

BIS 106**Byzantines and their neighbors in the region of SW Balkans and the Adriatic Sea (12th-15th cent.)**

The course aims to present the political conditions in the region of the SW Balkans and the Adriatic Sea during the late Middle Ages. Various forces, Western and Balkan, are involved in this particular region, which determined its idiosyncratic history. Byzantines, Albanians, Serbs, Italians and Ottomans collided and exchanged practices and perceptions at various levels. This exchange is explored through the analysis of war events, understanding the geostrategic importance of the region as defined by the intertwining of political and economic interests and delving into the cultural backgrounds of those involved. During the course, students undertake individual assignments on special issues, such as e.g. the Serbian expansion in Epirus or the Albanian migrations of the 14th century, etc., which are analyzed in depth together with the methods of writing a historical essay.

BIS 210**War conflicts and military movements in Byzantium: middle and late period**

The course examines the phenomenon of war in Byzantium during the middle and late period. The military experience is presented on the one hand (e.g. tactics and strategy of war, equipment of the Byzantine army, siege art, naval warfare, etc.), and on the other hand the strategy of the Byzantines, which contributed to the creation of the longest center of international power in the history of Western civilization. Thus, war is viewed as the product of an integrated system of values, traditions, beliefs and ideas. During the course, students undertake individual assignments on special issues, such as e.g. the role of fortifications or the war ideology of the Komnenian dynasty etc., which are analyzed in depth along with the methods of writing a scientific historical essay.