: fx_trade77@abv.bg

Annotation:

The academic discipline "Geomorphology" aims to introduce students from the specialty "Pedagogy of Teaching Geography and History" to the origin, evolution, and processes of formation of the Earth's relief. The discipline is directly related to geology, geodesy, topography, archaeology, and soil science.

Content of academic discipline

Geomorphology is a transitional science between geology and geography. It uses various geographical and geological methods for research and depends on their degree of development and improvement. Geomorphology as a science with its own subject and research tasks was formed in the mid-1890s.

Relief is formed under the combined influence of endogenic processes—tectonic movements and volcanism, and exogenic processes—weathering, denudation, erosion, abrasion, karstification, deflation, and abrasion. Through their joint action, the morpho structural and morpho sculptural features of the relief are formed.

In the exercise classes, attention is paid to acquiring basic practical skills for field and laboratory geomorphological research, specifically for geomorphological mapping at different scales. Students acquire basic practical skills for field and laboratory geological and geomorphological research. Special attention is given to working with a geological compass, identifying the main types of rocks and minerals in the field, discovering and determining tectonic-induced relief forms, barometric leveling, and other activities described in the issued manual. Students also gain knowledge in creating and analyzing geological-geomorphological profiles of the relief and morphometry of the relief.

It is recommended to conduct one-day field excursions for direct observation of geological and geomorphological objects, the Stob Pyramids and the Kozhukh volcano. For this purpose, the issued geological guides are used.

Teaching and evaluation technology

Training in the discipline "Geomorphology" is conducted according to the current curriculum of the specialty "Pedagogy of Teaching Geography and History," Bachelor's degree. Classes are held in a lecture hall where theoretical facts, processes, and phenomena are discussed, after which practical tasks are assigned that students complete individually. During the course of training in the discipline, students develop either a paper or presentation on a geomorphological topic.

The examination procedure includes a test or written exam based on a previously distributed syllabus. The relative weight of the exam in the overall grade is 25%.

HISTORY OF THE ANCIENT WORLD (ANCIENT GREECE AND ROME)

ECTS credits: 5.5 Weekly

hours: 2 lectures / 2

exercises **Form of knowledge assessment:** continuous assessment and exam

Type of exam: written Semester: I

Methodological guidance:

Department: History Faculty of Legal and Historical Studies

Lecturers: Assoc. Prof. Dr. Ivo Topalilov

Email: itopalilov@yahoo.com

Senior Assistant Dr. Alexander Savov Portalski, Department of History Email: portalsky@abv.bg

Annotation:

The course covers some of the oldest civilizations on Earth—Minoan, Achaean, Ancient Greek, Etruscan, and Roman civilizations. These civilizations form a multifaceted but unified historical and cultural space and a self-improving social structure and way of life. The universal achievements and value system of antiquity are the foundation of European civilization, which continued to develop through the Middle Ages, Renaissance, and up to the present day. The main goal of the course is for students to become familiar with the civilizations of Ancient Greece and Rome while simultaneously developing historical thinking for critical evaluation and self-assessment of the surrounding and personal world and behavior, both in antiquity and today. Another important goal is for students to learn that their evaluative categories have their roots in the history of the ancient world, that human civilization does not develop solely and linearly upwards, but through pulsations at certain historical moments. These pulsations are represented by ancient civilizations.

Key concepts: antiquity, ancient times, culture, civilization, thinking, creativity, ancient sources, archaeological monuments, religion, mythology, polis, acropolis, colony, slavery.

Teaching and evaluation technology:

Training is carried out through a lecture course. Students write two papers during class, take a test, and develop term papers that they present to their peers. Requirements for semester completion include positive results in the control tests and tests and a submitted term paper. The final grade takes into account the results of continuous control and the exam grade in a ratio of 75%:25%, provided that each grade is at least average 3 (if there is a weak 2 in the continuous control or exam, no correlation is made).

PSYCHOLOGY

ECTS credits: 5.5 Weekly hours: 2 lectures + 1 exercise Form of knowledge assessment:

continuous assessment and exam Type of exam: written Semester: I

Methodological guidance:

Department of Geography, Ecology, and Environmental Protection Faculty of Natural Sciences

Lecturer: Senior Assistant Dr. Simona Nikolova Department of Psychology, Faculty of Philosophy Email: simona.nikolova@swu.bg

Annotation:

Psychology holds an important place in the overall preparation of students. Essential patterns and psychological conditions for the functioning of personality psyche are revealed. In this academic discipline, knowledge is provided in general psychology, developmental psychology, and educational psychology.

The goals and tasks of training in psychology are related to studying the cognitive, emotional-volitional, and behavioral spheres in human mental activity. New formations in the psyche are developed in ontogenetic and phylogenetic aspects. Psychology points out the forms of interaction between different academic disciplines, leading to the formation of qualities of thinking, will, emotions, temperament, and character, forming an integral harmonious personality. At the same time, training in this discipline directs future teachers towards individualizing development, considering the uniqueness of each student's natural capacity. Psychology brings to the forefront the study of previously neglected issues of self-awareness, self-regulation, self-esteem, self-development, reflection, and "I"-images of students. This contributes to a decisive shift in the teacher's position in the teaching-educational process—from impact to interaction, from upbringing to self-upbringing, from development to self-development. Through the practical orientation of seminar exercises, students develop interest and skills for implementing a research approach to the teaching-educational process. By solving, processing, and analyzing tests for personality traits, anxiety, and character, they study themselves and prepare to study their students. The lecture course aims to educate students in general, developmental, and educational psychology, providing them with opportunities to enhance their teaching-professional competence.

**INFORMATION AND COMMUNICATION TECHNOLOGIES IN TEACHING AND
WORKING IN A DIGITAL ENVIRONMENT**

ECTS credits: 3 Weekly hours: 2 lectures + 0 seminars + 0 labs + 1 exercise Form of knowledge assessment: exam Type of exam: written Semester: I

Methodological guidance:

Department of Geography, Ecology, and Environmental Protection Faculty of Natural Sciences
Lecturers from the Department of Informatics

Annotation:

The curriculum is oriented towards mastering contemporary tools and technologies applicable in education. The main characteristics and applications of software packages in informatics and IT education are examined. Emphasis is placed on using diverse multimedia products for teaching and utilizing Internet technologies for searching and developing supplementary teaching materials. Training is supported by teaching materials published in the e-learning system maintained by the Research Laboratory for E-Learning at the Faculty of Natural Sciences: www.e-learning.swu.bg
Input links: Information Technology, Methodology of Teaching Informatics and IT, Methodology of Teaching Mathematics, Pedagogy, Psychology. Output links – Internship in Informatics

GEOGRAPHY OF PRODUCTION AND SERVICE SECTOR

ECTS credits: 5.5 Weekly hours: 2 lectures + 1 exercise Form of knowledge assessment: continuous assessment and exam Type of exam: written Semester: I

Methodological guidance:

Department of Geography, Ecology, and Environmental Protection Faculty of Natural Sciences

Lecturers: Assoc. Prof. Dr. Emilia Patarchanova, Senior Assistant Dr. Gergana Nikolova

Email: emilia_patarchanova@swu.bg, gergana_nikolova@swu.bg

Annotation:

The academic discipline "Geography of Production and Service Sector" is one of the required disciplines in the training of students from the specialty "Pedagogy of Teaching Geography and History." The aim of the lecture course is to form the necessary conceptual-terminological apparatus, to familiarize students with the regularities of the territorial organization of economic sectors and factors for their development, to clarify regional differences in the organization and localization of production and service activities in the global economy, and to explain the significance of geographical studies of economic sectors.

Content of the academic discipline:

The lecture material is structured into four sections. The first section clarifies the subject, tasks, and methods of the academic discipline. It examines the main categories and terms in socio-economic geography related to the production and service sector, the process of forming national and global economies, their structure, and societal division of labor. The following three sections are dedicated to each of the three sectors of the global economy. Main industries are studied. The significance and influence of different groups of factors on their contemporary development are clarified, their sectoral and territorial structures are examined, peculiarities and regional differences are revealed, and directions of development are emphasized.

Technology of teaching and assessment:

Training includes lectures and practical exercises. The lecture course is conducted based on pre-planned lectures, including exposition, summary, and discussion, as well as connections between previous and new lectures, connections with other academic disciplines and scientific fields. The teaching process involves using visual aids such as presentations, maps, graphic images, printed materials, etc. Practical exercises involve selecting, ranking, processing, and analyzing statistical information. Papers are developed and defended. Trends in the territorial or historical development of specific productions and sectors are discussed, provoking student thinking about innovative ideas.

The examination procedure includes a written exam on two topics from a pre-distributed syllabus corresponding to the content of the academic program. The relative weight of the exam in the overall grade is 25%. Assessment is carried out on a six-point grading scale according to the Higher Education Act and Regulation No. 21 of the Ministry of Education and Science / 30.09.2004. Credits are awarded only if the overall grade is equal to or higher than Average 3, according to the credit accumulation and transfer system.

CARTOGRAPHY

ECTS credits: 5.5

Hours per week: 2l + 2pr. ex.

Form of assessment: on-going control and exam

Examination type: written

Semester: I

Methodological guidance:

Department: "Geography, ecology and environmental protection"

Faculty of Mathematics and natural sciences

Lecturer: Ass. prof. Galina Bezinska, PhD

E-mail: galinabezinska@swu.bg

Annotation:

The Cartography course is a compulsory component of the degree programme in Pedagogy of Geography and History Education. It is designed to provide students with both foundational and applied knowledge and skills in the field of cartographic science. The course offers a comprehensive overview of the fundamental principles, methodologies, and technologies involved in the creation, interpretation, and analysis of maps. Particular emphasis is placed on the theoretical underpinnings of the discipline, as well as on contemporary developments in digital cartography.

The core curriculum covers the mathematical foundations of cartography, including topographic and theoretical cartography, cartographic visualisation, and the application of Geographic Information Systems (GIS). The course content is aligned with academic standards and prepares future educators to integrate cartographic materials effectively into the teaching process.

The practical component of the course is aimed at enhancing students' competencies in map reading, analysis, and creation, alongside their proficiency in using specialised software and applying cartographic tools in a digital environment. Students acquire the necessary skills to work with scales and coordinate systems, determine distances and geographic coordinates, and produce maps using GIS technologies. Practical training takes place in a dedicated cartography and GIS laboratory, offering opportunities for participation in real-world projects and the development of essential practical skills for the professional preparation of modern geography and history teachers.

CLIMATOLOGY AND HYDROLOGY

ECTS credits: 6.5 Weekly schedule: 3L + 1U

Assessment method: continuous assessment and exam Exam type: written

Semester: II

Methodological guidance: Department of GEOS

Faculty of Natural Sciences

Lecturer: Chief Assistant Dr. Miroslav Ivanov

Email: fx_trade77@abv.bg

Annotation:

The course "Climatology and Hydrology" is one of the fundamental disciplines in the curriculum. It aims to provide students with basic knowledge about the atmosphere and hydrosphere of Earth, their interaction with the lithosphere and biosphere, as well as the impact of human activities on them. The focus is on the most important aspects of climate and water dynamics, with a priority

on land. The factors and patterns that determine the climatic and hydrological diversity of our planet are also explored.

Course Content:

The first half of the course material, consisting of 23 hours, covers topics from general climatology. The composition and structure of the atmosphere are discussed, along with the most important climatic processes and elements representing the climate. A special topic is dedicated to climate changes in the present, near past, and distant past. The second half of the course material, consisting of 22 hours, covers topics from general hydrology. The structure of the hydrosphere is examined, followed by studies on groundwater, river waters, and the world ocean. The largest section focuses on river waters, where students acquire knowledge about river hydrography and hydrometry, as well as the regime of rivers. Within the framework of the training on Bulgarian climatology, attention is also given to acquiring practical skills. Students prepare a world climate map and climatograms of selected stations worldwide. They learn to work with hydrographic characteristics and statistical parameters of river flow.

Teaching and Assessment Technology:

Training for the discipline "Climatology of Bulgaria" is conducted according to the current study plan of the specialty "Pedagogy of Geography and History," Bachelor's degree. Classes are held in a lecture hall where theoretical facts, processes, and phenomena are discussed. Practical tasks are assigned during exercises, which students complete individually. Based on the results of the exercise work, a grade for continuous assessment is given. Only students who receive at least a grade of Good (3) are admitted to the exam. The examination procedure includes a written exam based on a pre-distributed syllabus. Each student develops individual material on two questions from the syllabus. The relative weight of the exam in the overall grade is 25%.

MEDIEVAL GENERAL HISTORY

ECTS credits: 6.5 Weekly schedule: 3L + 1S

Assessment method: continuous assessment and exam Exam type: written and oral

Semester: II

Methodological guidance: Department of History

Faculty of Law and History

Lecturer: Assoc. Prof. Dr. Nikola Dyulgerov, Dept. of History

Email: nikoladyulgerov78@gmail.com

Annotation:

The discipline Medieval General History is compulsory for the specialty Pedagogy of Geography and History. It presents in broad terms the important processes that developed during the Middle Ages (5th-15th centuries) in Western Europe – population migrations, economic spheres and trade, political changes, and cultural achievements. Based on the latest research in world medieval studies, students gain an understanding of new interpretations and representations of the time of the Middle Ages and the medieval person. Special attention is paid to phenomena such as the Crusades, chivalry and monastic orders, the emergence and development of medieval cities, the Ottoman invasion, etc.

Course Content:

Periodization and important characteristics of the different stages of the Middle Ages; Early Middle Ages – problems of political history, church organization, and culture in the Western European region; period of the Crusades (11th-13th centuries); Late Middle Ages – cities, Renaissance culture, medieval universities, Mediterranean economic zone.

Teaching and Assessment Technology:

Training is conducted through lectures, seminars, and independent student work. Lecture sessions and seminars allow students to participate with their own preliminary presentations and developments. Knowledge assessment is through tests and written assignments (at least one coursework per semester). Requirements for completing the semester include regular attendance at classes, completion of assigned tasks, and successful performance on tests. The final grade is formed based on grades from continuous assessment and the exam in a ratio of 75%:25%.

PEDAGOGY

ECTS credits: 6 Weekly schedule: 2L + 0S + 1P

Assessment method: continuous assessment and exam Exam type: written

Methodological guidance: Department of Pedagogy

Faculty of Education

Lecturers:

Assoc. Prof. Dr. Snezhana Popova, Department of Pedagogy

Chief Assistant Dr. Antoneta Antonova, email: antonova_tony@mail.bg

Annotation:

The aim of this course is to develop and enrich students' theoretical thinking, their ability to analyze the regular connections between tradition and innovation in the educational and upbringing sphere, and to navigate the changing pedagogical reality. Various current theoretical concepts and approaches related to the system of education and upbringing in Bulgaria and around the world will be presented to them. Didactics is an integrative science and includes topics on institutionally organized learning at all levels. It is presented through directions such as ontodidactics, teleological didactics, docimetry, teaching technology, computer (including multimedia) didactics, didactic futurology, and others. It forms the basis of teaching methodologies for all subjects.

Course Content:

Scientific status of pedagogy. Development of personality – biological and social factors. Role and significance of upbringing and self-upbringing. Family as an upbringing factor. Microgroup as an upbringing community. Upbringing process. Methods, forms, and principles of upbringing. Content of upbringing. Didactics in the system of scientific knowledge. Teaching as a complex didactic system. Didactic research and innovations. Goals and process of teaching. Problem-based developmental teaching and the formation of higher intellectual skills. Content of teaching. Normative documents for the content of teaching. Theory of textbooks and educational literature. Principles, methods, and forms of teaching. Checking and evaluation in teaching. Individualization and differentiation of teaching. IT in teaching. Failures of students in teaching and overcoming them.

Teaching Technology:

Seminar exercises follow the lectures thematically. Continuous assessment during the semester is based on completed independent works chosen by students and based on a completed test or control work. The relative share of continuous assessment in the final grade is 75%.

MEDIEVAL BULGARIAN HISTORY

ECTS credits: 7 Weekly schedule: 3L + 1S

Assessment method: continuous assessment and exam Exam type: written

Semester: III

Methodological guidance: Department of History

Faculty of Law and History

Lecturers: Chief Assistant Dr. Yanko Mitkov Hristov, Department of History,

email: ishristov@abv.bg

Annotation:

The lecture course consists of 45 academic hours of lectures and is supplemented by 15 hours of seminar exercises. Historical information is presented in 15 topics that represent the Bulgarian Middle Ages from the 7th to the 14th century. A basic information base is created for political formations, social life, and cultural achievements of Bulgarians during this era. An understanding is built of Bulgaria's particular place in the Byzantine Orthodox community system. Priority is given to the periods of the 9th-10th and 13th-14th centuries when significant personalities and literary and cultural works appeared in Bulgarian history and culture. Particular attention will be paid to sources for Bulgarian history – both domestic and foreign.

The goal of the lecture and seminar exercises in the discipline "Medieval Bulgarian History" is for students to obtain fundamental knowledge about the main content of the medieval epoch. To perceive it in its true magnitude, not as an intermediate period from Antiquity to the Modern Era; to understand the causes and consequences of deep changes in the economic, social, and cultural-political life of Bulgarian society in the 7th-14th centuries; to acquire maximum knowledge that allows students to conceptually comprehend the stages, content, driving factors, main achievements, and roles of the most significant figures.

Course Content:

Within three major sub-periods, the settlement of Slavs and Proto-Bulgarians on the Balkans and the development of Bulgaria up to the conversion to Christianity are clarified. Subsequent moments focus on building a domestic version of Christian culture and adopting the Byzantine religious and political model. Attention is drawn to the period of the 11th-12th centuries – Byzantine rule over Bulgarian lands; appropriate space is devoted to the early Asen dynasty, the Fourth Crusade and its consequences, Tsar Ivan Asen II and his successors. The political crisis at the end of the 13th century and the rule of Terterovtsi and Shishmanovtsi are not overlooked.

Teaching and Assessment Technology:

Training is conducted in the form of lectures and seminar exercises. Lectures aim to provide a broad knowledge base on individual events, facts, personalities, and characteristics of the entire historical process of the given discipline. Through seminar sessions, students learn to analyze historical documents and sources of various types. They become familiar with the main discussion points on the issues of the scientific discipline. They gain a clear understanding of the state of historiography.

The form of assessment and evaluation is through tests, essays, and exams. Evaluation of achieved results in the training process is in accordance with the requirements for applying a credit accumulation and transfer system. All assessments are based on written works stored for the period determined by the Regulations for Educational Activities. These works are subject to control by the relevant authorities. Students who do not accumulate the minimum credit are not allowed to take the regular session exam. The final grade is formed based on grades from continuous assessment and the exam in a ratio of 75%:25%.

