

The following courses fulfill the regional course requirements for the Harriman Institute/East Central European Certificate, the MA in Regional Studies: Russia, Eurasia, and Eastern Europe (MARS-REERS), and the SIPA Regional Specialization. Further course details may be found by visiting the appropriate department's website.

Please Note: Any course marked with an asterisk (***) must be approved for regional credit by a Harriman advisor prior to enrollment. For Harriman approval of courses not listed which you believe may fulfill regional requirements, please contact [Rebecca Dalton](#) or [Elise Giuliano](#).

Regional Languages: The following languages satisfy the Harriman Certificate & MARS-REERS language requirements and are currently being offered: Armenian, Czech, Hungarian, ***Persian, Polish, Romanian, Russian, Serbo-Croatian-Bosnian, ***Turkish, Ukrainian, and Yiddish. Please consult the Directory of Classes for language times and sections.

Room assignments and class schedules are subject to change. Please consult the Columbia Directory of Classes on-line at www.columbia.edu/cu/bulletin/uwb for final confirmation.

Anthropology

RELIGION IN EMPIRE

Anthropology GU4747 Call Number: 17294 **Points:** 4

Day/Time: W 12:10pm-2:00pm **Location:** To be announced

Notes: Instructor's permission required

Instructor: Jame Meador

This upper-level seminar explores how state institutions governed religious difference in two of the largest empires in history. It does so by comparing and evaluating several distinct scholarly approaches to empire across a range of English language studies focused on the Russian and Chinese Qing empires. The empirical focus of this course is accordingly on the interface between communities of religious practice and state institutions, rather than these communities on their own terms. After examining each empire's state religion and institutions of religious governance, a significant portion of the remainder of the course will be devoted to the Muslim and Buddhist minorities who lived in both empires. Through these and other examples, the course seeks to understand religion's place in the social fabric of empire, and to consider what this might imply about its role in their collapse.

Bosnian, Croatian, Serbian

ADVANCED BOSNIAN/CROATIAN/SERBIAN

Bosnian, Croatian, Serbian GU4332 Call Number: 13735 **Points:** 3

Day/Time: TW 1:10pm-2:25pm **Location:** To be announced

Instructor: Aleksandar Boskovic

Comparative Literature: Czech

THE WRITERS OF PRAGUE

Please Note: Any course marked with an asterisk (***) must be pre-approved for regional credit by a Harriman advisor (see Page 1).

Comparative Literature: Czech GU4035 Call Number: 11535 Points: 3**Day/Time:** TR 2:40pm-3:55pm **Location:** To be announced**Instructor:** Christopher W Harwood

After providing an overview of the history of Prague and the Czech lands from earliest times, the course will focus on works by Prague writers from the years 1895-1938, when the city was a truly multicultural urban center. Special attention will be given to each of the groups that contributed to Prague's cultural diversity in this period: the Austro-German minority, which held disproportionate social, political and economic influence until 1918; the Czech majority, which made Prague the capital of the democratic First Czechoslovak Republic (1918-1938); the German- and Czech-speaking Jewish communities, which were almost entirely wiped out between 1938 and 1945; and the Russian and Ukrainian émigré community, which—thanks in large part to support from the Czechoslovak government—maintained a robust, independent cultural presence through the 1920s and early 1930s. Through close reading and analysis of works of poetry, drama, prose fiction, reportage, literary correspondence and essays, the course will trace common themes that preoccupied more than one Prague writer of this period. In compiling and comparing different versions of cultural myth, it will consider the applicability of various possible definitions of the literary genius loci of Prague.

Comparative Literature: Russian**CHEKHOV AND OTHERS****Comparative Literature: Russian GU4039 Call Number: 11540 Points: 3****Day/Time:** MW 2:40pm-3:55pm **Location:** To be announced**Instructor:** Liza Knapp

We will explore Anton Chekhov's work on its own terms, in its cultural context, and in relation to the work of others, especially Anglophone writers who responded, directly or indirectly, to Chekhov and his work. Readings by Chekhov include selected stories (short and long), his four major plays, and *Sakhalin Island*, his study of the Russian penal colony.

There are no prerequisites. Knowledge of Russian is not required; all readings in English.

Students who know Russian are encouraged to read Chekhov's work in Russian.

The course will be comparative as it addresses Chekhov on his own and in relation to anglophone writers.

The course is open to undergraduates (CC, GS, BC) and graduates in GSAS and other schools. The attention to *how* Chekhov writes may interest students in the School of the Arts.

THE ROAD TO POWER: MARXISM IN GERMANY**Comparative Literature: Russian GU4214 Call Number: 13134 Points: 3****Day/Time:** M 2:10pm-4:00pm **Location:** To be announced**Instructor:** Adam Leeds

Before Marxism was an academic theory, it was a political movement, but it was not led by Marx. This course examines the years in between, when a new generation began the task of building the organizations, practices, and animating theories that came to define "Marxism" for the twentieth century. Two of the most important such organizations were the German and Russian Social Democratic Parties. Responding to

dramatically different contexts, and coming to equally different ends, they nevertheless developed organically interconnected. This course selects key episodes from the road to power of both parties, from their founding to the Russian Revolution— what might be called the “Golden Age” of Marxism. This course is open to all undergraduates who have completed Contemporary Civilization.

