SPRING 2016 COURSES IN UKRAINIAN STUDIES

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BRAND NEW: CREATING IDENTITY IN CONTEMPORARY UKRAINIAN CULTURE

SLAVIC

W4054

Tuesdays and Thursdays 1:10-2:25PM

Instructor: Mark Andryczyk

This course presents and examines post-Soviet Ukrainian culture. Students will learn about the significant achievements, names, events, scandals and polemics in contemporary Ukrainian culture and will see how they have contributed to Ukraine’s post-Soviet identity. Centered on the most important successes in literature, the course will also explore the key developments in music and visual art of this period. The course will look at what images have come to represent Ukraine and how they were created. By also studying Ukrainian culture with regards to its relationship with Ukraine’s changing political life, students will obtain a good understanding of the dynamics of today’s Ukraine and the development of Ukrainians as a nation in the 21st century. The course will be complemented by audio and video presentations and, through the Harriman Institute’s on-going Contemporary Ukrainian Literature Series, will offer students unique access to several leading Ukrainian writers. Entirely in English with a parallel reading list for those who read Ukrainian.

Dr. Andryczyk can be reached at: ma2634@columbia.edu

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TODAY’S UKRAINE: POWER, POLITICS AND DIPLOMACY

Regional Institute

U8757

Tuesdays, 2:10pm-4:00pm

Instructor: Valerii Kuchynskyi

This seminar like course provides historical perspectives on the development of today’s Ukraine and analyses the evolution of its politics since Independence. While giving an assessment of political, social and economic transformations, the course examines major causes of ongoing turmoil in the country and analyses the military conflict unleashed by the Russian Federation. The course delivers first-hand insights by a career diplomat who has been actively involved in the implementation of Ukraine’s foreign policy and closely connected with the upper echelons of the country’s political establishment.

This format of the course will encourage active dialogue and analytical reflection on the part of the students. The professor regularly provides additional articles and analytical reviews to be discussed at each session. The students are to prepare a
mid-term and final papers exploring the prospects of Ukraine becoming a free, prosperous, democratic state and a member of European institutions or staying in the zone of Russian influence and the consequences thereof.

In addition to the classroom sessions there will be a half-day trip to Ukraine’s Mission to the UN to meet with the Ukrainian Permanent Representative and the staff.

The course is aimed at both graduate and advanced undergraduate students.

Ambassador Kuchynskyi can be reached at: vk2187@columbia.edu

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POST/SOVIETOLOGICAL DEBATES: CONTENTIOUS ISSUES AND NON-ISSUES IN SOVIET AND POST-SOVIET STUDIES
History
G9250
Wednesdays, 12:10-2PM
Instructor: Alexander Motyl

This is an interdisciplinary course that examines some of the major controversies and "non-controversies" in the study of the Soviet Union and its successor states-including East Central Europe-and thereby traces the evolution of post/Soviet studies in general and Ukrainian studies in particular in light of actual political, historical and artistic developments within the region. In particular, the course explores how scholarly disciplines, academic discourses, political controversies, and normative predispositions affect academic debates as well as how scholarship and the objects of scholarly study interact to affect conceptual, methodological, theoretical, and empirical understandings. The course focuses on the following questions: 1) The Russian Revolution: Did it come or was it made? 2) Was Stalinism inevitable? 3) Why was the Ukrainian famine of 1932-1933 invisible for over four decades? 4) Socialist realism: art or propaganda? 5) Are collaboration and resistance the only responses to despotism? 6) World War II or the Great Patriotic War? 7) Why was the totalitarianism-revisionism confrontation so contentious? 8) Why were the non-Russians marginalized by Soviet studies? 9) Did Sovietologists fail to predict the USSR’s collapse? 10) Why are Gorbachev and Yeltsin reviled and Putin adored? 11) Could the Soviet system be reformed? 12) What should post-Soviet societies remember? 13) What should post-Soviet museums display and whom should monuments commemorate?

