Dr. Anastasiia Grynko from the Mohyla School of Journalism in Kyiv will be a Postdoctoral Research Scholar at Columbia University in the fall, a position made possible by the generous support of the Petro Jacyk Fund. Dr. Grynko is a Deputy director for research and senior lecturer at the Mohyla School of Journalism. Her research interests include media ethics and transparency, media and democracy, media transformations in post-soviet countries, public relations and strategic communications, and media research methodology. In 2012 she defended (cum laude) her PhD-dissertation titled “Media transparency thought journalists interpretations: research in Ukraine” at the Autonomous University of Barcelona. As a researcher she has been involved in a number of research projects conducted with international and local partners (e.g. Internews Network, Reuters Foundation). As a communication and public relations professional Dr. Grynko continues to provide strategic counseling to non-governmental institutions and works as a media consultant at the Health and Media Initiative in Ukraine (Open Society Institute, New York).

At Columbia, Dr. Grynko will be teaching a course entitled “Media in Contemporary Ukraine.” (Day and time TBA). This course is devoted to the issues of media development and media practice in contemporary Ukraine and has three main goals. First, it heightens students’ awareness of the state of journalism in post-soviet Ukraine (after 1991) and history of media changes in light of broader political, economic, social and cultural transformations. Further, it introduces the evolution of Ukrainian media landscape, explains the structure of media ownership, its connection with political and business elites and examines recent changes in journalism culture and practice. Finally, it helps students develop a deeper understanding of the path of media development and democratization and invites them to discuss the ethical and professional challenges Ukrainian media organizations, individual journalists and civic activists face today and analyze specific media practices in the country.

Another course to be offered in fall 2013 is Ambassador Valerii Kuchynskyi’s "Ukrainian Foreign Policy: Russia, Europe and the US." Ambassador Kuchynskyi is the former Permanent Representative of Ukraine to the United Nations, a career diplomat who has been actively involved in the implementation of Ukraine's foreign policy for many years. His course, to be held on Tuesdays from 2:10-4PM, will deal with the performance of Ukraine on the international arena, and its relationship with major partners - Russia, Europe and the US - as well as with new emerging partners - China, India, Turkey and some countries of the Middle East. Special emphasis will be made on the assessment of current ties with Moscow and on the new trends in foreign policy doctrine. Issues of national security as well as the impact of the October 2012 Parliamentary election on the political situation in the country will be dealt with extensively.
In the fall, Dr. Yuri Shevchuk (Department of Slavic Languages and Literatures) will teach the course “Soviet, Post-Soviet, Colonial, and Postcolonial Cinema”. The course will overview discuss how filmmaking has been used as an instrument of power and imperial domination in the Soviet Union as well as on post-Soviet space since 1991. A body of select films by Soviet and post-Soviet directors which exemplify the function of filmmaking as a tool of appropriation of the colonized, their cultural and political subordination by the Soviet center will be examined in terms of postcolonial theories. The course will focus both on Russian cinema and on often overlooked work of Ukrainian, Georgian, Belarusian, Armenian, etc. national film schools and will examine how they participated in the communist project of fostering a “new historic community of the Soviet people” as well as resisted it by generating, in hidden and, since 1991, overt and increasingly assertive ways their own counter-narratives. Close attention will be paid to the new Russian film as it re-invents itself within the post-Soviet imperial momentum projected on the former Soviet colonies. This course will take place Tuesdays 6:10-10:00 PM.

Three levels of Ukrainian language instruction will be taught this fall by Dr. Shevchuk: Elementary on Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays from 8:40-9:55AM; Intermediate on Mondays and Wednesdays from 10:10-11:25AM; and Advanced on Mondays and Wednesdays 2:40-3:55PM.

Courses at Columbia are open to students from other universities in the New York metropolitan area seeking credit. Please contact the university at which you enrolled to determine whether it participates in this manner with Columbia University. Some course are also open to outside individuals interested in non-credit continuing studies. Additionally, through the Lifelong Learners program, individuals over 65 years of age who are interested in auditing courses, may enroll at a discount rate as Lifelong Learners. Please visit the Columbia University School of Continuing Education (http://www.ce.columbia.edu/auditing/?PID=28) for more details.

September 3rd is the first day of classes and September 13th is the final day to register for a class. For more information about courses or the Ukrainian Studies Program at Columbia University, please contact Dr. Mark Andryczyk at ukrainianstudies@columbia.edu or (212) 854-4697.