GEOGRAPHY OF POPULATION AND SETTLEMENTS

Credits: 5.5 credits

Semester: III

Weekly schedule: 2 lectures + 1 practical class

Assessment method: continuous assessment and exam

Exam type: written

Department: "Geography, Ecology, and Environmental Protection"

Faculty of Natural Sciences and Mathematics

Lecturer: Senior Assistant Professor Dr. Vladimir Karadjov

Email: karadzhov@swu.bg

Annotation:

The lecture course "Geography of Population and Settlements" is a compulsory discipline for students majoring in "Pedagogy of Geography and History Education." This course introduces students to the scientific-theoretical foundations of demography and the philosophy of the emergence and development of settlements. The macrostructure of the course includes two sections.

The first section focuses on population geography, emphasizing key terminology, methods in demography, population laws in different societies, and the main characteristics and trends in population development across continents and individual countries. The second section - geography of settlements - covers topics with methodological content as well as tracing the emergence of settlements, their evolution, processes occurring within them, settlement networks, and recent requirements for their development according to major international documents.

Content of the Course:

The discipline "Geography of Population and Settlements" aims to provide fundamental knowledge in this area to students and ensure scientific and practical preparation and competence for their participation in regional research and forecasting projects, as well as in territory management programs (population and settlements). Laboratory exercises aim to reinforce acquired knowledge and expand experimental knowledge and skills for work in contemporary practice and science. The final grade is formed based on assessments from continuous control and the exam in a ratio of 75%:25%.

SELECTED COUNTRIES FROM REGIONS OF THE WORLD

Credits: 4.5

Semester: III

Weekly schedule: 2 lectures + 1 practical class

Assessment method: continuous assessment and exam

Exam type: written

Department: Geography, Ecology, and Environmental Protection

Lecturers: Assoc. Prof. Dr. Alexandra Ravnachka, Senior Assistant Professor Dr. Gergana Nikolova

Email: a_lrvnachka@abv.bg, gergananikolova@swu.bg

Annotation:

The course "Selected Countries from Regions of the World" holds an important place in the preparation of future geography teachers. Its goal is to provide students with extensive knowledge about the socio-political and socio-economic development of regions and countries around the world (excluding Europe). The characterization of each country includes an evaluation of natural conditions and resources, revealing the specifics of the population (number, structure, movement, ethnic and religious composition, territorial distribution). Emphasis is also placed on the development of the settlement network, administrative-territorial division, and the peculiarities of the economy (formation and development of economic sectors, territorial location, formation of main economic regions, development of international economic relations). The geopolitical significance of each individual country in its region and its role in the global economy is also explored. In addition to specific knowledge, students acquire skills in applying comparison methods and spatiotemporal analysis when characterizing the economies of different groups of countries. The connection between historical and political development in various regions and their economic prosperity is emphasized.

EXAMINATION PROCEDURE

According to the Regulations for Educational Activities at SWU, only students who have fulfilled the requirements for mastering the content of the educational discipline, both in their classroom and extracurricular activities, and have an overall grade from current assessments no lower than Good (3) are allowed to take the examination. The examination procedure involves a written test on one topic from all three sections of the course content after a pre-distributed syllabus. The relative weight of the examination grade in forming the final grade is 25%. Grading is carried out using the six-point grading scale, in accordance with the Higher Education Act and Order No. 21 of the Ministry of Education and Science (September 30, 2004). Written works are stored for one year from the date of the examination. Credits for the discipline are awarded only upon successfully passing the examination with a grade equal to or higher than Good (3), according to the system for accumulation and transfer of credits.

HISTORY OF THE BULGARIAN PEOPLE IN THE 15TH TO 19TH CENTURIES

ECTS Credits: 6.5

Weekly Schedule: 3 lectures + 1 seminar

Assessment Method: Examination

Examination Type: Written Exam

Semester: IV

Methodological Guidance: Departments: "Geography, Ecology, and Environmental Protection" and "History" Faculty of Natural Sciences and Mathematics and Faculty of Law and History

Lecturers: Assoc. Prof. Dr. Valentin Spasov Kitanov, Department of History

Email: kitvalmil@abv.bg

Annotation:

This curriculum acquaints students specializing in "Geography and History" with the first centuries of Ottoman rule over Bulgarian lands (15th-17th centuries) and the Bulgarian Revival (18th-19th centuries). Chronologically, the initial questions address the Ottoman conquest of Bulgarian lands and its consequences, the development and state of the Bulgarian economy during the 15th-17th centuries, and anti-Ottoman resistance. A significant portion of the questions concerns the characterization of Bulgarian spiritual life during the 15th-17th centuries. The outlined framework and marked general concept of the second part of the course, covering the history of the Bulgarian Revival, determine optimally and define the content of its thematic program, which includes the most essential problems, phenomena, events, and aspects of the socio-economic, spiritual, and political life of Bulgarians, their struggles for cultural emancipation and national liberation, presented in their natural interconnections, dialectics, and development, as well as in their complex interaction with internal and external political factors; their role in the nation-building process and in realizing the main political question of the Revival era – the liberation of Bulgaria.

Content of the Course:

Characterization of studies on the history of the Bulgarian people in the early centuries of Ottoman rule; Imposition of Ottoman rule and mechanisms of its governance in Bulgarian lands during the 15th-17th centuries; Development of economic life in Bulgarian villages during the 15th-17th centuries; The city as an administrative and commercial center; Anti-Ottoman resistance by the Bulgarian people during the 15th-17th centuries; Bulgarian culture during the 15th-17th centuries; Historical characterization of the Bulgarian Revival; Creation of a national liberation ideology. Political ideas and movements in the second half of the 18th and beginning of the 19th centuries; Movement for new Bulgarian education and culture; Struggle for ecclesiastical and national independence. Establishment of the Bulgarian Exarchate; New stage in the ideological and organizational development of the Bulgarian national liberation movement; The Eastern Crisis and the Bulgarians. The April Uprising of 1876; Liberation of Bulgaria and the policies of Western states.

Teaching Technology and Assessment:

Teaching for the discipline is conducted through lectures and seminar exercises. During the course, students prepare one multimedia presentation on topics from the lectures, which they present at the seminar exercises. On the day of the examination, students write a paper on one question from the syllabus. The final grade is formed based on the grades from current assessments and the examination in a ratio of 75% to 25%.

PHYSICAL GEOGRAPHY OF CONTINENTS

ECTS Credits: 6.5

Weekly Schedule: 3 lectures + 2 practical classes

Assessment Method: Current Control and Examination

Examination Type: Written Exam

Semester: VI

Methodological Guidance: Department: "Geography, Ecology, and Environmental Protection"

Faculty of Natural Sciences and Mathematics

Lecturers: Assoc. Prof. Dr. Nadezhda Nikolova

Email: nin@swu.bg

Senior Assistant Professor Dr. Miroslav Ivanov

Email: fx_trade77@abv.bg

Annotation:

The educational discipline "Physical Geography of Continents" aims to build foundational knowledge about the natural conditions and resources of continents as a whole and their regional units, clarifying the patterns in the spatial variation of natural components and the characteristics of their combination in natural complexes. The discipline provides a comprehensive understanding of the natural conditions and resources of continents, as well as their subdivisions – physiographic regions, subregions, and regions, with an emphasis on their tourism potential. It offers numerous opportunities for acquiring practical skills, such as working with world geographic maps, creating tourist destinations and routes to various natural sites, drawing schemes, diagrams, cartograms, and other graphic materials, which will enable students to gain broad geographical knowledge about the world and the natural tourism resources of continents.

Content of the Course:

The first module includes a component-wise characterization of each continent – relief, climate, water bodies, soils, vegetation, and animal life. It emphasizes geographical features and patterns. In the second module, students become familiar with the principles and methods of physiogeographic regionalization, as well as the individual characteristics of complex regional units of different taxonomic ranks. Various indices, indicators, and criteria for classifying these territories are examined.

Teaching Technology and Assessment:

The aim of the lecture course is to form competencies in students for analyzing and evaluating natural objects, processes, phenomena, characteristics of various physiographic regions and areas. A crucial aspect is enhancing theoretical training through developing spatial skills and decision-making in conducting research on current issues related to environmental protection. Lectures and exercises are conducted based on the material-technical base of the "GEEO" department. For illustrating the lecture material, a computer with a video projector, educational videos, specialized GIS software (Google Earth, ArcGIS), visual aids (maps, cartograms, satellite images, atlases, charts), some of which were developed as course and thesis works by students, are used. Studying the discipline is linked to 125 hours of extracurricular activities, including independent student preparation and consultations with the instructor. Independent preparation encompasses:

- Researching additional literary sources in libraries, on the Internet, etc.,
- Analyzing and evaluating obtained results, technical design of coursework assignments, essays, maps, presentations, etc.

Presenting and defending completed work.

During the course, ongoing control for assessing knowledge is implemented, involving the development and defense of a report or presentation corresponding to the lecture content. Each student prepares a set of maps for various natural objects across the seven continents. Acquired knowledge and skills are assessed using a six-point grading system depending on task performance: Excellent (6) – above 89%, Very Good (5) – 70%-89%, Good (4) – 50%-70%, Satisfactory (3) – 30%-50%, Poor (2) – below 30%. Only students who meet the requirements of the Regulations for Educational Activities at SWU, fulfill the requirements for mastering the content of the educational discipline, and achieve an overall grade from current assessments no lower than Good (3) are admitted to the examination. The final grade is formed from the grade of current assessments (test examinations, map examinations, and compilation of cartographic materials) – 75% and the grade of the Methodology of History Teaching

METHODOLOGY OF HISTORY TEACHING

ECTS Credits: 5 Weekly Hours: 2L+2S+0LU+0PU+R Form of Assessment: Continuous

Assessment Type of Exam: Written **Semester:** IV

Methodological Guide:

Department of History

Faculty of Legal and Historical Studies

Lecturer: Prof. Dr. Kostadin Paev

Email: kostapaev@abv.bg

Abstract:

The course on Methodology of History Teaching is a fundamental discipline for acquiring the professional qualification of "history teacher." One of its main objectives is to familiarize students with European trends in the development of historical education, new approaches and principles of work in real classroom settings, emphasizing practical aspects, knowledge acquisition, and building practical skills for teaching history in Bulgarian schools. An important task in preparing students is the formation of skills for interpreting contemporary global and national issues, creating behavior appropriate to existing realities, orienting young people in the modern world, and fostering critical thinking. In this context, three main categories of goals and tasks are outlined: studying history and understanding the past as part of general personal education; mastering valuable knowledge and skills for interpreting society's past; socializing learners and preparing them as citizens.

Course Content:

Methodology of History Teaching as a scientific field and academic discipline; development of historico-methodical thought in Bulgaria from the Renaissance to the 1990s; the role of history in contemporary society; aims of history teaching (hierarchy of aims); basic theoretical views and ideas underlying State Educational Requirements in History; structure and content of the History Standard; main concepts and structure of the curriculum in History;

textbooks in History; approaches in History teaching; global examples of historical education; principles of History teaching; educational technologies in History teaching; skills, habits, and competencies in History teaching (skills for working with historical sources, skills for chronological and spatial localization, skills for working with images); graphic-conditional representations in History teaching; written assignments in History and technologies for their development; assessment of historical knowledge and skills of students; didactic tests and their functions in History teaching; quantitative methods for assessing test results; contemporary information and communication technologies in History teaching; multimedia in History teaching.

Teaching and Assessment Technology:

Assessment of students in the course on Methodology of History Teaching includes continuous assessment and a written exam based on a predefined syllabus. The continuous assessment is formed based on written lesson plans of various types of lessons. These written lesson plans require an in-depth examination of specific methodological problems in History teaching. Students work throughout the semester by periodically developing lessons on certain topics from Bulgarian and general history. Each developed lesson must meet the following requirements: have a structured outline covering all aspects of the topic; interpret facts and events using scientific methods; present the main concepts and opinions on the topic; express the student's independent opinion on controversial issues; propose diverse methods and forms of work with students. The written exam on Methodology of History Teaching requires comprehensive and in-depth elaboration of questions, including knowledge of main concepts and opinions, familiarity with key bibliography, and skills for scientific analysis and interpretation of examined problems. The final grade is determined based on assessments from continuous control and the exam in a ratio of 75%:25%.

PRACTICUM IN HISTORY

ECTS Credits: 3

Semester: IV Semester

Type of Course: Practical Exercises **Hours per Week/ZS:** 2 hours weekly

Assessment: Continuous Assessment

Instructor: Asst. Dr. Bilyana Karadakova

Department: History

Email: bilyanakaradakova@mail.bg

Abstract:

Status of the Discipline in the Curriculum: A compulsory discipline for students majoring in "Pedagogy of Geography and History Teaching" with 30 contact hours for groups up to 13 students.

The course "Practicum in History" introduces students to their future profession. Students observe lessons taught by base teachers, confer on the observed lessons according to predetermined tasks, and submit three written analyses of observed lessons. On initial school observations, students are divided into subgroups, each assigned specific tasks.

Course Objectives: The aim of the course is for students to gain insight into: basic requirements for a History lesson; how to select and systematize educational content; how to assess individual student performance and class performance overall. Students should acquire skills for developing different types of lessons.

Prerequisites: Students must possess theoretical knowledge of MOI and the content of the school curriculum in History: which material is studied when and at what level.

Assessment: The final grade is determined based on assessments from continuous control and the exam in a ratio of 75%:25%.

HISTORY OF THE BALKAN PEOPLES

ECTS Credits: 5 | **Weekly Hours:** 3L + 1S | **Assessment Method:** Continuous Assessment and Exam | **Exam Type:** Written | **Semester:** V

Methodological Guide:

Department of GEOOS, Faculty of Natural Sciences and Mathematics

Lecturers: Assoc. Prof. Dr. Snezhana Dimitrova

Department of History

Email: s.dimitrova@swu.bg

Abstract:

The history of the Balkan peoples is presented in two modules corresponding to the problem-themed register of the discipline. The lecture content of the first module deals with the Ottoman invasion of the Balkans: the changes in the political status quo, social structure, and economic development of the lands included in the Ottoman system of governance. Special attention is given to how geography predetermined the stages of the Ottoman conquest of the Balkans on one hand, and on the other, how the geographical location of individual Balkan countries relative to the center of political power - Istanbul, influenced their inclusion into the imposed Ottoman administration system.

The second module's lecture course examines the nation-building processes of different Balkan nations: the creation and emancipation of a nation as a cultural community and a political-state entity. Within this context, issues related to the establishment of geographical societies in the Balkans and the construction of communication lines in various Balkan countries are also discussed. This reveals the power of ideology and politics over "natural-geographical" aspects. Students are confronted with the issue of how national Balkan doctrines and the struggle for influence among great powers shaped the development of communication lines, where geography becomes a political argument. Thus, students gain knowledge about geopolitics, the intersection of geography, history, and politics, a geopolitical theme introduced from the very first lecture on the concept of the "Balkan Peninsula."

Assessment:

The final grade is formed based on continuous assessment and exam results in a ratio of 75%:25%.

METHODOLOGY OF TEACHING GEOGRAPHY

ECTS Credits: 5 |

Weekly Hours: 2L + 2S + 0LU + 0PU |

Assessment Method: Exam | Exam Type: Written | Semester: V

Methodological Guide:

Department of Geography, Ecology, and Environmental Protection

Faculty of Natural Sciences and Mathematics

Lecturer: Prof. DPN Elka Yanakieva

Department of GEOOS

Abstract:

This course provides theoretical and methodological preparation for effective pedagogical activity in the position of a geography teacher.

Course Content:

The lecture material is structured into two sections. The introductory part focuses on human geographical culture, its place in overall personal culture, and phenomenology. The first section is dedicated to the methodology of teaching geography, analyzed as a private didactics, examining the prerequisites for its evolution into pedagogical technology and presenting its connections with other sciences (on systemic-structural and functional levels). The second section covers the goals, content, and structure of geography education. It discusses the place of geography in curricula and analyzes the variety of textbooks and study aids; students have the opportunity to develop their pedagogical imagination by acquiring experience in modeling author programs for geography education. The third section addresses the psychological foundations of geography education - it considers age characteristics and student motivation and the teacher as determinant factors of successful learning. The fourth section examines the technology of teaching geography - models of the learning process, teaching aids, work with textbooks and geographical maps, methods of teaching and their classification. The fifth section includes forms of organizing geography education - the modern geography lesson, forms for organizing independent student work within and outside the classroom, extracurricular forms of organizing the educational process, educational games, and discussions.

Teaching Technology and Assessment:

The lecture course presents various perspectives on specific topics using an heuristic approach, supported by rich evidence and illustrative materials. Seminar sessions require prior student preparation according to the topic. Methods used include extended discussion, analysis and commentary on pedagogical situations and tasks, case studies, exercises for developing independence and critical thinking. The examination procedure involves a written test and essay. The weight of the exam in the overall grade is 25%, with the remaining portion formed from continuous assessment during the semester.

LANDSCAPE SCIENCE

ECTS Credits: 4 | **Weekly Hours:** 2L + 1P | **Assessment Method:** Continuous Assessment and

Exam Type: Written |

Semester: V

Methodological Guide:

Department of GEOOS, Faculty of Natural Sciences and Mathematics

Lecturers: Assoc. Prof. Dr. Nadezhda Nikolova

Department of GEOOS

Email: nin@swu.bg

Abstract:

The course "Landscape Science" aims to provide students with fundamental theoretical knowledge about the structure and functioning of Earth's landscape sphere, including the natural complexes that form landscapes as interconnected wholes due to the combination of all natural components in a specific territory. Acquired knowledge has practical applications in preparing lesson units on topics related to the characteristics of different geospheres and natural zones in the school geography curriculum.

Course Content:

Information is presented on the genetic order of emergence and hierarchy of natural components (factors). The essence, peculiarities, and differences between the main geographical laws of Earth—zonality and azonality—are clarified. A characterization of the main landscape zones of Earth is provided. Special attention is given to the nature and direction of connections between individual components as a prerequisite for tracking the sequence of landscape changes and predicting expected alterations. Basic knowledge is provided on the resilience of natural components and complexes against various types of anthropogenic impacts, serving as a basis for evaluating and limiting negative landscape changes and manifestations and consequences of some unfavorable natural processes. Students are introduced to methods and principles of landscape classification and regionalization, as well as differences in the characteristics of typological and individual (regional) units of different taxonomic ranks. In practical classes, students develop and refine skills for collecting information from various sources, analyzing and synthesizing it, comparing and interpreting, and working in teams.

Teaching Technology and Assessment:

Teaching is conducted through 30 hours of lectures, 15 hours of practical exercises, and 80 hours of independent work. Instruction is based on contemporary interactive teaching methods—extensive use of multimedia forms and an e-learning platform.

Continuous assessment includes evaluation of landscape profile preparation, one written assignment/presentation, and one semester test. Only students who receive at least a grade of Average 3 from continuous assessment are allowed to take the exam.

The final grade is formed from the continuous assessment score (landscape profile compilation, field mapping of a landscape point)—75% and the exam score—25%.

