# BALK 314 Readings in Balkan History & Culture (1.0 units*)

# BALK 513 Readings in Balkan History & Culture (1.0 units*)

**One Bryn Mawr unit is equivalent to four undergraduate semester hours or five graduate semester hours.*

**Instructor:** TBD

**Time:** TBD

**Location:** Bosnian2GO Language School, Skenderija 34, Sarajevo 71000, Bosnia & Herzegovina

## COURSE DESCRIPTION

A broad survey of Balkan culture and society from the ancient times to the present, with special reference to such topics as religion, family, customs, history, arts, and sociopolitical organization. The course consists of readings, class discussion, and written assignments in Bosnian.

## OBJECTIVE

At this level, students are exposed to a variety of materials, media sources, literature etc., composed using various styles and belonging to various domains. The aim of this level is to expose students to various styles and varieties of BCS, which are produced by various media resources, scientific materials and official documents. The course is designed to equip students with such set of skills and competences that would enable them to understand the main ideas of complex text on both concrete and abstract topics and produce clear and detailed texts on a wide range of subjects.

By the end of the level students will be able to produce written paragraphs about their daily life, friends and family, cooking and culture, society and global problems.

## MATERIALS

Content of classes will be complemented through the usage of adequate literature, literary texts and books that will be prepared by the instructor and student (borrowing books from Sarajevo's libraries) with instructions given by the instructor and will include creative exercises, usage of appropriate media such as video, music, movies, theater etc.

Textbooks Senahid Halilović, "Orthography in Bosnian Language: Handbook," Sarajevo, 1999.
Dževad Jahić, Senahid Halilović, Ismail Palić, "Grammar of the Bosnian Language," Zenica, 2000.
Midhat Riđanović, "The meaning of the content and the content of meaning – semantics,";
Marina Katnić-Bakaršić, "Stylistics," Sarajevo, 2001.
Fatima Pelesić-Muminović, "Bosnian language," Sarajevo, 2016.
"Bosnian language as foreign language," Zenaida Karavdić, International Burch University, Sarajevo, 2011.
"Bosnian Language Dictionary," Senahid Halilović, Amela Šehović, Ismail Palić, Department of Philosophy University of Sarajevo, 2010.
Narcis Saračević, "Dictionary of Sarajevo jargon/slang," Zenica, 2003.

## GRADING AND ASSESSMENT

Class attendance is a critical part of progress in language and students are expected to come on time and prepared for each class.

Individual student work includes reading of assigned literary works, historical, current and interesting texts, daily newspapers; working on spelling and grammar exercises, as well as homework and linguistic exercises assigned by the professor; essay writing, student creating and keeping up with their own pocket dictionaries based upon vocabulary learned in class.

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|---|---|
| Class participation | 30% |
| Homework | 20% |
| Weekly tests, quizzes, presentations | 30% |
| Final examination | 20% |

| *Grade* | *Percent* |
|---|---|
| A+ | 98–100 |
| A | 93–97 |
| A- | 90–92 |
| B+ | 87–89 |
| B | 83–86 |
| B- | 80–82 |
| C+ | 77–79 |
| C | 73–76 |
| C- | 70–72 |
| D | 60–69 |
| F | 0–59 |

## UNITS AND TOPICS (SUBJECT TO CHANGE*)

| Week | Material covered |
|---|---|
| 1 | History and development of the Bosnian language |
| 2 | Understanding and interpreting folk anecdotes and stories |
| 3 | Discussion about the history of Bosnia & Herzegovina |
| 4 | Phonetics and phonology of Bosnian |
| 5 | Literature: interpretation and discussion on Balkan mythology |
| 6 | Literature: reading a literary text and analysis exercise |
| 7 | Comprehending Bosnian poetry |
| 8 | Conversation on Bosnian ballads and songs |
| 9 | Bosnian folk music - listening, understanding, interpretation and linguistic analysis. |
| 10 | Literature of the people of Bosnia & Herzegovina - B. Ćopić and B. Nušić |
| 11 | Useful phrases in Bosnian |
| 12 | Literature of the people of Bosnia & Herzegovina – I. Andrić, M. Selimović, M. Crnjanski, and M. Krleža |
| 13 | Conversation about Bosnian culture, art, theater plays, writing essays. |

* Based on our previous experiences, we would like to note that changes to the list included in the program are inevitable. It depends on how well the students comprehend the material and as the teachers are not fully familiar with the students' language levels at the beginning the topics can be added or postponed. Some of the topics that students will be interested in may be added, but others may be canceled. We kindly ask to take this issue into consideration.