Professor Motyl can be reached at: ajmotyl@andromeda.rutgers.edu

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HISTORY OF UKRAINE AS UNMAKING THE RUSSIAN AND SOVIET EMPIRES
History
W3271
Until its declaration of independence in 1991, Ukraine, Europe’s second-largest country, has been divided and controlled by Russia, Lithuania, Poland, Austria, Turkey and the Soviet Union. As a result, a history of Ukraine was interpreted as an integral component of the historical narratives of these neighboring countries, which governed the parts of Ukrainian territory. The Russian Empire and then the USSR have maintained their political control over Ukraine since 1654 until 1991 during the longest period of Ukrainian history. Eventually, the Russian and subsequently Soviet historical narrative prevailed in the interpretation of the Ukrainian past. In this interpretation, Ukraine lost its independent historical existence. Unfortunately, this Russian/Soviet historical narrative was adopted by historians in the West, particularly in the United States. Moreover, this narrative also ignored the crucial role of Ukraine not only in a formation of the medieval Russian civilization, beginning with Kievan Rus, but also in unmaking the Russian Empire in 1917, the Soviet Union in 1991, and its successor, the Commonwealth of Independent States, following Maidan Revolution and Russian annexation of Crimea in 2014.

This course challenges the traditional Russian/Soviet historical interpretations of Ukrainian history and examines the most important political, social, and cultural developments (from the ninth century to the present) in the history of various peoples who lived on the territory of what, since December 1991, is the independent Ukraine. The main focus of the course is to explore how these developments shaped various cultural identities of Ukrainian population, how they were used for the nationalist mobilization in formation of a modern nation in Ukraine, and how they affected the geopolitical situation today.

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ROCK-N-ROLL, WESTERN FILMS, AND A CRISIS OF SOVIET IDENTITY: PROBLEMS OF CULTURAL CONSUMPTION IN UKRAINE AFTER STALIN
History
W4271
Tuesdays, 2-3:30PM
Instructor: Dr. Sergei Zhuk

Traditionally, for their studies of late (after Stalin) socialism in the Soviet Union, a majority of post-Soviet and Western scholars use only material from Moscow and Leningrad/St. Petersburg, ignoring provincial cities and towns, especially in non-Russian Soviet republics such as Ukraine. This Moscow/Leningrad centered and Russian focused approach does not allow to understand not only the “late socialist” developments in provincial Soviet society, but also completely ignores and misinterprets the apparent anti-Soviet character of the recent political events in post-Soviet space such as Maidan Revolution. These recent events also
demonstrated the important role of cultural consumption and visual media in identity formation and national mobilization in post-Soviet politics.

Therefore, using the new research based on the archival material from Ukraine and the recent studies on cultural production and consumption, this seminar challenges the traditional Moscow-centered interpretations of Soviet History and explores how consumption of the western cultural products, such as popular music, books and movies, contributed to the crisis of Soviet identity in Ukraine after Stalin. This seminar also offers a historical comparison of the popular cultural consumption in the West and Soviet Ukraine during the Cold War between 1953 and 1991, showing a process of indigenization of Western popular culture in the Ukrainian context. Major focus of seminar’s discussions is on historical role of popular music, films and television in identity formation and cultural politics in Soviet and post-Soviet Ukraine. Students will read a core set of course reading as noted below, but will be expected to develop their own research/reading projects on a topic of their individual interest – to be approved by the instructor.

Dr. Zhuk can be reached at: sizhuk@bsu.edu

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ELEMENTARY UKRAINIAN II
Slavic
W1102
Mondays, Wednesdays, and Fridays, 8:40am-9:55am
Instructor: Yuri Shevchuk

Designed for students with little or no knowledge of Ukrainian. Basic grammar structures are introduced and reinforced, with equal emphasis on developing oral and written communication skills. Specific attention to acquisition of high-frequency vocabulary and its optimal use in real-life settings.

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INTERMEDIATE UKRAINIAN II
Slavic
W1202
Mondays, Wednesdays, and Fridays, 10:10am-11:25am
Instructor: Yuri Shevchuk;

Prerequisites: UKRN W1102 or the equivalent. Reviews and reinforces the fundamentals of grammar and a core vocabulary from daily life. Principal emphasis is placed on further development of communicative skills (oral and written). Verbal aspect and verbs of motion receive special attention.

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ADVANCED UKRAINIAN II
Slavic
W4002  
Mondays and Wednesdays, 1:10pm-2:25pm  
Instructor: Yuri Shevchuk

Prerequisites: UKRN W1202 or the equivalent. The course is for students who wish to develop their mastery of Ukrainian. Further study of grammar includes patterns of word formation, participles, gerunds, declension of numerals, and a more in-depth study of difficult subjects, such as verbal aspect and verbs of motion. The material is drawn from classical and contemporary Ukrainian literature, press, electronic media, and film. Taught almost exclusively in Ukrainian.

Dr. Shevchuk can be reached at: sy2165@columbia.edu

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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 courses 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.

January 19th is the first day of classes and January 29th 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.