GEOGRAPHY PRACTICUM

ECTS Credits: 3

Semester: V

Course Type: Practical Exercises

Weekly Hours: 2 | **Assessment:** Continuous Assessment

Lecturer: Senior Assistant Dr. Vladimir Karadjov

Department of Geography, Ecology, and Environmental Protection

Faculty of Natural Sciences and Mathematics

Email: karadzhov@swu.bg

Abstract:

Status of the discipline in the curriculum: Compulsory for students majoring in "Pedagogy of Teaching Geography and History," with a workload of 30 hours per group of up to 15 students.

The discipline "Geography Practicum" introduces students to their future profession. Students observe lessons taught by base teachers, confer on the delivered lessons based on pre-set tasks. For initial observations in school, students are divided into subgroups, each assigned specific tasks.

Course Content:

The aim of training in this discipline is for students to gain an understanding of: basic requirements for geography lessons; how to select and systematize tasks offered to students; how to evaluate the work of individual students and the class as a whole. Students must acquire skills for developing different types of lessons.

Teaching Technology and Assessment:

Students must be familiar with the Methodology of Teaching Geography (MOTG) and the content of the school geography curriculum: which study material is covered when and at what level, as well as State Educational Requirements (SER) in geography and economics for grades V-X.

The final grade is formed from students' participation in conferring observed lessons—40%, submitted analyses of observed lessons—30%, and developed lesson plans—30%.

PHYSICAL GEOGRAPHY OF BULGARIA

ECTS Credits: 5.5 | **Weekly Hours:** 3L + 1P | **Assessment Method:** Continuous Assessment and Exam | **Exam Type:** Written | **Semester:** VI

Methodological Guide:

Department of GEOOS, Faculty of Natural Sciences and Mathematics

Lecturers: Assoc. Prof. Dr. Nadezhda Nikolova

Department of GEOOS

Email: nin@swu.bg

Senior Assistant Dr. Miroslav Ivanov

Email: fx_trade77@abv.bg

Abstract:

The course "Physical Geography of Bulgaria" is one of the core subjects in the training of students majoring in this field. Its aim is to provide foundational knowledge about the history and factors shaping the formation, specificity, and characteristics of the components of the natural environment in Bulgaria—relief, climate, waters, vegetation, animals, and soils, as well as the regional differentiation of these elements across the country.

Course Content:

The course clarifies the laws governing the genesis, spatial distribution, and characteristic features of major morphostructural and morphosculptural forms of relief, climatic factors and elements, underground and surface waters, soils, plant cover, and animal life within the country, set against

general geographical patterns manifesting at continental European and planetary scales. Students are introduced to methods and principles of physical geography regionalization, as well as the individual characteristics of complex regional units of different taxonomic ranks. Their genesis, structure, natural resource potential, and degree and trends of anthropogenic change are explained. In practical classes, students develop and refine skills for collecting information from various sources, analyzing and synthesizing it, comparing and interpreting, and working in teams.

Teaching Technology and Assessment:

Teaching is conducted through 45 hours of lectures, 15 hours of practical exercises, and 100 hours of independent work. Instruction is based on contemporary interactive teaching methods—extensive use of multimedia forms and an e-learning platform.

Continuous assessment includes evaluation of prepared cartograms, one written assignment/presentation, and one semester test. Only students who receive at least a grade of Average 3 from continuous assessment are allowed to take the exam. The final grade reflects the results of continuous assessment and exam performance in a ratio of 75:25.

NEW AND MODERN GENERAL HISTORY

ECTS credits: 6.5

Weekly: 4 hours of lectures, 1 hour of exercise

Semester: VI

Methodological guidance: Faculty of Natural Sciences and Mathematics

Instructors:

Assoc. Prof. Dr. Ivan Metodiev Petrov, Department of History

Assoc. Prof. Dr. Diana Veleva Ivanova, Department of History

Email: ivan_m_petrov@yahoo.com

Abstract:

The discipline "New and Modern General History" is included as a compulsory subject in the curriculum for the specialty "Pedagogy of Teaching Geography and History". New and modern general history studies the history of the world in its entirety from the end of the 15th century to the present day. During this period, we can speak of world history in the true sense of the word. The lecture course examines the main characteristics of this period - a period of transition from feudalism to modern society. In this era, the world economy was created, industrialization took place, scientific-technical and military revolutions occurred. The socio-political development of individual countries and regions is studied. Emphasis is placed on Europe's dominance in theoretical knowledge, technology, military affairs, political ideas, and institutions, as well as on the modernization of societies in Eastern Europe, Asia, and the Western Hemisphere.

Content:

Introduction to New and Modern General History; English Revolution of the mid-17th century; England 1660-1800; French Revolution - Absolutist Regime in France; International Relations in the 17th-18th centuries; France 1799-1914; USA - from its creation to 1914; Germany 1815-1914; England 1815-1914; Revolutions of 1848-1849 in Europe; International Relations from the beginning of the 19th century to 1914; World War I; International Relations after World War I; Germany and Italy 1918-1939; England and France 1919-1939; Russia and USSR 1918-1939;

USA 1919-1939; World War II 1939-1945; England and France 1945-2005; Germany and Italy 1945-2005; USA 1945-2005; USSR 1945-1991; International Relations 1945-2005.

Organization of Training:

Training is conducted in the form of lectures and seminar exercises. Students prepare one term paper on topics from the lecture course. Assessment: The final grade is formed based on current control assessments and exam results in a ratio of 75%:25%.

GEOGRAPHY OF EUROPEAN COUNTRIES

ECTS credits: 4

Weekly schedule: 2 lectures + 1 practical class

Form of assessment: exam

Type of exam: written

Semester: VI

Methodological guidance: Department of Geography, Ecology, and Environmental Protection
Faculty of Natural Sciences and Mathematics

Lecturers: Assoc. Prof. Dr. Alexandra Ravnachka

Email: a_lavnachka@abv.bg

Abstract:

The academic discipline "Geography of European Countries" is one of the elective subjects in the training of students majoring in "Pedagogy of Teaching Geography and History." The aim of the lecture course is to acquaint students with selected European countries, their resource potential, geodemographic, ethnoconfessional characteristics of their population, peculiarities of political organization and governance, socio-economic development, and regional structure.

Content of the Academic Discipline:

The course is structured into two sections. The first section examines the stages of the formation of the political map of Europe and the classification of countries according to leading criteria. Special attention is given to the geodemographic and ethnoreligious characteristics of the population in Europe. Regional politico-economic organizations are discussed, along with their institutions that perform coordinating and guiding functions, as well as their main areas of activity and policies. The second part introduces students to specific European countries. Particular attention is paid to regional differences in the level of socio-economic development of the countries, the peculiarities of natural conditions and resources, demographic potential, and state organization. An analysis of macroeconomic indicators for the development of the economies of the countries is made. The effectiveness of EU measures and programs for overcoming internal regional disparities among member states is analyzed. An assessment is provided for the significance of the common European economy in the global economy, comparing it with other global economic centers and regions.

Teaching Technology and Assessment:

Training includes lectures and practical exercises. The lecture course is conducted based on pre-planned lectures, including exposition, summary, and discussion, as well as connections between previous and new lectures, links with other academic disciplines, and other scientific fields. The teaching process also involves using visual aids such as presentations, maps, graphic images, printed materials, etc. In exercises, students learn to analyze statistical information, visualize

trends in demographic and socio-economic development of countries, discuss trends in territorial or historical development of states, and develop and defend theses.

The examination procedure includes a written exam on two topics from a previously distributed syllabus corresponding to the content of the academic program. The relative weight of the exam in the overall assessment is 25%. Grading is carried out on a six-point grading scale according to the Higher Education Act and Ordinance No. 21 of the Ministry of Education and Science (September 30, 2004). Credits are awarded only if the overall grade is equal to or higher than Average 3, according to the credit accumulation and transfer system.

COMPETENCY-BASED APPROACH AND INNOVATIONS IN EDUCATION

ECTS credits: 4 Weekly hours: 2 lectures + 1 practice session

Language of instruction: Bulgarian

Assessment method: examination

Type of examination: written

Semester: VII

Lecturers: Assoc. Prof. Dr. Krasimira Teofilova Marulevska

Annotation

The course on "Competency-Based Approach and Innovations in Education" recognizes the importance of the competency-based approach in educational theory and practice, as well as the significance of innovation processes in the field of education. The focus is on processes related to improving the pedagogical environment, enhancing the effectiveness and productivity of functioning educational structures. Within the scope of this discipline, emphasis is placed on the role and essence of the competency-based approach in teaching, types of competencies, main methodological approaches for forming key competencies, and building an innovative culture among students from specialties that prepare future teachers. During the course, students have the opportunity to acquire knowledge, develop skills, and competencies for appropriate actions and behavior in the specific conditions of innovation in contemporary schools. The attention is centered on new ideas implemented in the concrete pedagogical environment and their technological dimensions in new approaches, forms, methods, didactic, and educational means.

The course aims to stimulate creativity in students and form professional and personal readiness for perceiving, understanding, and supporting innovations, as well as successfully integrating the innovative culture into the overall structure of the professional pedagogical competence of modern teachers for applying strategies, didactic technologies, and methodological techniques and forms for developing key competencies in students during the educational process.

The final grade is determined based on current assessment and examination scores in a ratio of 75%:25%.

ACADEMIC HISTORY PRACTICE (LIBRARIES, MUSEUMS, ARCHIVES) – PART 1

ECTS credits: 3 Weekly hours: 2p/w

Language of instruction: Bulgarian

Assessment method: Exam

Exam type: Written

Semester: VII

Methodological guidance: Department of History Faculty of Legal and Historical Studies

Lecturers: Senior Assistant Dr. Miroslava Stoilova Georgieva, Department of History

Email: m_georgieva@swu.bg

Annotation:

This academic program for the course "Academic Practice in History (Libraries, Museums, Archives)" – Part 2 is designed for students majoring in "Pedagogy of Geography and History Teaching" at the Faculty of Natural Sciences at South-West University "Neofit Rilski" – Blagoevgrad. It introduces students to the characteristic features of museums and museology as a whole. The aim of the course is to provide good theoretical and practical training in the field of contemporary museum work based on the experience of European and Bulgarian museums.

Course Content:

Introduction to the subject matter – review of research, museological schools; Museology as an academic discipline – history, theory, methodology, the museum as a cultural phenomenon, functions, and main types of museum activities; Emergence of museums and key stages in their historical development – interest in antiquities during Antiquity and the Middle Ages, collecting during the Renaissance, development of museums in the 18th-19th centuries; Museum work in Bulgaria – emergence and development, current state of museums in Bulgaria; State policy in museum work, Regulatory framework in the field of museum work, Regulatory framework for the preservation of cultural heritage in the Republic of Bulgaria; Collection and inventory activities, Registration of museum cultural assets, Description and scientific-technical processing of museum artifacts; Specifics of museum activities, etc. In view of one of the main functions of the museum – preserving immovable cultural heritage, visits and acquaintance with various objects and monuments are planned, which will give students knowledge about the condition and problems related to the contemporary preservation, exhibition, and adaptation of cultural values.

Teaching Technology and Assessment:

The teaching in this course is based on traditional lecture practice in humanities education in Bulgaria combined with modern interactive teaching methods – extensive use of multimedia forms and direct student engagement in the learning process. Current control is carried out during classes throughout the semester through coursework assignments, tests, and quizzes according to the respective point system. The course concludes with a written scientific paper on specific museums or cultural assets (movable or immovable), including ideas for their restoration, exhibition, and socialization. The final grade is formed based on grades from continuous assessment and the exam in a ratio of 75%:25%.

SOCIAL AND ECONOMIC GEOGRAPHY OF BULGARIA

ECTS credits: 5.5 credits Weekly hours: 3l+1p/w

Semester: VII

Course type: Lectures and exercises (practical)

Methodological guidance:

Department: "Geography, Ecology, and Environmental Protection"

Faculty of Natural Sciences

Lecturers: Senior Assistant Dr. Vladimir Karadjov email: karadzhov@swu.bg

Department: "Geography, Ecology, and Environmental Protection"

Annotation:

The course "Economic and Social Geography of Bulgaria" is a compulsory discipline for students majoring in "Pedagogy of Geography and History Teaching." Its scientific content is developed and applied in Bulgaria, allowing the study of general and especially regional geopolitical, socio-economic, and ecological issues of the country in the educational process. In this sense, the discipline "Social and Economic Geography of Bulgaria" is fundamental for the professional competence and practical skills of graduates with higher geographical education.

Course Content:

The discipline "Economic and Social Geography of Bulgaria" aims to provide basic knowledge in this area to students and ensure scientific preparation and competence for their participation in regional research and forecasting projects, as well as programs for territorial management. The practical significance of the lecture course lies in providing advanced scientific training, culture, and competence for students, which they could build upon over time in this field. Practical exercises aim to reinforce acquired knowledge and expand experimental knowledge and skills for working in contemporary practice and science.

Teaching Technology and Assessment:

Basic knowledge of economics and social geography is required. The final grade is formed based on grades from continuous assessment and the exam in a ratio of 75%:25%.

NEW AND MODERN HISTORY OF BULGARIA

ECTS credits: 4 Weekly hours: 3l, 1upr

Assessment method: Continuous assessment and exam

Exam type: Written

Semester: VII

Methodological guidance: Department: Geography, Ecology, and Environmental Protection

Faculty of Natural Sciences

Lecturer: Assistant Dr. Desislava Georgieva

Department of History

Annotation:

The lecture course on Modern History of Bulgaria aims to introduce students to the historiographical situation and main discussion fields regarding the period of establishing the

modern Bulgarian state and the political, economic, and cultural history of Bulgaria. The goal of seminar sessions is to deepen students' skills for independent work and analysis of historical sources, as well as to familiarize them with the main studies on this period. The lecture course covers the period from 1944 to 1989 and aims to introduce students to the issues of Bulgaria's development during socialism and the transition to democracy. Special attention is paid to the specifics of the source base and working with periodicals, documents, and memoirs from this period. The lecture course also introduces students to current debates about the characteristics of socialism as "totalitarian" or "authoritarian" governance, as well as its internal periodization.

Goals:

The goals of the course on New and Modern History of Bulgaria are for students to acquire basic knowledge about the first decades of the modern Bulgarian state, to consolidate the main concepts of historical knowledge that characterize the modern era, and to be able to handle historiography and historical sources for this period. The goal is also for students to master the main concepts necessary for handling sources from the socialist period in Bulgaria, as well as the peculiarities of sources and historiography from this period.

Course Content:

Constitutional foundations of the modern Bulgarian state. Unification movement and unification of Principality of Bulgaria and Eastern Rumelia. Political life and establishment of the party-political system at the end of the 19th and beginning of the 20th century. Left alternative in political life: social democracy, agrarianism, radicalism. Bulgaria during the Balkan Wars (1912-1913) and World War I. The political system after World War I. The political system and state life after 1934 in a broader European comparison. Bulgaria on the eve and during World War II. Establishment of the power of the Fatherland Front 1944-1945 and its first government. The Fatherland Front and the opposition 1945-1946. The new constitution of December 1947 and nationalization of industrial enterprises and banks. Bulgaria after the Fifth Congress of BCP(k). Bulgaria in the years of "thawing". Characteristics of the transition to democracy.

Teaching Technology and Assessment:

Lectures include introducing new knowledge, presenting and analyzing independently completed tasks – preparation of term papers. Tests are planned. The course concludes with a written exam. The final grade is formed based on grades from continuous assessment and the exam in a ratio of 70%:30%.

CURRENT PEDAGOGICAL PRACTICE IN GEOGRAPHY

Credits: 4 credits

Semester: VII

Course Type: Practical Exercises Hours per Week: 3 hours per week

Assessment: Continuous Assessment

Instructor: Assoc. Prof. Dr. Nadezhda Nikolova,

Email: nin@swu.bg

Department: Geography, Ecology and Environmental Protection, Faculty of Natural Sciences and Mathematics

Annotation:

In the course "CURRENT PEDAGOGICAL PRACTICE IN GEOGRAPHY", students learn to apply their knowledge of pedagogy, psychology, and methodology in geography teaching practice. This allows students to transition from observers of the educational process to direct participants and organizers. It also provides them with an opportunity to gain insight into their chosen profession. The course aims to develop students' skills in setting lesson objectives, selecting appropriate materials for achieving these goals, and organizing and controlling independent student work. Each student delivers two lessons during the practical training - one in middle school (grades 5-8) and one in high school (grades 8-12). The rest of the group observes the lesson and then conducts a brief analysis, highlighting positive aspects and mistakes made.

Course Objectives:

The goal of this course is for students to understand the structure of a geography lesson, acquire planning skills, determine lesson objectives and tasks, present new material according to students' age and individual abilities, select and systematize information and tasks, organize and control independent work, evaluate individual and class performance, correct typical student errors, prepare didactic materials, create conditions for problem situations, and more.

When assessing a student's lesson, the following factors are considered:

- Preliminary preparation for the lesson
- Specifics of delivering different types of geography lessons
- Degree of achievement of lesson objectives
- Organization and guidance of independent student work
- Activation of students' thinking
- Work with geographic maps, globes, atlases, and other visual aids
- Organizing outdoor classes when appropriate
- Ability to diversify classroom activities and maintain student attention
- Implementation of various teaching methods
- Analysis and self-analysis of the delivered lesson
- Correction of student errors

Note: Lesson topics correspond to the distribution of the base teacher where students conduct their practical training.

Teaching Methods: Observation, comparison, analysis, and synthesis.

Prerequisites: Students must be familiar with geography teaching methods and the content of the school curriculum: which materials are studied at what level and when.

Assessment: Students submit written reports on the two delivered geography lessons and ten analyses of observed lessons. The final grade is formed by the assessment of the delivered lessons (75%) and submitted reports and analyses of observed lessons (25%).

CURRENT PEDAGOGICAL PRACTICE IN HISTORY

Semester: 7th semester

Course Type: Practical Exercises Hours per Week: 3 hours per week Credits: 4 credits

Assessment: Continuous Assessment

Instructor: Assoc. Prof. Dr. Nuriye Muratova

Department: History

Email: nmuratova@yahoo.com

Annotation:

Status in the Curriculum: Compulsory course for students majoring in "Pedagogy of Teaching Geography and History."

Description: In the course "CURRENT PEDAGOGICAL PRACTICE IN HISTORY," students learn to apply their knowledge of pedagogy, psychology, and methodology in history teaching practice. This enables students to transition from observers to active participants and organizers of the educational process. It also provides them with an understanding of their chosen profession. The course develops students' skills in setting lesson objectives, selecting appropriate materials, and organizing and controlling independent student work. Each student delivers two lessons during the practical training - one in middle school (grades 5-8) and one in high school (grades 8-12). The rest of the group observes the lesson and conducts a brief analysis, highlighting positive aspects and mistakes made.

Course Objectives:

The goal of this course is for students to understand the structure of a history lesson, acquire planning skills, determine lesson objectives and tasks, present new material according to students' age and individual abilities, select and systematize information and tasks, organize and control independent work, evaluate individual and class performance, correct typical student errors, prepare didactic materials, create conditions for problem situations, and more.

