

Summer School in Sarajevo

Topic: Bosnia and Herzegovina between East and West

The Summer School entitled *Bosnia and Herzegovina between East and West* is aimed at the students from German-speaking countries, but also for everyone else fluent in German and English and interested in the region of Southeast Europe. The aim of this project is to get the participants acquainted with the historic as well as contemporary issues of the mutual influences of the east and west, which come together in the culture and everyday life in Bosnia and Herzegovina. Through seminars and discussions, the participants will be able to view all the particularities of this socio-political and cultural community, unique in Europe, through different perspectives. The languages of instruction are German and English.

Contents

The History of Bosnia and Herzegovina

The primary aim of this seminar is to acquire knowledge about the most important dates, data and events in the political, social and cultural history of Bosnia and Herzegovina, from the medieval period until the end of the 20th century. This review will look at the period of the founding of the independent Bosnian state in the Middle Ages, the period of non-Slavic or Ottoman and Austro-Hungarian rule, the creation and dissolution of the Kingdom of Yugoslavia and the SFR Yugoslavia. Therefore, the discussion will focus on the national ideologies and the process of creating a nation within the population of Bosnia and Herzegovina, as well as the influence of nationalism on the society. The second part of the seminar will focus on the nineteenth century, the period when Bosnia and Herzegovina found itself at the centre of interests of the great European forces. We will also reconstruct the development of Bosnia and Herzegovina under the Ottoman Empire, as a part of Oriental and Islamic culture. The closing discussion will address the issue of Islam on the Balkans or the so-called “Bosnian Islam”.

On the Link between Bosnia and Herzegovina and West

Attending the seminar, the participants will be acquainted with the basic connections between the Bosnian-Herzegovinian culture and the cultures of the German-speaking areas. Together with the lecturers, the participants will have the opportunity to discuss individual aspects of these intercultural links. The discussion will focus on the following topics: the Austro-Hungarian rule, and the culture of the so-called “Gastarbeiters”, created in the 90s, during the war in Bosnia and Herzegovina (1992-1995). An additional aspect of the discussion is the literary link between Bosnian and German literature, as exemplified by the works of Bosnian-Herzegovinian authors Ivo Andrić and Dževad Karahasan.

Intercultural Philology

The seminar in intercultural philology will address the particular linguistic possibilities for recognition and determination of the cultural differences, whereby the notion of culture is observed from the ethnological aspect. Through semiotic means and analytical lenses, the texts will be subject to a cultural analysis, in order to determine the possible differences between the German-speaking countries and Bosnia and Herzegovina.

The discussion will also address the “linguistic treasure” of Bosnia and Herzegovina, in the context of the spoken language, foreign words and other culture-specific terms.

The Bosnian Language Course

The Bosnian language course takes place every day and lasts from 3 to 4 hours. Upon completion of the course, the participants will be able to participate in simple conversations (shopping at markets and supermarkets, placing orders, finding specific locations and streets etc.)