

2008 Fall
CEUS-U320 #29852 & U520 #29853

Medieval Hungary at the Crossroads of East and West

Instructor: **Ágnes Fülemile** – Hungarian Chair Professor
Class: Tuesday – Thursday 11:15 – 12:30,
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The ancestors of the Hungarian people came to Europe from the Eurasian Steppe zone as a semi nomadic equestrian tribal population. The ancient Hungarians had vivid connections with various Iranian and Turkic peoples (including the Volga Bulgars, the Khazar Kaganate) and Byzantium. When they settled into the Carpathian basin at the turn of 9th and 10th centuries they already constituted an ethnically mixed populace. The Carpathian basin - the one-time territory of historic Hungary, was for many centuries a crossroad of migrations until and still after the Hungarian People started to inhabit the area. The early medieval kingdom

of Hungary maintained connections with the East and continued welcoming peoples of various ethnic and religious background, such as Pechenegs, Cumans, Jazygians, Moslems, Nestorians etc.

In the early and high middle ages there were several oriental characteristics preserved in warfare, social and political system, lifestyle and culture. The adoption of Western Christianity, Western European legal and social institutions and Western cultural and political orientation produced a specific, often ambiguous coexistence and conglomeration of Eastern and Western phenomena.

The course studies the transitional, intermediate position of Hungary and the Hungarian ethnicity in between East and West from the Hungarian ethno-genesis to the fall of Medieval Kingdom of Hungary to the Ottoman Turks in 1541. The course is an interdisciplinary course using data, approach and methods of history, art history and anthropology.

Assessment:

5-6 pp paper with a PowerPoint presentation in class	20 %
10-12 pp term paper for graduates, 7-8 pp for undergraduates	40%
In-class final paper (test, blank map, essay)	20 %
Seminar work: (class activity, reading reports, work with web sources)	20 %.