When assessing a student's lesson, the following factors are considered:

- Preliminary preparation for the lesson
- Specifics of delivering different types of history lessons
- Degree of achievement of lesson objectives
- Organization and guidance of independent student work
- Activation of students' thinking
- Ability to diversify classroom activities and maintain student attention
- Implementation of various teaching methods
- Analysis and self-analysis of the delivered lesson
- Correction of student errors

Note: Lesson topics correspond to the distribution of the base teacher where students conduct their practical training.

Teaching Methods: Observation, comparison, analysis, and synthesis.

Prerequisites: Students must be familiar with the Ministry of Education and Science (MOI) guidelines and the content of the school curriculum: which materials are studied at what level and when.

Assessment: Students submit written reports on the two delivered history lessons and three analyses of observed lessons. The final grade is formed based on continuous assessment and exam results in a ratio of 75%:25%.

TEACHING PRACTICE IN HISTORY – PART II

ECTS Credits: 3

Form of Knowledge Assessment: Continuous Assessment

Semester: VII

Methodological Guidance: Department: "Geography, Ecology, and Environmental Protection"
Faculty of Natural Sciences and Mathematics

Lecturer: Chief Assistant Dr. Miroslava Stoilova Georgieva, Department of History

Email: m_s_g@mail.bg

Annotation

The discipline "Teaching Practice in History (Libraries, Museums, Archives)" – Part II is designed for students majoring in "Pedagogy of Teaching Geography and History" at the Faculty of Natural Sciences and Mathematics at South-West University "Neofit Rilski" – Blagoevgrad, regular program, seventh semester.

The content of the course introduces students to the characteristic features of museums and museology as a whole. Students will become familiar with museology as a scientific discipline, the historical development of museums from antiquity to the present day, collections of major European museums that preserve and provoke the cultural memory of contemporaries, such as the Louvre, British Museum, Museum of Roman Civilization in Rome, Hermitage, Prado, etc., using multimedia resources. The development of museum affairs in Bulgaria and the normative framework related to it and the preservation of cultural heritage are presented. In practical terms, students will become acquainted with the specifics of museum work based on the activities of museums in Southwestern Bulgaria. With regard to one of the main functions of the museum – preserving immovable cultural heritage, it is planned to familiarize students with various objects and monuments, which will provide an opportunity to get acquainted with the problems related to contemporary preservation, exhibition, and adaptation of cultural values. Teaching is based on modern interactive learning methods – extensive use of multimedia forms (reproductions, presentations) and direct engagement of students in the learning process. The aim of the course is to ensure good theoretical and practical training in the field of contemporary museum affairs based on the experience of European and Bulgarian museums. The course concludes with a written scientific paper on specific museums or cultural assets (movable or immovable), including ideas for their restoration, exhibition, and socialization.

Examination Procedure

Only students who have met the requirements of the university's Educational Activities Regulations, as well as the requirements for mastering the content of the academic discipline, both in their classroom and extracurricular activities, are admitted to the examination. The overall grade from continuous assessment should not be lower than Average 3. The examination procedure includes a written exam on two topics from different sections of the course content. The relative weight of the exam in the overall grade is 50%. Grading is carried out on a six-point grading scale, in accordance with the Higher Education Act and Ordinance No. 21 of the Ministry of Education and Science / 30.09.2004. Written works are stored in the archive for six months to one year. Credits are awarded only if the overall grade is equal to or higher than Average 3, according to the credit accumulation and transfer system. The final grade is formed based on the grades from continuous assessment and the exam in a ratio of 75%:25%.

INCLUSIVE EDUCATION

ECTS Credits: 3 Weekly Schedule: 2 lectures and 1 seminar

Form of Knowledge Assessment: Continuous Assessment and Exam Type of Exam: Written
Semester: VIII

Methodological Guidance: Department: "Geography, Ecology, and Environmental Protection"
Faculty of Natural Sciences and Mathematics

Lecturer: Prof. Dr. Pelagia Mihaylova Terziyska, Faculty of Pedagogy, Department of Educational Management and Special Pedagogy

Email: pterziyska@abv.bg

Annotation

The discipline covers the study of basic concepts and the specificity of inclusive education. The aim is to introduce students to the essence of the main phenomena in the field of integrated and inclusive education and the explanatory concepts. Acquiring skills for analyzing problems related to the practical implementation of inclusive education.

Content of the Academic Discipline:

The main content focuses include: Emergence and development of the idea of integrating individuals with special educational needs. Normative basis of inclusive education – main current normative documents for implementing inclusive education. Familiarization with the prerequisites, conditions, factors, principles, and methodology of inclusive education.

Teaching Technology and Evaluation:

Teaching includes lectures and seminar exercises. Knowledge is presented systematically, using interactive methods – case studies, discussions, debates, business games, PowerPoint presentations. During classes, examples of successful practices of inclusive education in the country and abroad are demonstrated. Clear criteria have been established for developing essays, which are submitted within a specified deadline and discussed after checking. The final grade is the result of continuous assessment (75%) and the exam grade (25%).

PRACTICAL TRAINING IN GEOGRAPHY

ECTS credits: 3

Form of assessment: continuous evaluation

Semester: VIII

Methodological guidance: Department: "Geography, Ecology and Environmental Protection"
Faculty of Natural Sciences and Mathematics

Lecturer: Chief Assistant Dr. Vladimir Nikolov Karadjov, Department of "Geography, Ecology and Environmental Protection"

Email: preceptor@abv.bg

Annotation:

The discipline aims to provide a solid practical training in geography. It utilizes the opportunities for collaboration with the structures of Rila National Park and Pirin National Park, state forestry enterprises, and the Regional Forestry Directorate - Blagoevgrad, creating possibilities for field

observations and measurements along the valley of the Blagoevgrad Bistritsa River. Students have the opportunity to participate in activities such as surveying, sociological research, and other socio-economic field studies. The practice concludes with a written assignment on a scientific task from the field of physical or socio-economic geography.

Content of the course:

The course begins with an introductory theoretical section on techniques and methods of geographical research. Instructions are provided for working with instruments, data entry, updating, and analyzing collected information, as well as methods for correctly obtaining and evaluating data from the study. Students become familiar with the main sociological methods for collecting data from field research in the areas of demographic processes, population, and settlements. Following this, they proceed to execute specific practical tasks driven by the needs of the practical research.

Teaching technology and assessment:

Training is conducted through practical exercises and independent work. Teaching is based on contemporary interactive methods – extensive use of multimedia forms and direct student engagement through urbanized environment sessions and/or on-site at selected geographical natural objects. The final grade is determined based on assessments from continuous control and the exam in a ratio of 75%: 25%.

PRACTICAL TRAINING IN HISTORY – PART III

ECTS credits: 3

Form of knowledge assessment: continuous evaluation

Semester: VIII

Methodological guidance: Department: "History", Faculty of Law and History

Lecturer: Senior Assistant Dr. Miroslava Stoilova Georgieva, Department of "History"

Email: m_s_g@mail.bg

Annotation:

The discipline aims to provide good practical training in history primarily based on the activities of the Regional Historical Museum - Blagoevgrad and others. Students will have the opportunity to participate in specific activities such as registration, description, and scientific-technical processing of cultural assets, exhibition work, giving lectures to visitors, etc. The practice concludes with a written scientific paper on movable or immovable cultural assets, including ideas for their restoration, exhibition, and socialization.

Content of the course:

The course begins with a brief introductory theoretical part on museums, their development, and current state, government policy, and regulatory framework in the field of museum affairs and cultural heritage preservation in Bulgaria. The practical part takes place in a museum environment and at various sites (archaeological and historical).

Teaching technology and evaluation:

Training is conducted through practical exercises and independent work. Teaching is based on modern interactive methods – extensive use of multimedia forms and direct engagement of students through classes in a museum environment and on-site at immovable cultural assets. The

final grade is formed based on grades from continuous assessment and the exam in a ratio of 75%: 25%.

INTERNSHIP IN GEOGRAPHY

ECTS credits: 5 Weekly workload: 4 hours of supervised practice

Assessment method: continuous assessment

Semester: VIII semester

Methodological guidance: Department of Geography, Ecology and Environmental Protection
Faculty of Natural Sciences and Mathematics

Lecturers: Assoc. Prof. Dr. Emilia Patarchanova,

Email: emilia_patarchanova@swu.bg

Annotation:

The course "Pre-diploma Pedagogical Practice in Geography" is mandatory for students majoring in "Pedagogy of Teaching Geography and History." It ensures the independent participation of students in the educational process at a Bulgarian school under the guidance of the base teacher and supervision by the practice coordinator. By order of the Rector, students are assigned to a 10-week internship at a school. Each week they teach three new lessons and observe their colleagues. For the entire internship, they must deliver 32 lessons in upper and/or middle grades. The base teachers assist with lesson development and monitor the interns' work at the school. If the intern is not prepared for the lesson, the base teacher and director have the right to request the interruption of the internship.

Content of the Course:

The aim of the training in this discipline is for students to gain an understanding of the structure of geography lessons, acquire skills and competencies for planning geography lessons - determining the objectives and tasks of a specific lesson; how to present new material to students based on their age characteristics and individual abilities; selecting and systematizing tasks offered to students and appropriate methods for solving them; organizing and monitoring students' independent work; evaluating the work of individual students and the class as a whole; acquiring skills for addressing typical errors made by students; preparing didactic materials for the lesson; organizing conditions for problem situations, etc. In case of failure to fulfill teaching duties by the student, the base teacher and director have the right to require the corresponding interruption of the practice. Students regularly fill out internship notebooks, certify them at the school where they conducted the pre-diploma pedagogical practice in geography, and submit them to the academic department upon completion of the practice.

Teaching Technology and Assessment:

When assessing a lesson delivered by a student, the following should be considered:

- Preliminary preparation of the student for the lesson;
- Developed lesson plans for different types of geography lessons;
- Variants and degree of achievement of the set goals in the lesson;
- Organization and guidance of students' independent work;
- Formation of skills and competencies in geography education;
- Development of spatial thinking in students;

- Degree of mastery of diverse methodological tools and implementation of various teaching methods in geography;
- Analysis and self-analysis of the delivered geography lesson at the school;

The final grade is formed from the assessment of the delivered lessons (observed by the practice supervisor) - 50%, from the submitted lesson plans - 30%, and from the assessment of the base teacher - 20%.

The assessment of the pre-diploma pedagogical practice includes ongoing control by the practice supervisor. Only students who have completed the practice, passed all semester exams successfully, and received a minimum grade of Average 3 on the current control of the pre-diploma pedagogical practice in geography are admitted to the State Diploma Exam in Geography.

INTERNSHIP IN HISTORY

Semester: VIII semester

Course Type: Practical Exercises Hours per Week/LS: 4 hours weekly Number of Credits: 5 credits

Assessment: Continuous assessment

Instructor: Assoc. Prof. Dr. Bilyana Karadakova

Department: History

Email: bilyanakaradakova@mail.bg

Annotation:

Status of the course in the curriculum: Mandatory course for students majoring in "Pedagogy of Teaching Geography and History". Description of the course: The course "PRE-DIPLOMA PEDAGOGICAL PRACTICE IN HISTORY" involves the independent participation of students in the educational process under the direct guidance of the base teacher and supervision by the practice coordinator. By order of the Rector, students are assigned to an 8-week internship at a school. Each week they deliver four lessons and observe four hours of their colleagues. For the entire internship, they must deliver 15 lessons in upper and 15 lessons in middle grades. Base teachers provide assistance with lesson development and monitor the interns' work at the school. If the intern is not prepared for the lesson, the base teacher and director have the right to request the interruption of the internship.

Purpose of the Course:

The aim of the training in this discipline is for students to gain an understanding of the structure of history lessons, acquire skills and competencies for planning history lessons - determining the objectives and tasks of a specific lesson; how to present new material to students based on their age characteristics and individual abilities; selecting and systematizing tasks offered to students and appropriate methods for solving them; organizing and monitoring students' independent work; evaluating the work of individual students and the class as a whole; acquiring skills for addressing typical errors made by students; preparing didactic materials for the lesson; organizing conditions for problem situations, etc.

Assessment Criteria:

When assessing a lesson delivered by a student, the following should be considered:

- Preliminary preparation of the students for the lesson;
- Specifics of developing different types of lessons in history education;
- Degree of achievement of the set goals in the history lesson;
- Organization and guidance of students' independent work;
- Activation of students' mental activity;
- Ability to diversify classroom activities and maintain students' attention;
- Implementation of various teaching methods in history;
- Analysis and self-analysis of the delivered history lesson at the school;

Prerequisites:

Students must be familiar with state educational requirements and the content of the school curriculum in history: which study material is studied when and at what level.

Assessment:

Students submit written developments of the delivered history lessons. The final grade is formed from the assessment of 3 delivered lessons (observed by the practice supervisor) - 50%; from the submitted lesson plans - 30%; and 20% from the assessment of the base teacher.

ELECTIVE COURSES

HISTORY OF THE ANCIENT EAST

ECTS credits: 3 Weekly workload: 2 lecture hours

Assessment method: Continuous assessment and exam Type of exam: Written Semester: I

Methodological guidance: Department of History Legal-Historical Faculty

Lecturer: Chief Assist. Prof. Dr. Alexander Savov Portalsky, Dept. of History

Email: portalsky@abv.bg

Annotation:

The course on the history of classical Ancient East covers the civilizations of Egypt, Mesopotamia, Syria, Asia Minor, and Iran from their initial manifestations to the Hellenistic period. The introductory part analyzes the characteristic features of early states in general and their manifestations in the Near East. Egyptian civilization is examined first as a model for historical development and a cultural center of the Eastern Mediterranean. Following that are Sumer, Akkad, Babylon, Assyria, the Hittite Kingdom, Troy, Phrygia, Lydia, and Achaemenid Persia. Due to the extensive biblical literature and specific issues, the course does not include Israel and Judea. The purpose of the course is for students to become familiar with the earliest manifestations of political and social life of people and to discover the cultural influences of these civilizations, visible even today.

Key concepts: antiquity, culture, civilization, Egypt, Mesopotamia, water community, cuneiform, hieroglyph, ziggurat, Hittites, Persia, world state.

Technology of Teaching and Assessment:

Training is conducted through lectures. Students complete written assignments during class, take

tests, and develop term papers, which they present to their peers. Requirements for verifying the semester include positive results in control works and tests and a presented term paper. Training concludes with a written exam. The final grade is formed based on assessments from continuous control and the exam in a ratio of 75%:25%.

ARCHAEOLOGY

ECTS credits: 3 Weekly workload: 2 lecture hours + 0 seminar hours

Language of instruction: Bulgarian

Assessment method: Exam Type of exam: Written exam Semester: I

Methodological guidance: Department of History Legal-Historical Faculty

Lecturers: Chief Assist. Prof. Dr. Miroslava Stoilova Georgieva, Dept. of History

Email: m_georgieva@swu.bg

Annotation:

This specialized course on the subject "Archaeology" is designed for students majoring in "Geography and History" at the Faculty of Natural Sciences and Mathematics at Southwestern University "Neofit Rilski" – Blagoevgrad. The course is divided into two parts – "Classical Archaeology" and "Archaeology of Bulgaria". The first part examines the material and spiritual culture of Ancient Greece and Rome, while the second focuses on the archaeological heritage of Bulgarian lands from prehistory to late antiquity. The goal is for students to become familiar with the most significant archaeological discoveries and the latest scientific concepts and interpretations.

Content of the Course:

In the first part of the program, the characteristics of urban planning and architecture, sculpture, ceramics, religion, and burial practices in Ancient Greece during different periods (geometric, archaic, classical, and Hellenistic) are examined. The specifics of ancient Roman culture during the republican and imperial periods in urban planning and architecture, engineering equipment, plastic arts, etc., are also presented. The second section traces the emergence and development of archaeology in Bulgaria, prehistoric cultures in Bulgarian lands, Thracian culture in the 1st millennium BC, and the culture in Roman Thrace (I-IV century AD).

Technology of Teaching and Assessment:

Training in the discipline is conducted through lectures. Teaching is based on traditional lecture practice in humanities education in Bulgaria combined with modern interactive teaching methods – extensive use of multimedia forms (reproductions, presentations, films), and direct engagement of students in the learning process. Current control is carried out during classes throughout the semester through coursework, control works, and tests using the respective point system. Training in the discipline concludes with a written exam on the course material according to the attached syllabus. The final grade is formed based on assessments from continuous control and the exam in a ratio of 75%:25%.

BIOGEOGRAPHY AND SOIL GEOGRAPHY

ECTS credits: 5

Weekly schedule: 2 lectures + 0 seminars + 0 lab exercises + 1 practice

Assessment method: continuous assessment and exam

Exam type: written

Semester: II

Methodological Guidance:

Department: "Geography, Ecology, and Environmental Protection"

Faculty: "Natural Sciences and Mathematics"

Instructor: Assoc. Prof. Dr. Nadezhda Nikolova

Email: nin@swu.bg

Abstract:

The academic discipline "Biogeography and Soil Geography" is one of the fundamental scientific disciplines in geography, aiming to provide students with knowledge about the history, development, and evolution of living organisms, as well as the factors determining their current distribution in geographical space. It studies the distribution of vegetation cover, animal organisms, and soil cover, also providing the necessary foundation for the development of regional geographical sciences such as continental natural geography, country geography, and Bulgarian natural geography. By studying kinship relationships and ecological characteristics of species, current biogeographical conditions, paleogeomorphological, paleoclimatic, and paleontological facts, biogeography aims to predict future developments of organism areas and biotic community areas based on developing various predictive models and thematic maps. The discipline also addresses issues related to human practical activities, such as resource discovery, protection, and rational use in the biosphere.

Content of the Academic Discipline:

- Reasons for the distribution and dispersal of organisms
- Scope of major terrestrial biomes, delineated based on geographical laws
- Biogeographical features of the World Ocean and oceanic islands
- Biodiversity of Bulgaria
- Types of soils worldwide and in Bulgaria
- Theoretical concepts and practical exercises on implementing biogeographical zoning of the world and Bulgaria, as well as soil mapping

Teaching and Assessment Technology:

Students should learn to effectively use acquired knowledge for creating biogeographical maps, classifying different biocenoses, and determining flora and fauna of a specific territory. As a result of studying the discipline, students need to know:

- Main representatives of flora and fauna in terrestrial biomes and oceans
- Causes and factors determining the distribution of contemporary organisms
- Principles of biogeographical zoning

Lectures and exercises are conducted based on the material and technical base of the "GEOOE" department, as well as outside it, on the territories of Rila National Park, Pirin National Park, and Belasitsa Nature Park. For educational purposes, the facilities of the Bulgarian Academy of Sciences are used, including the Botanical Garden, Natural History Museum, and various stations of the Institute of Forestry. To illustrate teaching materials, a computer with video projector,

educational films, specialized GIS software, visual aids (charts, diagrams, and maps) are used, some of which have been developed as course and thesis projects by students.

