

History of South East Europe (A002197)

Course size *(nominal values; actual values may depend on programme)*

Credits 5.0

Study time 150 h

Course offerings and teaching methods in academic year 2025-2026

A (semester 2)

Dutch

Gent

seminar

lecture

independent work

group work

Lecturers in academic year 2025-2026

Troch, Pieter

LW21

lecturer-in-charge

Offered in the following programmes in 2025-2026

Bachelor of Arts in Oriental Languages and Cultures (main subject Arabic and Islamic Studies)

5

offering

A

Bachelor of Arts in East European Languages and Cultures

5

A

Bachelor of Arts in History

5

A

Bachelor of Science in Political Science

5

A

Linking Course Master of Arts in Gender and Diversity

5

A

Preparatory Course Master of Arts in East European Languages and Cultures

5

A

Elective Set History

5

A

Elective Set Southeast-European Language

5

A

Teaching languages

Dutch

Keywords

Southeast Europe, social-political history, Byzantine Empire, South-Slavic medieval states, Ottoman Empire, nation-state building, state socialism, Europeanisation.

Position of the course

This introductory course unit gives an overview of Southeast European social and political history from the late ancient period to the present. In addition, it enables students to reflect on contemporary societal issues in Southeast Europe from a historical perspectives and familiarises them with the discipline of Southeast European studies.

Contents

The course offers a thorough overview of the key developments in the social and political history of Southeast Europe. The course is structured chronologically:

- Imperial institutional and social structures (Byzantium, Slavic medieval states, Ottoman Empire, Habsburg Empire);
- Nationalism, state-building and imperial reforms during the nineteenth century;
- Modern nation-state building and war in the first half of the twentieth century;
- Social and institutional transformations during the Cold War;
- Social and political transition and European integration after 1989.

For each of these historical periods, the course provides factual knowledge and explains the social and political processes that determine the identity of Southeast Europe as a historical region, without losing sight of the internal variations and the European and global context.

In addition, the course aims to contextualise and analyse contemporary social and political debates from a historical perspective. For this purpose, thematic

seminaries will scrutinise particular issues with the use of academic literature in Southeast European studies.

Initial competences

No specific initial competences required.

Final competences

- 1 To describe key evolutions in the social and political history of Southeast Europe.
- 2 To situate key actors, events and developments in Southeast European social and political history in a historical frame of reference.
- 3 To recognise the historical processes that shape the historical region Southeast Europe.
- 4 To analyse from a historical perspective contemporary social and political issues in Southeast Europe.
- 5 To analyse and apply academic texts from the discipline of Southeast European studies.
- 6 To critically evaluate and interpret online sources on current social and political issues.
- 7 To work and communicate in group.

Conditions for credit contract

Access to this course unit via a credit contract is unrestricted: the student takes into consideration the conditions mentioned in 'Starting Competences'

Conditions for exam contract

Access to this course unit via an exam contract is unrestricted

Teaching methods

Group work, Seminar, Lecture, Independent work

Extra information on the teaching methods

Lecture: In the lectures, the essential insights and relations are explained, structured and concretised. Lectures are recorded and streamed, but this option is only available on request and for a good reason.

Independent work: Complementary study of relevant chapters from the textbook. In preparation of the seminars students analyse an academic paper from the historical research on Southeast Europe and identify relevant online sources.

Seminar: In three online seminars, students engage with contemporary social and political issues on the basis of online media and situate these debates in the historical frame of reference.

Group work: On the basis of participation in the online seminars, fixed groups of students (with alternating captains and reporters) write a report presenting the political and social debate and explaining it from a historical perspective.

Study material

Type: Handbook

Name: De Balkan: Een geschiedenis

Indicative price: € 28

Optional: no

Language : Dutch

Author : Raymond Detrez

ISBN : 978-9-08924-766-7

Number of Pages : 616

Oldest Usable Edition : 2020

Available in the Library : Yes

Usability and Lifetime within the Course Unit : intensive

Usability and Lifetime within the Study Programme : intensive

Usability and Lifetime after the Study Programme : regularly

Type: Slides

Name: Geschiedenis van Zuidoost-Europa

Indicative price: Free or paid by faculty

Optional: no

Language : Dutch

Available on Ufora : Yes

References

Calic, Marie-Janine. *The Great Cauldron: A History of Southeastern Europe* (Cambridge, MA: Harvard University Press, 2019).
Lampe, John. *Balkans into Southeastern Europe. A Century of War and Transition* (Basingstoke: Palgrave MacMillan, 2006).

Course content-related study coaching

Interactive support through UFORA. Contact hour by appointment.

Assessment moments

end-of-term and continuous assessment

Examination methods in case of periodic assessment during the first examination period

Written assessment

Examination methods in case of periodic assessment during the second examination period

Written assessment

Examination methods in case of permanent assessment

Peer and/or self assessment, Assignment

Possibilities of retake in case of permanent assessment

examination during the second examination period is possible in modified form

Extra information on the examination methods

End-of-term assessment consists of a written exam, which tests knowledge and insights through open questions.

Continuous assessment consists of independent work and groupwork with peer assessment connected to the online seminars: (a) Students write a short statement which summarises an academic paper in Southeast European studies and makes a substantiated selection of newsitems on current developments; (b) For each online seminar students in fixed groups write a reflection that links the current developments to characteristics of Southeast Europe as a historical region; (c) Students evaluate the functioning of their peers during the seminars. The lecturer will take these peer assessments into consideration when evaluating the group work.

Calculation of the examination mark

Combination of end-of-term assessment (written exam, 70% of the final mark) and continuous assessment (independent work and group work with peer assessment, 30% of the final mark).

In case of legitimate absence for the online seminar, students can submit the assignment individually at a later time, after consultation with the teacher. In case of unjustified absence, the student will not be graded for the part of the assignment in question.

Students who do not pass for the continuous assessment and also do not pass for the course as a whole make a compensatory assignment for the continuous assessment (between the first and second exam term). This assignment only concerns those parts of the continuous assessment for which the student did not obtain a passing grade. Passed scores for partial assignments are carried over to the second exam period.

Facilities for Working Students

1. Absence is allowed. For the lectures, slides and recordings are provided. For the online groupwork, an individual compensatory assignment is required.
2. Possible examination on a different time in the same academic year.
3. Possibility to receive feedback at another time: by appointment.