Extracurricular student preparation involves library work and internet research, individual and group consultations, and field studies. During the course, continuous assessment is carried out to evaluate knowledge, including the development and defense of a report or presentation that corresponds to the lecture content. Each student prepares a terminological dictionary, and acquired knowledge and skills are assessed through colloquia in the form of tests. Grading is done on a six-point scale depending on task completion:

- Excellent 6 – over 89%
- Very Good 5 – 70% - 89%
- Good 4 – 50% - 70%
- Satisfactory 3 – 30% - 50%
- Poor 2 – below 30%

Only students who meet the requirements of the Educational Activities Regulations at SWU, fulfill the requirements for mastering the content of the academic discipline, specified in their classroom and extracurricular workload, and have an overall grade from continuous assessment not lower than Satisfactory 3 are admitted to the exam. The final grade is formed from the students' performance on continuous assessment – 75% and the exam result – 25%.

HISTORY OF GEOGRAPHICAL KNOWLEDGE

ECTS Credits: 5 Weekly Schedule: 2L+1P

Form of Assessment: Exam Type of Exam: Written

Semester: II

Methodological Guidance:

Department: Geography, Ecology, and Environmental Protection

Faculty: Natural Sciences and Mathematics

Lecturer: Assoc. Prof. Dr. Emilia Patarchanova

Email: emilia_patarchanova@swu.bg

Abstract:

The academic discipline "History of Geographical Knowledge" is one of the elective disciplines in the training of students majoring in "Pedagogy of Teaching Geography and History." The main goal of the lecture course is to acquaint students with the emergence and establishment of geography as a science and its place within the system of sciences; the stages through which its development has passed; the justification of the modern subject, tasks, and methods of research. Emphasis is placed on classifications of geographical sciences, basic theories and schools, main scientific directions, etc.

Content of the Academic Discipline:

The course is structured into two sections. The first section is dedicated to the historical development of geographical knowledge and the formation of the science of geography. Its development from antiquity to the present day is presented. The main contributions of specific scientists to the development of geography are highlighted. The second section examines the contemporary development of geographical science during the 20th and 21st centuries.

Achievements of leading geographical schools worldwide are analyzed, along with their contributions to the development of modern geography, and specific scientists from other fields who contribute to geographical knowledge.

Teaching and Assessment Technology:

Training includes lectures and practical exercises. The lecture course is conducted based on pre-planned outlines for each lecture, incorporating exposition, summary, and discussion, as well as connections between previous and new lectures, links with other academic disciplines, and other scientific areas. The teaching process also involves using illustrative means—presentations, maps, graphic images, printed materials, etc. In exercises, students acquire skills in applying comparison and analysis methods. They develop and defend reports.

The examination procedure includes a written exam on two topics from a previously distributed syllabus corresponding to the content of the academic program. The relative weight of the exam in the overall grade is 25%. Grading is performed according to the six-point grading scale, in accordance with the Higher Education Act and Order No. 21 of the Ministry of Education and Science (September 30, 2004). Credits are awarded only if the overall grade is equal to or higher than Satisfactory 3, according to the credit accumulation and transfer system.

THRACOLOGY

ECTS Credits: 3 Weekly Schedule: 2L

Language of Instruction: Bulgarian

Form of Assessment: Continuous Assessment and Exam

Type of Exam: Written

Semester: II

Methodological Guidance:

Department: History

Faculty: Legal-Historical Faculty

Lecturers: Assoc. Prof. Dr. Ivo Topalilov, Chief Assist. Prof. Dr. Alexander Savov Portalski

Email: itopalilov@yahoo.com; portalsky@abv.bg

Abstract:

Thracology is a complex interdisciplinary science that studies the history of Thrace and the Thracians in Antiquity. Its sources include written, archaeological, linguistic, and living traditions preserved in traditional folk culture. The history of Thrace and the Thracians is presented as an integral part of the Ancient History of Southeast Europe and Asia Minor.

Content of the Academic Discipline:

The Thracian society and those similar to it, both from the Ancient East and from Achaean Greece and Rome during the Royal period, turn out to be the rule in the development of ancient societies. Greece and Rome were exceptions to this rule only during certain periods of their ancient history. Therefore, the lecture course on the History of Thrace and the Thracians presents a society different from the classical antiquity, as seen in Greece and Rome. This allows us to see the similarities between the History of Thrace and the Thracians with the rest of the societies from the History of the Ancient World. We can understand that the former is an integral part of the latter, rather than just its periphery. Specificities in the characterization of the History of Thrace and the Thracians can be observed, which are at the basis and are part of our Bulgarian culture and history. The History of Thrace and the Thracians does not represent only a closed self-contained culture but

shows how this culture develops through interactions and influences with nearby and distant civilizations and cultures, via contact zones both by water and land.

Teaching and Assessment Technology:

Training is conducted through a lecture course. Students complete written assignments in class, take tests, and develop term papers, which they present to their peers. Requirements for semester verification include positive results in control assignments and tests and a submitted term paper. Training concludes with a written exam. The final grade is formed based on assessments from continuous control and the exam in a ratio of 75%:25%.

POLITICAL GEOGRAPHY AND GEOPOLITICS

ECTS credits: 4.5 Weekly hours: 2 lectures + 1 practical exercise

Assessment method: exam Exam type: written

Semester: III

Methodological guidance:

Department of Geography, Ecology and Environmental Protection

Faculty of Natural Sciences and Mathematics

Lecturers: Assoc. Prof. Dr. Emilia Patarchanova, Chief Assist. Prof. Dr. Gergana Nikolova

Email: emilia_patarchanova@swu.bg, gergananikolova@swu.bg

Annotation:

The course "Political Geography and Geopolitics" is an elective subject in the curriculum for the specialty "Pedagogy of Teaching Geography and History." The main goal of the lecture course is to introduce students to the emergence and establishment of political geography and geopolitics as a scientific field within the system of geographical sciences; the stages through which its development has passed; main theories and geopolitical schools, etc. Special attention is given to global and regional geopolitical models and their influence on contemporary interstate relations, as well as the relationships between political geography, geopolitics, geostrategy, and national security. It plays a key role in shaping political culture.

Course content:

In structural terms, the topics are grouped into three sections. The first section covers the development and periodization of political geography and geopolitics. It traces the evolution of the main ideas, theories, and schools related to political geographic knowledge. Emphasis is placed on selected scholars and the directions they created, which have had a significant impact not only on the development of political geography but also on the political culture and behavior of humanity. The second section is dedicated to the emergence and development of the state in geographical space, types, functions, and sustainability of state borders. A geopolitical classification of states worldwide is justified. Topics on international organizations, protection of national interests, and national security of the state are included. The third section analyzes the main, key regions of the world from a political geographic and geopolitical perspective.

Teaching technology and assessment:

The training includes lectures and practical exercises. The lecture course is conducted based on pre-planned lectures, including exposition, summary, and discussion, as well as connections between previous and new lectures, links with other academic disciplines, and other scientific fields. The teaching process also involves using visual aids such as presentations, maps, graphic images, printed materials, etc. In the exercises, students learn to apply the algorithm for political

geographic analysis; objectively assess the existing global and regional political geographic structure of the world and map the studied processes and phenomena, etc. Geopolitical trends in the development of the global community and individual regions are discussed. Students develop and defend term papers.

The examination procedure includes a written exam on two topics from a previously distributed syllabus corresponding to the content of the course program. The relative weight of the exam in the overall grade is 25%. Grading is carried out according to the six-point grading scale, in accordance with the Higher Education Act and Order No. 21 of the Ministry of Education and Science (30.09.2004). Credits are awarded only if the overall grade is equal to or higher than Average 3, according to the credit accumulation and transfer system.

POLITICAL AND ECONOMIC ORGANIZATION OF REGIONS

ECTS credits: 4.5 Weekly hours: 2L+1P

Form of assessment: exam Type of exam: written

Semester: III

Methodological guidance:

Department of Geography, Ecology and Environmental Protection

Faculty of Natural Sciences

Lecturers: Assoc. Prof. Dr. Emilia Patarchanova, Chief Assist. Dr. Gergana Nikolova

Email: emilia_patarchanova@swu.bg, gergananikolova@swu.bg

Annotation:

The academic discipline "Political and Economic Organization of Regions" is an elective in the curriculum for the specialty "Pedagogy of Teaching Geography and History." The main goal of the lecture course is to familiarize students with the peculiarities of the political and economic organization and structure of the major geographical regions in the world; with the formation and structuring of their political map and the diversity of forms of political and state governance; with the specifics of their linguistic, ethnic, and confessional structure; with leading economic organizations in the regions and their influence on contemporary inter-state relations.

Content of the academic discipline:

Structurally, the topics are grouped into five sections, each dedicated to one of the major geographical regions: European, North American, Asia-Pacific, Latin American, and African. Each section includes topics on the political map and organization of the region, forms of political and state governance, linguistic, ethnic, and confessional structure, leading economic organizations in the regions, etc.

Teaching technology and assessment:

Teaching includes lectures and practical exercises. The lecture course is conducted based on pre-planned lectures, including exposition, summary, and discussion, as well as connections between previous and new lectures, links with other academic disciplines and scientific fields. The teaching process also involves using visual aids such as presentations, maps, graphic images, printed materials, etc. In the exercises, students learn to apply the algorithm for political geography analysis; objectively assess the existing global and regional political geography structure of the

world and the main economic organizations and growth poles, map out the studied processes and phenomena, etc. Contemporary trends in the development of the global community and individual regions are discussed. Students develop and defend essays.

The examination procedure includes a written exam on two topics from a previously distributed syllabus corresponding to the content of the academic program. The relative weight of the exam in the overall grade is 25%. Grading is done according to the six-point grading scale, in accordance with the Higher Education Act and Order No. 21 of the Ministry of Education and Science / 30.09.2004. Credits are awarded only if the overall grade is equal to or higher than Average 3, according to the system for accumulation and transfer of credits.

GEOGRAPHICAL INFORMATION SYSTEMS

ECTS credits: 5.5

Hours per week: 21 + 2pr. ex.

Form of assessment: on-going control and exam

Examination type: written

Semester: III

Methodological guidance:

Department: "Geography, ecology and environmental protection"

Faculty of Mathematics and natural sciences

Lecturer: Ass. prof. Galina Bezinska, PhD

E-mail: galinabezinska@swu.bg

Annotation:

The *Geographical Information Systems* course is offered as an elective module for students enrolled in the degree programme *Pedagogy of Teaching Geography and History*. Its primary objective is to familiarise future educators with the core concepts, principles, and technologies of Geographic Information Systems (GIS), as well as their pedagogical applications in school-based teaching and learning.

The curriculum covers a wide spectrum of topics, including an introduction to GIS, spatial data management, data visualisation, spatial analysis, and the development of interactive educational projects. A key emphasis is placed on the integration of contemporary GIS tools and digital resources—such as ArcGIS Online, QGIS, and Google Earth—into the preparation of teaching materials and lesson plans for geography and related subjects across the curriculum.

Practical sessions are carefully structured to develop essential skills for the effective use of GIS technologies in the classroom. Students gain hands-on experience in collecting and analysing spatial data, creating thematic maps, and employing interactive cartographic tools to illustrate complex geographical processes. Special attention is given to the design of project-based learning activities appropriate for use with pupils, with the aim of fostering their spatial awareness, analytical thinking, and critical reasoning skills.

The course is designed to equip prospective teachers with the competencies necessary to implement innovative, technology-enhanced instructional strategies. Engagement with both theoretical foundations and applied methodologies is an integral component of the learning experience. Ultimately, the module contributes to enhancing the quality of geography education while also supporting the development of pupils' practical abilities in interpreting, utilising, and producing geographic information in meaningful and educationally relevant contexts.

HISTORY OF BYZANTIUM

ECTS Credits: 3 Weekly Hours: 2L

Assessment Method: Exam Exam Type: Written

Semester: III

Methodological Guidance:

Department of History

Faculty of Legal and Historical Studies

Lecturers: Senior Assistant Dr. Yanko Hristov

Email: iahristov@abv.bg

Abstract:

The lecture course presents the history of Byzantium from the 4th to the 15th century. It establishes a basic information base for the political and civilizational model that was realized in Byzantium and which had a significant influence on the history and culture of the Slavic world. The understanding of Byzantium's special place in the European Middle Ages and the Byzantine Orthodox community is essential for students' knowledge of history. A priority of the lecture course is the period of the 13th-14th centuries, during which processes and phenomena began that characterized the subsequent centuries of Balkan history. The aim of the "History of Byzantium" course is for history students to acquire fundamental knowledge about various aspects of the millennium-long existence of the Eastern Roman Empire. Among the course's priority tasks are: to form basic and more detailed knowledge about the history of Byzantium; to build an initial orientation for working with historical texts as well as sources in different European languages; to shape perceptions and knowledge on important topics such as the administrative structure of the Eastern Empire, its legal and fiscal system, trade and economy of the Black Sea and Aegean regions, organization of imperial power and church organization, ideology and culture of Byzantium, as they form the basis for understanding the subsequent empire on the Bosphorus - the Ottoman Empire.

Content of the Course:

Introduction to Byzantinology: the significance of the terms "Byzantinology," "Romans," "Hellenes," "Greeks." Basic principles in Byzantine societal, political, and cultural development. Periodization of Byzantine history and characteristics of individual periods. Byzantium and Western Europe: peculiarities of their development during the Middle Ages. Main schools and authors of Byzantinology; Early Byzantium. Christianization of the empire. Byzantium and the Great Migration of Nations. The Eastern Roman Empire between Constantine the Great and Anastasius I (306-518). The era of imperial might under Emperor Justinian. Codification of Roman law; Colonization of the Slavs on the Balkan Peninsula. The duel between the two superpowers of the East (Byzantium and the Arabs) and the consequences for Byzantium. Main periods in the empire's relations with the Arabs. Reforms of Emperor Heraclius; Formation of the Romano-Byzantine imperial titulature. External signs of imperial power: crown, garments, insignia. Theme organization: emergence, essence, and evolution. Appearance and development of military landownership and its significance; Byzantium during the iconoclastic crisis. Periodization and main points around the dispute for and against icons; Early Byzantine culture. Constantinople in the 6th-11th centuries: topography, major religious and secular buildings. Byzantine education. Daily life and holidays of the Byzantines; Byzantium under the rule of the Macedonian dynasty. Foreign policy and legislative activity. Policy of the Macedonian emperors against the dynatoi:

essence and consequences. Military-political might of the empire at the beginning of the 11th century. Macedonian Renaissance; Byzantium during the rule of the "civilian" emperors. Transformation of the empire into a feudal monarchy under the Komnenos dynasty. Byzantium and the beginning of the Crusades; Disintegration of Byzantium under the rule of the Angels. The Fourth Crusade. Latin Empire, Nicaean Empire, and Epirus state: specificities of their structures; Struggle for the "Byzantine legacy" and related political relationships. 1204-1261: Balkan politics of Nicaea and Epirus and Serbia; Restoration of Byzantium. Reign of Michael VIII Palaiologos. Byzantium, Western Europe, and the Balkans at the end of the 13th and beginning of the 14th centuries; Byzantine society – social system, titles and services, administrative structure, and organization. Daily life in cities; Byzantium and early Anatolian beyliks. The beginning of the duel between the empire and the Ottoman Turks. Catalans and Byzantium; Byzantium during the period of civil wars. Meaning of social conflicts in the second quarter of the 14th century. Relations with Bulgaria and Serbia during the period of civil wars; Ottoman expansion in the Balkans. Byzantine-Ottoman relations 1352-1371. Period of vassalage dependence of the empire. Byzantium and the Ottoman Turks in the period 1371-1402. Attempts to attract Western aid; Byzantium in the period of agony – 1402-1453. Relations with the Ottoman Turks and Western Europe. The Council of Ferrara-Florence and its consequences; Fall of Constantinople – 1453, Morea, and the Trapezuntine Empire; Palaeologan Renaissance. Culture and literature in late Byzantium. Historical works of late Byzantine authors. Manuscripts and books; Cultural centers of Orthodoxy – Constantinople, Mount Athos, Athens, Morea. Byzantine-Slavic community. Hagia Sophia Church; Economy and trade in late Byzantium. Relations with Italian city-republics Venice and Genoa; Megalopolis Constantinople 12th-15th centuries. Topography and map of the city.

Teaching Technology and Assessment:

Training is conducted in the form of lectures and seminar exercises. The assessment method includes tests, essays, and exams. The final grade is formed based on current control assessments and the exam in a ratio of 75%:25%.

ETHNOLOGY

ECTS Credits: 3 Weekly Hours: 2L

Assessment Method: Exam **Exam Type:** Written

Semester: III

Methodological Guidance:

Department of Ethnology and Balkan Studies

Faculty of Philology

Lecturer: Assoc. Prof. Dr. Iliya Nedin

Email: i_nedin@swu.bg

Abstract:

This course builds knowledge on the main problematic circle of ethnological knowledge, the main concepts, and analytical approaches in ethnology. The course begins with a brief overview of ideas in ethnology and the history of ethnology/anthropology as an independent scientific discipline. Subsequent lectures focus on community forms of life, community formation, typology of community connections, construction of community identities, and the specifics of various communities – ethnic, religious, linguistic, kinship, etc., as well as their relationship with societal

structures. Another main group of topics is related to the cultural basis for the formation of community identities – language, religion, myth, ritual, clothing, food, medicine, etc. The emphasis is on ethnicity and the ethnic group as a community, as well as the main theories about ethnicity and nationhood.

Content of the Course:

The main content includes key anthropological and ethnological ideas from the pre-scientific period and leading theoretical directions in the history of ethnology/anthropology: evolutionism, diffusionism, relativism and historical particularism, functionalism, structural functionalism, structuralism, interpretivism, postmodernism. The content further distinguishes between “community – society,” typology of community connections, theories about ethnicity, typology of ethnic communities, ethnicity and religion, ethnicity and statehood, ethnicity and language, theories about nations; systems of kinship, marriage, and family, myth and mythology, mythical text and culture, shamanism, magic, ritual, life cycle and life path, rituals of transition; socio-anthropological minimum: ethnology of food, ethnology of clothing, ethnomedicine; the human body as an ethnological problem, gender and gender roles; ethnology of space; history and ethnology.

Technology of Teaching and Assessment:

Classroom engagement with a total duration of 30 hours (4 credits) takes place in the form of lectures (2 hours per week). The lecture course is organized into 15 main themes related to the main problems of ethnology. Training in the discipline concludes with a written examination in the form of a report, which can be based on a short field study or a theoretical problem, and an oral examination based on a syllabus previously announced by the instructor. Training concludes with a written examination. The final grade is formed based on current control assessments and the examination in a ratio of 75%:25%.

COURSE TITLE: DEVELOPMENT OF LESSONS FOR ELECTRONIC LEARNING

ECTS Credits: 3 Weekly Hours: 2L

Assessment Method: Exam Exam Type: Written

Semester: IV

Methodological Guidance:

Department of Informatics

Faculty of Natural Sciences and Mathematics

Lecturer: Assoc. Prof. Dr. Radoslava Krалева

Email: rad_y_krалева@swu.bg

Abstract:

In the 21st century, teachers are expected not only to have deep pedagogical knowledge but also high digital literacy. They must be able to integrate the learning process into a digital environment. This is not always an easy task, as the market is flooded with software products that offer similar capabilities but often require different levels of computer literacy from the user. On the other hand, educational resources that can be found online are not always free, reliable, or suitable for the respective age group of students. Therefore, teachers must be able to select appropriate software

products through which they create their own educational resources intended for electronic learning.

Content of the Course:

Electronic learning – history, present, and future; Modern computer devices and their application as a means of learning; Systems for electronic synchronous and asynchronous learning; Creation, processing, and use of vector images; Creation, processing, and use of raster images; Text processing and word processing systems; Use of graphics, tables, and background images in word processing systems; Work with electronic spreadsheets; Software products for prepress preparation used as tools for creating electronic educational materials; Creation and editing of interactive multimedia presentations; Creation and publishing of video clips.

Technology of Teaching and Assessment:

Lectures are illustrated with presentations and various practical tasks demonstrating the application of the presented teaching material.

Assessment is carried out with a computer test after the completion of the lecture course. During training, separate tasks are assigned, aligned with the lecture material, and the grades from these tasks contribute to the formation of the final grade.

DIGITAL COMPETENCE AND DIGITAL CREATIVITY

ECTS Credits: 3 Weekly Hours: 2L

Assessment Method: Exam Exam Type: Written

Semester: IV

Methodological Guidance:

Department of Informatics

Faculty of Natural Sciences and Mathematics

Lecturer: Chief Asst. Dr. R. Topalska

Abstract:

The course “Digital Competence and Digital Creativity” aims to enhance the knowledge and skills of future educators regarding contemporary Information and Communication Technologies (ICT) and their application during teaching and learning. Digital competence encompasses various knowledge, skills, and attitudes in several areas, including creative (innovative) use of digital technologies, safe and responsible use and provision of data. Digital creativity is associated with the ability to use digital technologies for various creative activities. All this is important not only for learners but also for educators, contributing to confident and competent use of digital technologies in education, at work, and even in everyday life.

Content of the Course:

The discipline consists of two main modules. The following main topics are covered: Basic knowledge and skills related to digital competence; Digital creativity as a means of improving the learning process; Browsers, portals, and ways of searching for information on the internet; Electronic mail and spam; Digital communication – video calls and real-time exchange of text messages (chat); Blogs and discussion groups (news groups); Personal life, social networks, and cyberbullying; Cyberattacks and cybersecurity; Digital libraries as a means of enriching taught educational content; Types of electronic learning and environments for electronic learning;

Augmented, virtual, and mixed reality in learning; Cloud technologies as a means of sharing educational content; Machine learning and artificial intelligence in the learning process; Copyright and licensing agreements; Creating websites.

Technology of Teaching and Assessment:

Lectures are illustrated with presentations and various practical tasks demonstrating the application of the presented teaching material.

Assessment is carried out with a computer test after the completion of the lecture course. During training, separate tasks are assigned, aligned with the lecture material, and the grades from these tasks contribute to the formation of the final grade.

COMMUNICATIVE SKILLS IN AN EDUCATIONAL ENVIRONMENT

ECTS credits: 3 Weekly hours: 2L

Assessment method: exam Exam type: written

Semester: IV

Methodological guidance:

Department of Preschool and Primary School Pedagogy

Faculty of Pedagogy

Lecturer: Prof. Dr. Gergana Hristova Dyankova

Email: diankova_g@swu.bg

Annotation:

This course clarifies and analyzes the communicative competence of teachers as a primary resource for effective pedagogical interaction. The main goal of the course is to introduce students to the theoretical foundations, characteristics, and functions of communication and to develop skills for applying them in pedagogical practice to optimize the educational environment.

Course Content:

In terms of content, specific means from the realm of communicative behavior (speech culture, verbal communication, paralinguistic expressiveness) are emphasized, which optimize pedagogical communication towards (1) fostering educational relationships as a result and condition for effective pedagogical interactions with students, (2) mutual knowledge, understanding, influence, and self-awareness in communication (verbal-nonverbal-paravocal); (3) inclusion, interaction, and cooperation with parents as active partners in the educational process.

Teaching and Assessment Technology:

The course includes both classroom and extracurricular work for students. Classroom activities involve lectures where students participate in case studies and discussions. Students engage in simulation games, brainstorming sessions, debates, commentary on observed communication situations in kindergartens/schools. Extracurricular activities (60 hours planned): students prepare and present speech-technical complexes, short communication tasks, comment on and analyze video recordings of verbal presentations (TED talks), and write essays. The total credit for the course is 3.0, distributed as follows: 1.0 credit from classroom activities and 2.0 credits from extracurricular activities. The final grade for the course is based on current control and the exam grade. The practical focus

of the course determines the relationship between the relative share of the current control grade and the relative share of the exam grade at 75:25%.

PEDAGOGICAL INTERACTION IN A MULTICULTURAL ENVIRONMENT

ECTS credits: 3 Weekly hours: 2L

Assessment method: exam Exam type: written

Semester: IV

Methodological guidance:

Department of Educational Management and Special Pedagogy

Faculty of Pedagogy

Lecturer: Asst. Dr. Mirela Kyuchukova

Email: mayasotirova@swu.bg

Annotation:

This course provides bachelor's degree students with knowledge about the peculiarities of pedagogical interaction in a multicultural environment. It has an interdisciplinary nature, combining knowledge from various scientific fields (pedagogy, cultural studies, social psychology, ethnology, etc.). The main goal of the course is to help students acquire competencies for effective pedagogical interaction in a multicultural environment.

Course Content:

The course content clarifies the essence, characteristics, and peculiarities of pedagogical interaction in a multicultural environment, addresses issues of cultural diversity in the context of school environments, emphasizes the importance of intercultural education for harmonizing cultural differences in the educational space and intercultural upbringing of young people, discusses specific problems in the process of educational integration of minority ethnic groups, and outlines pedagogical strategies, approaches, and methods for effective pedagogical interaction in a multicultural environment.

Teaching and Assessment Technology:

Various teaching methods are used for students: lecture, discussion on pre-set or emerging problems during the lecture, modeling, demonstration, analysis, and discussion of problem situations, analysis of curricula, textbooks, and teaching aids, etc. If a student misses three or more classes (three or more lectures and three or more exercises), the lecturer may not certify the semester for the student. A missed lecture can be made up by completing a written assignment. The topic of the assignment is determined by the lecturer, and the missed class is considered completed if the student receives a grade from good 4.00 to excellent 6.00. Extracurricular activities include library research, consultations, preparation for lectures and control works, and coursework development.

Assessment of acquired knowledge is carried out through current control and a semester exam. In the written examination, students' knowledge is evaluated in terms of correctness and accuracy, awareness, completeness, sustainability, connection with life and practice, as well as the form of their expression: language, style, spelling features. Depending on the demonstrated level of preparation (high, very good, good, average, low), students receive the corresponding quantitative grade on a six-point scale. The semester exam requires a written answer to two theoretical

questions. The final grade reflects the results of current control and the exam grade in a ratio of 75:25%.

ENVIRONMENTAL EDUCATION

ECTS credits: 3 Weekly hours: 2L

Assessment method: exam Exam type: written

Semester: IV

Methodological guidance:

Department of Preschool and Primary School Pedagogy

Faculty of Pedagogy

Lecturer: Prof. DSc. Elka Yanakieva

Email: elka_yanakieva@swu.bg

Annotation:

The course "Environmental Education" is studied by students in the specialty "Pedagogy of Geography and History" to master a system of knowledge about the structure of education in the field of ecology. Environmental education is considered as a structural system of interconnected components united by a single educational goal – the formation of ecological competence in students as a distinctive feature of their worldview.

Course Content:

The course content is based on the analysis and summary of the most important theoretical research in the fields of psychology, pedagogy, and educational management. At the core is the ecological approach, which allows one to master the logic of ecological thinking and eco-friendly modeling of educational systems and pedagogical phenomena. All included topics contain knowledge about the ecological nature of the environment in which educational systems are created and individual development of adolescents occurs.

Teaching and Assessment Technology:

The lecture course is conducted based on pre-planned lectures, including theme, links between previous and new lectures, links with other disciplinary areas, introduction, plan, exposition, discussion, and summary. The process of teaching lecture material is connected with updating students' childhood experiences, solving cases, and forming their own opinions on key issues of environmental education.

Extracurricular preparation of students is mainly related to creative tasks – research, ecological expertise of textbooks and teaching aids, preparing an ecological passport of a kindergarten or school, developing requirements for an eco-friendly educational environment. Periodic control is carried out during the semester through assigning independent creative tasks, shaping students' value orientations and overall worldview. The grade for current control is 75% of the final grade. Evaluation is carried out on a six-point scale depending on task execution as follows:

Excellent 6 – over 89%

Very Good 5 – 70%-89%

Good 4 – 45%-69%

Average 3 – 30%-44%

Poor 2 – below 30%

The exam procedure includes a test and an essay. The relative weight of the exam in the overall grade is 25%.

ARCHIVISTICS

ECTS credits: 3.0 Weekly hours: 2+0+0

Language of instruction: Bulgarian

Form of knowledge assessment: current tests and essays

Type of exam: written

Semester: IV

Methodological guidance:

Department of History Faculty of Legal and Historical Studies

Lecturers: assoc. Prof. Dr. Nuriye Muratova,

email: nmuratova@swu.bg

Annotation:

The course aims to:

1. Ensure that the acquired knowledge and skills provide competence for creating legally valid official documents and enable students to manage documentation in its various institutional forms in the future.
2. Prepare students both theoretically and practically for their first encounter with archival sources in Bulgarian state archives by familiarizing them with the main archival centers and document complexes stored there.

Content of the course:

The lecture course presents the process of documentary support for management, the rules of modern documentation and document circulation in the state administration, as well as the requirements and rules for drafting and formatting management documents. It introduces the essence and multifunctionality of the document and its role in the management process. The course traces the emergence, establishment, and development of archival institutions from antiquity to the present day. Special attention is given to the emergence and development of Bulgarian archives and the establishment of a national archival system. Through the topics included in the program, it aims to create a general understanding of the specifics of the Bulgarian archival model.

Teaching technology and evaluation:

Training is conducted through lectures, exercises, and independent student work. During classes, various visual and interactive teaching materials are used, and practical sessions in the computer lab are also planned. Student initiatives and activities are encouraged. During the training, students are continuously assessed both in terms of their theoretical preparation and their ability to search for documents using archival guides. The training concludes with a written exam. The final grade is formed based on the assessments from continuous control and the exam in a ratio of 75%: 25%.

HISTORICAL INFORMATICS

ECTS credits: 3 Weekly hours: 2l.

Form of knowledge assessment: exam Type of exam: written

Semester: IV

Methodological guidance:

Department: Geography, Ecology, and Environmental Protection

Faculty of Natural Sciences and Mathematics

Lecturer: Assoc. Prof. Dr. Nuriye Muratova

Department of History

Email: nmuratova@yahoo.com

Annotation:

The lecture course aims to master the specifics of using traditional and electronic archival sources, creating, storing, and analyzing electronic text, audio, and video sources, database technologies, specialized software support, and the use of new information technologies such as multimedia, internet, and others in the learning process. Classes involve mastering modern methods for processing information and preparing students for independent research using information technologies.

Goals:

1. To navigate contemporary database management systems (DBMS);
2. To be able to create their own databases and electronic archives;
3. To master methods for working with electronic documents;
4. To be familiar with digital information in various research fields.

Content of the course:

Electronic documents. Main characteristics and attributes. Types of carriers. Working with electronic documents. Main methods for digitizing documents on traditional carriers. Data archiving. Using electronic reference books for accessing archival documents. Rules for using electronic documents. Electronic archives. Electronic libraries. Principles of construction. Digital audio-visual documents - Bulgarian and world resources. International standards. International standard for archival description ISAD(G). Archival technologies and automated information retrieval systems. European projects for digital archives.

Technology of teaching and evaluation:

Lectures include introducing new knowledge, summarizing and reviewing, presenting, and analyzing independently completed tasks - preparation of term papers. Students prepare a term paper which they present and defend before the audience. Requirements for semester verification are regular attendance at classes and completion of assigned tasks. Training concludes with a written exam. The final grade is formed based on the assessments from continuous control and the exam in a ratio of 75%: 25%.

GEOGRAPHY OF ETHNIC GROUPS AND RELIGIONS

ECTS credits: 4 Weekly hours: 2l+1p

Form of knowledge assessment: exam Type of exam: written

Semester: V

Methodological guidance:

Department of Geography, Ecology, and Environmental Protection

Faculty of Natural Sciences and Mathematics

Lecturers: Assoc. Prof. Dr. Emilia Patarchanova, Chief Assist. Prof. Dr. Gergana Nikolova

Email: emiliapatarchanova@swu.bg; gerganikolova@swu.bg

Annotation:

The discipline "Geography of Ethnic Groups and Religions" provides students with detailed knowledge about the geographical distribution of major ethnic groups and religions worldwide. Understanding these spatial structures is crucial for comprehending contemporary socio-economic processes globally. Therefore, this educational discipline is an essential part of the preparation of students in pedagogy of geography and history education. The discipline corresponds with the subject matter of the disciplines "Geography of Population and Settlements", "Geography of Tourism", "Geography of Countries - I and II parts", "Political Geography and Geopolitics", "Geography of World Economy", "Balkan Toponymy", "Geography of Balkan Countries", "Geography of Population and Settlements of Bulgaria", "Socio-Economic Geography of Bulgaria", "Regional Geography of Bulgaria", etc., included in the curricula of Bachelor's degree programs in specialties - "GRP", "Pedagogy of Teaching Geography and History", etc.

Content of the course:

The lecture course is structured into three sections. The first has a theoretical character and introduces students to basic categories and concepts specific to this discipline. Factors influencing ethno-genetic processes worldwide and forming the main nuclei of ethnogenesis are clarified, among which natural, economic, and social factors stand out. The second section is dedicated to ethnic groups - peculiarities and territorial distribution. Its aim is to enrich and expand students' knowledge about the formation, development over time, and distribution of ethnic groups in a territorial aspect. Specific features of individual nations, ethnic and ethnographic groups are addressed. Significant space in the course is devoted to major ethnic communities worldwide. The third part of the lecture course is dedicated to the geography of religions. This is a relatively underdeveloped field in geography, which implies increased interest from students. It aims to show the role of religion and its significance for societal development. Emphasis is placed on the contemporary confessional structure of the population in a global context. The connection and influence between the natural environment, religion, and the peculiarities of socio-economic development of the respective territory and its population are traced.

Technology of teaching and evaluation:

Lecture material is partially developed on PowerPoint and presented with a video projector. The teaching process is also connected with using maps, graphic images, photographic material, printed and copy materials. Practical classes are conducted in subgroups. Each student receives practical tasks, which they complete individually. At the end of each class, tasks related to preparing students for the next exercise are set.

During the course of studying the discipline, students develop a term paper on pre-determined themes related to the study of this discipline.

Out-of-class preparation of students is mainly connected with library work, internet, individual and group consultations, aiming at theoretical preparation for exercises, acquiring terminology, gaining knowledge for preparing term papers and presentations, for continuous control and the

exam. Periodic control during the semester is carried out through assigning term papers. A test is also included, which corresponds to the content of the curriculum. The criterion for evaluation is the degree of task completion (term paper, presentation, test), considering levels of competence, analytical thinking, and understanding.

Developed term papers are defended before other students. In their evaluation, other students participate, and this evaluation contributes to exemption from the exam. Students who receive excellent grades from continuous control - 5.50 are exempted from the exam at the end of the semester. The share of continuous control in the overall grade is 50%, with the relative weight of the test being 60%, and the remaining components - 40%. The examination procedure includes solving a test consisting of two types of questions. For the first type, students must choose the correct answer from several pre-formulated options. The second type consists of open questions requiring a written response of approximately 10 sentences. The relative weight of the exam in the overall grade is 25%.

GEOGRAPHY OF THE BALKAN COUNTRIES

ECTS credits: 4 Weekly hours: 2 lectures + 1 practical exercise

Form of knowledge assessment: exam Type of exam: written

Semester: V

Methodological guidance:

Department of Geography, Ecology and Environmental Protection

Faculty of Natural Sciences and Mathematics

Lecturers: Assoc. Prof. Dr. Emilia Patarchanova, Chief Assist. Prof. Dr. Gergana Nikolova

Email: emilia_patarchanova@swu.bg, gerganikolova@swu.bg

Annotation:

The course "Geography of the Balkan Countries" is an elective for students majoring in "Pedagogy of Teaching Geography and History." The main goal is to expand and enrich students' knowledge about the geography of the countries on the Balkan Peninsula - resource potential, peculiarities in geodemographic, ethnic, confessional, political, and socio-economic development. Emphasis is placed on current issues of integrated development, natural and cultural potential of the Balkan countries.

Course content:

The course is structured into two sections. The first section focuses on the Balkan Peninsula. It characterizes the natural resource potential, demographic, ethnic, and confessional characteristics of the territory. The contemporary political map and changes made over the last century are presented. Special attention is given to the peculiarities of socio-economic development, specialization, and economic integration between countries and regional politico-economic organizations in the Balkans. The second section is dedicated to the Balkan countries. In their characterization, the established typological model (algorithm) is followed. Special attention is paid to the peculiarities of socio-economic development and regional structure of the countries, membership in global and regional organizations, leading economic centers and cities with rich cultural-historical heritage.

Teaching technology and evaluation:

Training includes lectures and practical exercises. The lecture course is conducted based on pre-planned lectures, including exposition, summary, and discussion, as well as connections between previous and new lectures, links with other academic disciplines and scientific fields. The teaching process also involves using visual aids such as presentations, maps, graphic images, printed materials, etc. During exercises, students develop skills in applying comparison and analysis methods when characterizing individual countries, groups of countries, or economic sectors. They analyze statistical information, visualize trends in demographic and socio-economic development of the countries, and prepare and defend essays.

The examination procedure includes a written exam on two topics from a pre-distributed syllabus corresponding to the course content. The relative weight of the exam in the overall grade is 25%. Grading is done according to the six-point grading scale, in accordance with the Higher Education Act and Regulation No. 21 of the Ministry of Education / 30.09.2004. Credits are awarded only if the overall grade is equal to or higher than Average 3, according to the credit accumulation and transfer system.

HISTORY OF THE OTTOMAN EMPIRE

ECTS credits: 3 Weekly hours: 2 lectures

Form of knowledge assessment: exam Type of exam: written

Semester: V

Methodological guidance:

Departments: "Geography, Ecology and Environmental Protection" and "History"

Faculty of Natural Sciences and Mathematics and Faculty of Law and History

Lecturers:

Prof. Dr. Valentin Spasov Kitanov

Department of History

Email: kitvalmil@abv.bg

Annotation:

This course covers the general historical development of the Ottoman State from the 13th to the 20th century within 30 lecture hours. Following the European tradition of interpreting Ottoman history, emphasis is placed on the political, economic, social, and demographic characteristics of Ottoman historical development. In foreign policy terms, attention is drawn to relations with European great powers. As far as the schedule allows, attention is also paid to the development of Ottoman culture and art.

The aim of the course is to familiarize students with the source and historiographical characteristics of the history of the Ottoman Empire, its emergence and transformation into a world military and political power spanning territories in Europe, Asia, and Africa; the organization and structure of power in the state and changes in various institutions during the specified period; to reveal the specifics of social organization and cultural models that form in different provinces of the empire; functioning of social structures of different religious and ethnic groups, etc.

Course content:

Historiographical aspects of the history of the Ottoman Empire; Turks and the development of Asia Minor in the 8th-13th centuries; Emergence and initial development of the Ottoman state; Territorial expansion and rise of the Ottoman Empire in the 15th-16th centuries; Collapse of the

Ottoman Empire and consequences of its historical existence; End of the Ottoman Empire and beginning of the Turkish state.

Teaching technology and evaluation:

Training is carried out through a lecture course. During training, students prepare one multimedia presentation on topics from the lectures. On the day of the exam, students write a question from the syllabus. Training concludes with a written exam. The final grade is formed based on grades from continuous assessment and the exam in a ratio of 75%: 25%.

HISTORY OF ART AND MUSEUM STUDIES

ECTS credits: 3 Weekly hours: 2 lectures

Language of instruction: Bulgarian

Form of knowledge assessment: exam

Type of exam: written

Semester: V

Methodological guidance:

Department of History

Faculty of Law and History

Lecturer:

Chief Assist. Prof. Dr. Miroslava Stoilova Georgieva

Email: m_georgieva@swu.bg

Annotation:

This specialized course on the discipline "History of Art with Museology" is designed for students majoring in "Geography and History" at the Faculty of Natural Sciences and Mathematics of South-West University "Neofit Rilski" - Blagoevgrad. Within the course, the history of art from the late Paleolithic to the end of the nineteenth century is included, along with exercises to introduce students to the theory and practice of modern museology. Each period is presented with its main historical data and characteristic artworks. Lectures are illustrated with presentations and reproductions.

Course

content:

The first part of the course covers art from the late Paleolithic to the end of antiquity: art of the Paleolithic, Mesolithic, Neolithic, Chalcolithic, and Bronze Age; Egyptian and Mesopotamian art; Aegean art; Ancient Greek art in different periods (Geometric, Archaic, Classical, Hellenistic); Roman art (Republican and Imperial periods). The second part is dedicated to the Middle Ages: Byzantine art from the fourth to fifteenth centuries; Western European art in the early Middle Ages, Romanesque, and Gothic art. The third part covers Renaissance art, while the fourth part addresses European art in the seventeenth to nineteenth centuries. During the course, problems related to museology are discussed: museum structure and functions, historical development, organizations involved in cultural heritage preservation, development and current state of museum work in Bulgaria, conservation and scientific-technical processing of museum collections, museum space organization.

Teaching technology and evaluation:

Training is conducted through lectures and seminar exercises. Teaching is based on traditional humanities education practices in Bulgaria combined with modern interactive teaching methods - extensive use of multimedia forms (reproductions, presentations, films) and direct student engagement in the learning process. Current control is carried out during classes throughout the semester through coursework, tests, and quizzes according to the respective scoring system. Training concludes with a written exam on the course material according to the provided syllabus. The final grade is formed based on grades from continuous assessment and the exam in a ratio of 75%: 25%.

MUSEOLOGY - THEORY AND PRACTICE

ECTS credits: 3 Weekly hours: 2 lectures

Language of instruction: Bulgarian

Form of knowledge assessment: exam

Type of exam: written

Semester: V

Methodological guidance:

Department of History

Faculty of Law and History

Lecturer:

Chief Assist. Prof. Dr. Miroslava Stoilova Georgieva

Email: m_georgieva@swu.bg

Annotation:

This specialized course on the discipline "Museology - Theory and Practice" is intended for students majoring in "Geography and History" at the Faculty of Natural Sciences and Mathematics of South-West University "Neofit Rilski" - Blagoevgrad. It is linked to the qualification characteristics of the major, aiming to provide good theoretical and practical training in the field of museum work. The course introduces students to basic theoretical questions. Seminar objectives include discussing more specific issues not covered in the lecture material. Some seminars take place in real museum environments, allowing greater student participation and activity in the learning process. In practice, they will be able to familiarize themselves with the specifics of museum work, primarily based on the activities of museums in Southwestern Bulgaria.

Course content:

The program presents museology as a science, its functions, and main types of museum activities. The historical development of museum work in different periods from Antiquity to the present is traced. Particular attention is given to the emergence and development of museology in Bulgaria and state policy in the field of museology and cultural heritage preservation. Important issues include scientific-technical processing of cultural values in museums, their conservation and exhibition, museum space organization, etc.

Teaching technology and evaluation:

Training is conducted through lectures and extracurricular activities (preparing reports, presentations, test preparation). Teaching is based on traditional humanities education practices in Bulgaria combined with modern interactive teaching methods - extensive use of multimedia forms and direct student engagement in the learning process. Current control is carried out during classes

throughout the semester through coursework, tests, and quizzes according to the respective scoring system. Training concludes with a written exam. The final grade is formed based on grades from continuous assessment and the exam in a ratio of 75%: 25%.

MODERN MEANS FOR CHECKING AND ASSESSING GEOGRAPHY KNOWLEDGE

ECTS credits: 3 Weekly hours: 2 lectures

Form of knowledge assessment: exam

Type of exam: written

Semester: V

Methodological guidance:

Department of Geography, Ecology, and Environmental Protection

Faculty of Natural Sciences and Mathematics

Lecturer:

Assoc. Prof. Dr. Emilia Patarchanova

Emai: emilia_patarchanova@swu.bg

Annotation:

The course "Modern Means for Checking and Assessing Geography Knowledge" is one of the elective courses for students majoring in "Pedagogy of Teaching Geography and History". During the course, general theoretical and methodological foundations of checking and assessing educational outcomes in geography and economics in Bulgarian schools are clarified. Emphasis is placed on: Curriculum Objectives for mastering subject content - knowledge, skills, competencies; assessment scales - types, creation, transition from one type to another; methods for checking and methods for assessing knowledge, skills, competencies; self-assessment of knowledge, skills, competencies; normative documents regulating the checking and assessment of knowledge, skills, competencies, etc. The lecture course aims to acquaint students with the main theoretical-methodological issues of checking and assessing students' knowledge, skills, and competencies in geography and economics, as well as acquiring professional qualifications in the area of assessing students' knowledge, skills, and competencies as a tool for improving the quality of education and creating motivation for self-development and self-improvement.

Course content:

The course is structured into two sections. The first section focuses on broader theoretical and methodological aspects. Topics from docimetry, normative documents regulating the processes of checking and assessing educational outcomes are considered. The aim of this section is for students to master the content of the main concepts related to checking and assessing students' knowledge, skills, and competencies in the respective subject. In the second section, knowledge is specifically provided on the most important aspects of assessment, its elements, forms, methods, techniques, etc. Existing problems and opportunities for improving the quality of education in the respective subject are revealed.

Teaching technology and evaluation:

Training in the discipline "Modern Means for Checking and Assessing Geography Knowledge" is conducted according to the current study plan of the specialty POGE, Bachelor's degree, and the prepared and approved curriculum. Training includes lectures and practical exercises. Lecture materials are developed on PowerPoint and presented with a multimedia projector. The process of

teaching lecture materials is also connected with using visual aids. During practical sessions, theoretical and practical-applied issues of checking and assessing geography and economics knowledge are discussed. Practical tasks are set, which students complete individually. They learn to work with different sources of information and adapt exam materials to specific subject content and create new ones.

During the course, students develop a research paper and exam materials on predetermined topics or subject content related to training in this discipline. The examination procedure consists of solving a test that includes both open-ended and closed-type questions. The relative weight of the exam in the overall grade is 25%. Grading is done according to the six-point grading scale, in accordance with the Higher Education Act and Regulation No. 21 of the Ministry of Education / 30.09.2004. Credits are awarded only if the overall grade is equal to or higher than Average 3, according to the credit accumulation and transfer system.

OUT-OF-CLASS FORMS IN GEOGRAPHY EDUCATION

ECTS credits: 3 Weekly hours: 21

Assessment method: exam Exam type: written

Semester: V

Methodological guidance:

Department of Geography, Ecology and Environmental Protection

Faculty of Natural Sciences and Mathematics

Lecturer: Senior Assistant Dr. Vladimir Karadjov

Email: karadzhov@swu.bg

Annotation:

The discipline provides students with the opportunity to master the methodology and technologies for practical preparation and organization of out-of-class educational activities in geography and economics at school.

Content of the course:

Out-of-class activities create opportunities for building upon knowledge, skills, and competencies, for practical application of what has been learned, as well as for developing and refining the personality profile of young people. Through them, learning and cognitive activity is encouraged, characteristics related to emotional intelligence are improved, thinking is developed, and self-regulation of the individual is stimulated. Opportunities are created for achieving integrated knowledge, with a focus on problem solving. The learning process is optimized; professional and personal competence and emotional intelligence of the student are catalyzed.

Teaching technology:

The lecture course emphasizes the methodological foundations of organizing out-of-class activities in geography education. Students are encouraged to come up with their own innovative concepts, which are discussed with the instructor and classmates. Practical setups are made to test theoretical ideas. The final grade is formed based on assessments from continuous assessment and the exam in a ratio of 75%:25%.

THE EUROPEAN MODEL OF HISTORICAL EDUCATION

ECTS credits: 3 Weekly hours: 21

Assessment method: exam Exam type: written

Semester: V

Methodological guidance:

Department of History

Faculty of Law and History

Lecturer: Prof. Dr. Kostadin Paev

Email: kostapaev@swu.bg

Annotation:

Integrating Bulgaria into European structures involves a comprehensive restructuring of the country's economic, political, and cultural life. The reform of historical education based on new criteria and requirements is an integral part of this process. However, teacher training in history is still not sufficiently linked to the issues of European integration. New thematic directions and areas have come to the forefront – civic education, everyday life history, intercultural interactions, etc. This lecture course is included in the curriculum for students majoring in "Pedagogy of Teaching Geography and History" as an elective subject with a workload of 30 academic hours. The main purpose of the course is to familiarize students with the key aspects of European integration, the problems arising in this context for historical education. Only accessible Bulgarian bibliography is presented.

Content of the course:

I. European integration and Bulgarian education; European standards and educational reform in Bulgaria. Civil society and euro-integration education; II. The Council of Europe and the development of historical education until the 1990s; III. Historical education in the 1990s and early 21st century towards a united Europe; IV. European traditions and practices in compiling and publishing history textbooks; V. European dimensions of history curricula; VI. National history in the context of European integration; VII. New perspectives for European history; VIII. Methodological alternatives for historical education

Teaching technology and assessment:

Student training in the discipline European Integration and Historical Education takes place in two main directions: classroom attendance – lectures and seminar sessions; and independent work – preparing lesson plans and writing term papers. During the semester, current control over students' work and activity is carried out by assigning specific tasks: developing lesson plans (mandatory) and writing a term paper (optional).

Training concludes with a written exam. The final grade is formed based on assessments from continuous assessment and the exam in a ratio of 75%:25%.

METHODOLOGY OF TEACHING MAN AND SOCIETY

ECTS credits: 3 Weekly hours: 21

Assessment method: exam Exam type: written

Semester: V

Methodological guidance:

Department of Geography, Ecology and Environmental Protection

Faculty of Natural Sciences and Mathematics

Lecturers: Assoc. Prof. Dr. Nino Mihaylov

Department of Preschool and Primary School Pedagogy

Faculty of Pedagogy

Email: nipemih@abv.bg

Annotation:

Training in the discipline introduces students to the essence, scientific foundations, and sources of methodology, with the curriculum content, goals, and objectives of the subjects Man and Society (III-IV grade). The essence and peculiarities of specific principles and organizational forms are clarified, requirements for teacher preparation and necessary teaching documentation are derived. Students acquire knowledge about the organization and planning of educational and upbringing work and reveal the possibilities of these subjects for building integral personality qualities and socializing the student. Skills are built for students working in various forms of organizing classroom and extracurricular activities using the wealth of studied methods and techniques. Students learn to diagnose achieved results and change and optimize different elements of the training.

Content of the course:

Subject, goal, tasks, and sources of methodology – scientific foundations and continuity; Specific principles and organizational forms of training – other requirements and approaches; Forms of organization of educational and upbringing work – classroom, extracurricular, and out-of-school; Goal, tasks, curriculum content, and expected outcomes of the subjects Man and Society in III-IV grade; Development of integral personality qualities, worldview, patriotic, and ecological education; Educational process in Man and Society – planning and organization; Realizing interdisciplinary connections and integrating training.

Teaching technology and assessment:

Training includes lectures using modern heuristic and discussion methods and rich illustrations and presentations, complemented by practical exercises (if possible – observation and delivery of lessons by students, with conferencing). The examination procedure includes a written exam with the development of 2 questions from the syllabus and oral defense of the exposition. In the final assessment, the score from continuous assessment is also included, accounting for 70% of the final grade. Extracurricular activities include preparing expositions, essays, co-reports, or term papers on key topics of the lecture themes.

Training concludes with a written exam. The final grade is formed based on assessments from continuous assessment and the exam in a ratio of 75%:25%.

CLIMATOLOGY OF BULGARIA

ECTS credits: 4

Hours per week: 2l + 1pr. ex.

Form of assessment: on-going control and exam

Examination type: written

Semester: VI

Methodological guidance:

Department: “Geography, ecology and environmental protection”

Faculty of Mathematics and natural sciences

Lecturer: Associate Professor Krasimir Stoyanov, PhD

E-mail: krasi_sto@swu.bg

Annotation:

The course *Climatology of Bulgaria* is an elective module aimed at providing students with a comprehensive understanding of the country's climatic characteristics. It covers the contemporary climate, the factors influencing it, the main climatic elements, and the historical development of climate over time. This module expands on the knowledge acquired in the core module *Climatology and Hydrology*, and offers a robust scientific basis for the teaching of physical geography content related to Bulgaria within secondary education.

The course content is structured around several key thematic areas. The initial section explores the factors that shape the climate and climatic diversity of Bulgaria. This is followed by an in-depth analysis of the main climatic elements, focusing on their nature, methods of measurement, and spatial variability. The final section adopts a synthetic perspective, addressing climatic regionalisation, adverse climatic phenomena, and climate change, including its temporal dynamics.

A strong emphasis is placed on practical training. Students engage in practical work through the development of climate maps illustrating the spatial distribution of key climatic elements, as well as the creation of climographs for meteorological stations situated in different climatic regions. The module is delivered as part of the *Geography and History Education* bachelor's degree programme and combines lectures, discussions, and individually completed practical assignments.

GEOMORPHOLOGY OF BULGARIA

ECTS credits: 4 Weekly hours: 2 lectures + 1 exercise Form of knowledge assessment: continuous control and exam Type of exam: written Semester: VI

Methodological guidance:

Department of Geography, Ecology, and Environmental Protection
Faculty of Natural Sciences

Lecturer: Chief Assist. Prof. Dr. Miroslav Ivanov

Annotation:

The course "Geomorphology of Bulgaria" aims to familiarize students from the specialty "Pedagogy of Teaching Geography and History" with the origin, evolution, and processes of landform formation within the territory of the country. The discipline is directly connected to general geomorphology, studied in the first semester of the curriculum, as well as with geology, geodesy, topography, archaeology, soil science.

Course Content:

The lecture course is structured into two parts. In the first part, the factors and peculiarities of landform formation in the country are examined, and the different types of relief are characterized. In the second part, some theoretical and methodological issues regarding the geomorphological division of the country are addressed, with various regionalization considered. The second part is a regional division of the territory of Bulgaria, examining the different zones and regions. Special attention is given to various types of tectonic structures and the

characterization of exogenous processes. Exogenous processes are observed everywhere, they are the most dynamic, and they react easily to human intervention. In the exercise classes, attention is given to acquiring basic practical skills for field and laboratory geological and geomorphological research. Special attention is paid to working with a geological compass, field identification of the main types of rocks and minerals, discovering and determining tectonically conditioned relief forms, barometric leveling, and other activities described in the issued manual. Students acquire knowledge in creating and analyzing geological-geomorphological profiles of the relief, morphometrics of the relief, and others. It is recommended to conduct one-day or multi-day field excursions for direct observation of geological and geomorphological objects - Stob Pyramids, Kozhukh volcano, Seven Rila Lakes, Iskar Gorge, Belogradchik Rocks, Rhodopes, Pirin, Struma and Mesta valleys, Vlachina Mountain, and others. For this purpose, geological guidebooks are used.

Teaching and Assessment Technology:

Training in the discipline "Geomorphology" is conducted according to the current study plan of the specialty "Pedagogy of Teaching Geography and History," Bachelor's degree. During the course, students develop a report or presentation on geomorphological problems of Bulgaria. The examination procedure includes a test or written exam after a pre-distributed syllabus. The relative weight of the exam in the overall grade is 25%.

MEDIEVAL BALKANS

ECTS credits: 3 Weekly hours: 2 lectures Form of knowledge assessment: continuous evaluation Type of exam: written Semester: VI

Methodological guidance:

Department of History
Legal-Historical Faculty

Lecturer: Chief Assist. Prof. Dr. Yanko Mitkov Hristov,
email: ishristov@abv.bg

Annotation:

The course aims to familiarize students with the theoretical frameworks concerning the peculiarities of societies on the Balkan Peninsula during the Middle Ages. Emphasis is placed on significant processes and phenomena and their influence on ethno-demographic appearance, military-political realities, material and spiritual culture during the period V-XV century. At the same time, the place of medieval Balkan societies in the overall development of Europe during the examined epoch is sought.

Course Content:

The course consists of five major themes: Epoch of invasions and changes; Byzantium and early medieval Balkans; Period from the beginning of X to the last decades of XII century; Political fragmentation of the peninsula during the Late Middle Ages and attempts to overcome it; Ottoman conquest. Through these themes, students gain insight into the specific and common aspects of medieval societies in the Balkans.

Teaching and Assessment Technology:

Training is conducted through lectures and seminars. After introducing new information, historical sources are discussed and interpreted, discussions are held, independently completed tasks are

presented and analyzed, and knowledge consolidation is achieved through various activities - summary and revision, group tasks, text work, and independent library assignments. Students take one mandatory test and one theoretical assignment during the semester. Requirements for completing the semester include regular attendance at classes, completion of assigned tasks. Training concludes with a written exam. The final grade is formed based on grades from continuous control and the exam in a ratio of 75%:25%.

HISTORICAL REGIONAL STUDIES

ECTS credits: 3 Weekly hours: 2 lectures

Language of instruction: Bulgarian Form of knowledge assessment:

exam Type of exam: written exam

Semester: VI Methodological guidance:

Department of History Legal-Historical Faculty

Lecturers: Chief Assist. Prof. Dr. Miroslava Stoilova Georgieva

email: m_georgieva@swu.bg

Annotation:

This specialized course aims to provide good preparation in the field of historical regional studies. Part of the classes takes place in museums, libraries, and other cultural institutions developing regional studies, providing greater engagement and activity of students in the learning process. In practical terms, students will have the opportunity to become familiar with the specifics of local history research primarily based on the activities of regional libraries and museums in Southwestern Bulgaria.

Course Content:

The program examines the theoretical-methodological aspects of regional studies, its emergence and development, as well as the current state of local history research. The types of local history research are traced, with an emphasis on historical local history research. Main requirements for preparing a local history publication and types of local history bibliographies are considered.

Teaching and Assessment Technology:

Training is carried out through lectures and independent work. Teaching is based on modern interactive methods - extensive use of multimedia forms and direct student involvement in the learning process through classes in museums, libraries, and other cultural institutions, providing practical acquaintance with the specifics of local history activities. Continuous control includes 2 written assignments/presentations and 1 control work/test. Training concludes with a written exam. The final grade is formed based on grades from continuous control and the exam in a ratio of 75%:25%.

AUDIO-VISUAL DOCUMENTS AND ARCHIVES

Credits: 3

Weekly Hours: 2 lectures

Assessment Method: continuous tests and essays

Exam Type: written

Semester: VI

Department: GEOOS, History

Faculties: Faculty of Law and History, Faculty of Natural Sciences and Mathematics

Lecturers: Assoc. Prof. Dr. Nuriye Muratova

Email: nmuratova@yahoo.com

Abstract:

In the information society, the creation, preservation, and dissemination of information in visual and audio form has precedence over traditional textual and written forms. The course presents audiovisual documents created not only with technologies from the 19th century and the archives where they are preserved but also the possibilities for their storage and use with modern computer technologies. Through the lecture course, an understanding of the theoretical and practical aspects of archiving audiovisual documents is built. As part of the training, visits to the specialized archives of BNT, BNR, and the National Film Archive are planned.

Course Content:

The course presents the Bulgarian model and foreign systems for archiving audiovisual documents. Specific features that determine a different archival status for these documents are revealed in comparison with traditional paper-based written documents. Normative-methodological requirements and procedures for accepting, organizing, and using audiovisual documents in state archives and specialized institutions are defined. Access conditions to documents in various archives are compared. In a comparative plan, differences in audiovisual documents are presented, which necessitate different methodological approaches, means, and conditions for their storage, processing, and use. Special attention is given to institutions where audiovisual documents are stored and made available for use - state archives, specialized institutions, museums, libraries, etc.

Teaching Technology:

Training is conducted through lectures and independent student work. During classes, various illustrative and interactive teaching materials (film documents, photo sources, sound recordings in electronic and traditional formats) are used to support students' full mastery of the subject matter. Student initiatives and activities are encouraged.

During the training, students are continuously assessed both in terms of their theoretical preparation and regarding the comparative analysis of traditional and non-traditional documents and various methodological rules for processing, storage, and access characteristics and usage.

The total number of credits for the course is 3. They equal 30 conditional units, of which 15 are from classroom attendance and 15 from independent work. Continuous assessment includes 2 term papers and 1 test. Students are exempt from the exam with excellent results from continuous assessment. Training ends with a written exam. The final grade is formed based on assessments from continuous assessment and the exam in a ratio of 75%:25%.

LANDSCAPE-ECOLOGICAL PROBLEMS OF BULGARIA

Credits: 4

Weekly Hours: 2 lectures + 1 seminar

Assessment Method: continuous assessment and exam

Exam Type: written

Semester: VII

Department: GEOOS, Faculty of Natural Sciences and Mathematics

Lecturers: Assoc. Prof. Dr. Nadezhda Nikolova

Email: nin@swu.bg

Abstract:

The course "Landscape-Ecological Problems of Bulgaria" is studied by students majoring in "Geography and History" to build upon basic theoretical knowledge about landscape structure as a unified interconnected whole resulting from the combination of all natural components in a specific territory. The nature and direction of connections between individual components of the natural environment are clarified to track the sequence of changes in it due to anthropogenic impact. Besides building upon their theoretical knowledge, students become familiar with the most acute and pressing landscape-ecological problems in different regions of our country. In most cases, these problems are related to past or current pollution or damage to the environment due to various industrial activities such as mining and flotation of minerals, development of metallurgy, chemical industry, or other types of industries. To a lesser extent, construction, transportation, agriculture, and tourism can also lead to serious conflict situations related to environmental protection and biodiversity conservation.

Course Content:

Establishing the resilience of natural components to different types of anthropogenic impact allows for measures to limit negative landscape changes and manifestations and consequences of some unfavorable processes in nature. Acquired knowledge has practical applications in planning rational use of natural resources, environmental impact assessment, territorial-settlement, and landscape-planning. Emphasis is placed on the relationship between economic development of individual regions and the state of environmental protection in them. The natural resource potential of regions, history of their economic exploitation, as well as the degree and trends of anthropogenic change are clarified. In practical sessions, students develop and refine skills for collecting information from various sources, analyzing and synthesizing it, comparing and interpreting, and working in teams.

Teaching Technology and Assessment:

Training is conducted through 30 hours of lectures, 15 hours of practical exercises, and 80 hours of independent work. Teaching is based on modern interactive methods – extensive use of multimedia forms and an e-learning platform. Continuous assessment includes evaluating prepared cartograms, one written assignment/presentation, and one semester test. Only students who receive at least a grade of Average 3 from continuous assessment are allowed to take the exam. The final grade takes into account the results from continuous assessment and performance on the exam in a ratio of 75%:25%.

REGIONAL DEVELOPMENT AND REGIONAL POLICY OF BULGARIA

Credits: 4

Weekly Hours: 2 lectures + 1 seminar

Semester: VII

Type of Exam: Written

Course Type: Lectures and Exercises (Practical)

Methodological Guidance:

Department GEOOS,

Faculty of Natural Sciences and Mathematics

Lecturer: Chief Assistant Dr. Vladimir Karadjov

Email: karadzhov@swu.bg

Department: "Geography, Ecology, and Environmental Protection"

Abstract:

Status of the discipline in the curriculum: Elective discipline from the curriculum of the specialty "Geography and History". The lecture course "Regional Development and Regional Policy of Bulgaria" introduces students to the scientific-theoretical foundations of regional policy and planning in our country. The macrostructure of the lecture course includes three sections.

The first section is dedicated to the subject, tasks, and goals of regional planning and policy, methodological aspects, and programming based on the Regional Development Act and key national documents.

The second section unites topics according to legislation in the country for the development of regional policy in R. Bulgaria at different hierarchical levels.

The third section focuses on SWOT analysis, project writing and management, and socio-economic partnership.

Course Content:

The discipline "Regional Development and Regional Policy of Bulgaria" aims to provide fundamental knowledge in this area to students and ensure scientific and practical preparation and competence for their participation in regional research and forecasting developments, as well as in programs for managing territories under European projects.

With practical exercises, the aim is to reinforce acquired knowledge and expand experimental knowledge and skills for work in contemporary practice and science.

The applied significance of the lecture course "Regional Development and Regional Policy of Bulgaria" lies in ensuring the scientific preparation and competence of students in the management, organization, and planning of overall activities in administrative-territorial units for regional development and implementing the respective policy.

Teaching Technology and Assessment:

Training is conducted through 30 hours of lectures, 15 hours of practical exercises, and 80 hours of independent work. Teaching is based on modern interactive methods of learning.

Continuous assessment includes evaluating prepared cartograms, one written assignment/presentation, and one semester test. Only students who receive at least a grade of Average 3 from continuous assessment are allowed to take the exam. The final grade is determined based on the results from continuous assessment and performance on the exam in a ratio of 75%:25%.

PROTECTED TERRITORIES IN BULGARIA

Credits: 4

Weekly Hours: 2 lectures + 1 seminar

Form of Knowledge Check: Exam

Type of Exam: Written

Semester: VII

Methodological Guidance:

Faculty of Natural Sciences and Mathematics,

Department "Geography, Ecology, and Environmental Protection"

Lecturer: Assoc. Prof. Dr. Eng. Konstantin Tyufekchiev

Email: konstantinat@swu.bg

Abstract:

The academic discipline "Protected Territories in Bulgaria" is a relatively new scientific discipline that primarily focuses on the theoretical and practical problems of conservation as a current method in modern nature protection. It summarizes foreign and domestic theory and practice in preserving the main components of the surrounding natural environment (lithosphere, soils, waters, atmospheric air, plant and animal world). Theoretical and historical prerequisites for creating protected natural areas (PNA), international cooperation in the field of conservation nature protection, and positive global trends in its development are considered. Classification of protected natural territories and objects (PNTTO), nature protection regimes adopted in global practice, and the arrangement of PNA for ecological education and tourism are included. Detailed consideration is given to PNTTO in Bulgaria, their nature protection status, territorial distribution, and landscape essence.

Course Content:

The discipline is divided into three parts. The first part examines the theoretical foundations of conservation nature protection, including definitions, objectives, tasks, and methods. Functions, classification, and nature protection regimes in protected territories are also included. The second part provides a detailed characterization of protected natural territories and objects in Bulgaria. The third part focuses on the arrangement and management of PNA and the possibilities for using them in nature protection education and upbringing.

Teaching Technology and Assessment:

The course of study in the academic discipline includes theoretical preparation based on a lecture course on main topics from the content of the curriculum, combined with discussed independent student preparation on important course topics and practical exercises for concretizing student knowledge at a practical level. During exercises, real objects, models, and research data, samples of research methods are worked with, using interactive teaching methods. Some topics are developed outside the auditorium – in natural environments on protected natural territories and human-exploited territories.

Learning outcomes are supported by the use of visual materials (charts, presentations, printouts, software) and technical means (computer, multimedia, etc.).

Out-of-class student preparation mainly involves fieldwork, library work, internet, individual and group consultations, aiming for theoretical preparation for exercises, acquiring knowledge for continuous assessment and exams.

Periodic control during the semester is carried out through assigning a term paper and developing and defending a presentation. The evaluation criterion is the degree of task completion, considering competency levels, analytical thinking, and understanding.

Evaluation is performed on a six-point scale depending on task execution as follows:

The share of continuous assessment in the overall grade is 75%. Students who receive grades higher than Very Good are exempted from the second part.

The examination procedure includes a test or written exam on one topic from the first, second, and third sections of the course content after a pre-distributed syllabus. The relative weight of the exam in the overall grade is 25%. Evaluation is performed on a six-point grading scale according to the Higher Education Act and Ordinance No. 21 of the Ministry of Education and Science / 30.09.2004.

Credits are awarded only if the overall grade is equal to or higher than Satisfactory 3, according to the credit accumulation and transfer system.

EASTERN EUROPE AFTER WORLD WAR II

ECTS credits: 3 Weekly hours: 21

Form of knowledge assessment: exam

Exam type: written

Semester: VII

Methodological guidance:

Departments: "Geography, Ecology and Environmental Protection" and "History"

Faculty of Natural Sciences and Mathematics and Faculty of Law and History

Lecturers: Assoc. Prof. Dr. Diana Veleva Ivanova, Department of History

email: velevad@swu.bg

Annotation:

The course is studied as an elective in the specialty "Geography and History" to acquire solid knowledge about the development of Eastern Europe after World War II, which will enable students to understand the region's place on the continent, become familiar with the activities of prominent political and intellectual figures, and with key documents from the period. The lecture course traces the evolution of the political system from authoritarianism to democracy. Attention is paid to the violent imposition of a foreign model of governance after 1945; the events of 1956; the Prague Spring as the last attempt at democratizing "real socialism"; the emergence and activity of the independent trade union Solidarity in Poland; the Velvet Revolutions, resulting from the gradual overcoming of societal atomization. The course includes work with documents, referencing articles, etc., providing future geography and history specialists with opportunities to enhance their knowledge in the field of political terminology. For better understanding of events and as illustrations of the discussed topics, photographic material, computer presentations, and educational films are used. Content of the course: End of World War II and the fate of Eastern Europe. Beginning of the Cold War; People's Democracy in Eastern Europe (1945-1949) and the imposition of the Soviet-type system; Eastern European countries "in the shadow of Stalinism" (1948-1953); 1956 - the year of change; Hungarian Revolution of 1956 and its consequences; Prague Spring and normalization in Czechoslovakia; Development of Poland in the 1960s and 1970s; Emergence of opposition movements in Eastern Europe; Creation of Solidarity and martial law in Poland; GDR in the 1950s-1980s; Influence of Soviet perestroika on the development of Eastern European countries; Liberalization of regimes in Poland and Hungary in the second half of the 1980s; Collapse of real

socialism in Eastern Europe; Eastern European countries on the path to the European Union. Teaching technology and assessment: Teaching is conducted through lectures. During the course, students prepare one multimedia presentation on a chosen topic. On exam day, students write a question from the syllabus. Teaching concludes with a written exam. The final grade is formed based on current control assessments and the exam in a ratio of 75%: 25%.

MULTIMEDIA IN HISTORY TEACHING

ECTS credits: 3 Weekly hours: 2l.

Form for knowledge assessment: exam Exam type: written

Semester: VII

Methodological guidance:

Department: Geography, Ecology and Environmental Protection Faculty of Natural Sciences and Mathematics

Lecturer: Assoc. Prof. Dr. Nuriye Muratova

Department of History

email: nmuratova@yahoo.com

Annotation:

The lecture course aims to familiarize students with basic multimedia technologies applicable in historical and other humanities research. The goal of the course is for students to acquire knowledge about contemporary computer technologies that they can use in processing source information at a user level – knowledge of computer technologies and skills to use them in their future careers as historians. Course objectives:

- Familiarizing students with basic concepts and information technologies and their specifics when used in historical research;
- Mastering multimedia technologies (related to storing and analyzing data from historical sources);
- Training for working with specialized software.

Content of the course:

Main directions in using computer technologies in historical research. Computerized analysis of descriptive sources. Processing structured mass sources. Scanning and optical character recognition (OCR) technologies; Processing graphic and raster information. Computer analysis and processing of visual sources. Basics of desktop preprocess systems. Introduction to database technology, types of databases, DBMS, and their application in historical research. Methods for searching historical information on the world wide web. Creating a website. Informatization of archives, museums, and libraries. Bibliographic search on the Internet. Working with genealogy software.

Teaching technology and assessment:

Lectures include the following components: introduction of new knowledge, summary review, presentation and analysis of independently completed tasks, reinforcement of knowledge through various activities – presentation of individual projects – individually and in groups; working with specific historical sources. Students complete one control written assignment and test during the

semester for mastering specific concepts and independently developed project presented to the audience. Requirements for completing the semester include regular attendance at classes and completion of assigned tasks. Teaching concludes with a written exam. The final grade is formed based on current control assessments and the exam in a ratio of 75%: 25%.

FACULTATIVE DISCIPLINES

NATURAL AND CULTURAL HERITAGE IN GEOGRAPHY EDUCATION (elective)

ECTS credits: Weekly hours: 11

Form of knowledge assessment: exam Type of exam: written

Semester: VII

Methodological guidance:

Department of GEOS

Faculty of Natural Sciences and Mathematics

Lecturer: Chief Assistant Dr. Gergana Nikolova

Email: gergananikolova@swu.bg

Annotation:

The course "Natural and Cultural Heritage in Geography Education" aims to introduce students to the vast possibilities of using natural and historical landmarks for attractive teaching of geography and economics.

Course content:

Based on a detailed analysis of the curriculum in lower secondary and upper secondary education, suitable thematic cores and individual topics for applying the above approach are identified. The most appropriate in this regard are the topics from the geography and economics curricula for grades 7 and 10, dedicated to the geography of Bulgaria. Several topics from the curriculum for grades 8 and 9, related to Earth geospheres or individual economic sectors, also offer favorable opportunities for illustrating the studied phenomena and processes through objects of natural and cultural heritage. Students should master the skills of preparing presentations that use vivid and memorable examples of natural and socio-economic objects, supporting the perception and assimilation of the learning material. An algorithm for organizing and conducting one-day or multi-day excursions, as well as green schools, is proposed, which are possible ways to increase student interest in the subject.

Teaching technology and assessment:

Part of the lecture material is prepared in PowerPoint presentations and presented with a multimedia projector. The teaching process is also associated with using other means of illustration – maps, graphical images, photographs, printed and copy materials.

Assessment of the achieved results in the learning process is in accordance with the requirements of Order No. 21 of the Ministry of Education and Science from September 30, 2004, for the implementation of a credit accumulation and transfer system. Periodic control is carried out during the semester by preparing presentations, participating in educational excursions, and conducting tests. The final grade is formed 70% from the periodic control assessment and 25% from the

semester exam assessment, according to the system for controlling student knowledge and skills adopted by the Department of GEOS.

GEOGRAPHY OF TOURISM

ECTS credits: Weekly hours: 11

Form of knowledge assessment: exam Type of exam: written

Semester:

Methodological guidance:

Department of GEOS

Faculty of Natural Sciences and Mathematics

Lecturers: Assoc. Prof. Dr. Emilia Patarchanova

Email: emilia_patarchanova@swu.bg

Annotation:

The course "Geography of Tourism" is elective for students majoring in "POGI". The main goal of the course is to provide basic knowledge about the essence and scientific-theoretical foundations of tourism as an economic sector of the tertiary sector. Emphasis is placed on the prerequisites for its emergence and development, its peculiarities, and its transformation into a mass phenomenon in society. The current state of the industry in Europe and Bulgaria is examined. The course enhances students' competencies in theoretical and practical issues related to one of the most dynamically developing and significant sectors of the global economy. At lower levels – national and local – its importance grows because tourism often determines the economic profile of small municipalities in Bulgaria, and revenues from tourist activities are crucial for local municipal budgets and employment and incomes of the local population.

Course content:

Travel and tourism because of social development. Travel in antiquity and during the Renaissance; Main factors of tourism. Genetic factors. Realization factors; Recreational-tourist resources. Natural and anthropogenic tourist resources; Main types of tourism. Criteria for classification, specific features, and development; Characteristic features of alternative forms of tourism; Material base of tourism; Development of tourism in Bulgaria

Teaching technology and assessment:

The lecture course is preceded by preliminary planning of each lecture, determining the topic, connections between the previous and new lecture, connections with other disciplinary areas, introduction, plan, exposition, discussion, and summary. The lecture material is developed in PowerPoint and presented with multimedia. The teaching process is also associated with using means of illustration – maps, graphical images, photographs, advertising materials. During the course, students develop a term paper on predetermined topics related to the study of this discipline.

Out-of-class preparation of students is mainly related to library work, internet, individual and group consultations, aimed at theoretical preparation for exercises, acquiring the terminological apparatus, gaining knowledge for preparing term papers and presentations, for current control, and the exam.

Periodic control is carried out during the semester by assigning a term paper. Field practice is also included.

The evaluation criterion is the degree of task completion, taking into account competence levels, analytical thinking, and understanding.

Developed term papers are defended before the other students. Other students also participate in the evaluation.

The share of current control in the overall grade is 75%.