Czech

READINGS IN CZECH LITERATURE II

Czech GU4334 Call Number: 11529 **Points:** 3

Day/Time: MW 10:10am-11:25am **Location:** To be announced

Instructor: Christopher W Harwood

Prerequisites: two years of college Czech or the equivalent. A close study in the original of representative works of Czech literature. Discussion and writing assignments in Czech aimed at developing advanced language proficiency.

Georgian

EXPRESSIVE CULTURE OF SOVIET AND INDEPENDENT GEORGIA

Georgian GU4042 Call Number: 11790 **Points:** 3

Day/Time: W 10:10am-12:00pm **Location:** To be announced

Instructor: Lauren E Ninoshvili

Expressive culture in the form of traditional and mediated performing and visual arts, film and literature has reflected and shaped modern Georgian social life in immeasurable ways. This seminar brings anthropological perspectives to bear on how expressive culture has served to articulate national and local senses of identity, grappled with collective trauma, and forged avant-garde creative networks within and beyond Georgia’s borders in the socialist and postsocialist periods. The course is organized in three units: it begins by interrogating the curatorial interventions of international organizations like UNESCO and their role in commodifying Georgian culture for global markets, proceeds by exploring powerful creative responses to colonial and totalitarian experience, and concludes by focusing on the capital city of Tbilisi—its built spaces, ever-changing social configurations, and shifting value systems—as a persistent muse in expressive cultural forms.

There are no prerequisites and the course assumes no prior knowledge of Georgian history, language, or culture.

History

A GLOBAL HISTORY OF EAST CENTRAL EUROPE BEFORE THE MODERN TIMES

History GU4255 Call Number: 17274 **Points:** 4

Day/Time: M 10:10am-12:00pm **Location:** To be announced

Instructor: András Vadas

Looking at Central and Eastern Europe through the systematic application of transnational methods and from a truly global perspective can offer original and valuable insights. Central and Eastern Europe has tended to be a semi-peripheral area in the global scheme of things, and it has thus been much closer to the

global average than some of the parts of the world on which much of recent global historiography has focused. Central and Eastern European countries have also developed numerous and still underexplored intercontinental connections outside the Western core that should be of special interest in our age of multipolarity. At the same time, it can be assumed that this diverse area, as a peripheral part of Europe in a formerly largely Eurocentric world. The global history of the region is not intended to exaggerate the role Central and Eastern Europe played in transcontinental processes in the last millennia. It rather aims to show how the diverse people of the region have come to be interconnected with and shaped by phenomena originating in all the various parts of the globe, transnational and global trends that certainly have exerted a much greater impact on their country's multifaceted history than the other way round.

The course does not intend to deconstruct national narratives as such. It attempts to substantially enrich such narratives and reconceptualize them for an age of manifold global interconnectedness. To put it differently, the words "East Central European" and "global" are equally significant parts of the course's title. It aims to re-contextualize medieval and early modern histories of Hungary, Bohemia, and Poland by looking at global processes in their regional context rather than looking at the region as an exceptional and distinct area. While the region has traditionally been described in scholarship as the periphery of Western Christianity, there has been little understanding of the region as an area with close ties towards the Eastern Mediterranean (Byzantium), towards Eastern Europe (towards the Rus) and how global processes such as climate change, trade connections, political representation or artistic changes reached (and spread from) the region.

A CULTURAL HISTORY OF THE SOVIET CENTURY

History GU4279 Call Number: 17228 **Points:** 4

Day/Time: W 12:10pm-2:00pm **Location:** To be announced

Notes: Add to waitlist & see instructions on ssol

Instructor: Alexandra Birch

In the English-language literature, the history of the Soviet Union is often dominated by the Cold War. As a result, events central to the lives of Soviet citizens are viewed within a wider geopolitical context that often overlooks regional and ethnic specificity. Cultural products from music, film, dance, and literature provide insight into individual and collective responses to traumatic events. In this course, students study the history of the USSR through the lens of memory and trauma studies by analyzing cultural artifacts as a form of testimony and social history. This course engages with varied cultural products chronologically from the formation of the Union and Revolution through Soviet collapse and the kleptocratic rise of Putin. Materials include poetry and prose by Solzhenitsyn, Mandelstam, and Akhmatova, music by Shostakovich, Prokofiev, and Vysotski, primary sources and speeches, and historical analyses by Kotkin, Snyder, and Fitzpatrick. To present a de-Russified view of the USSR, materials also include those produced by marginalized Soviet populations like Indigenous and Eveny scholars, Holocaust and GULAG survivors, and veterans.

International Affairs

*****INTERNET GOVERNANCE AND HUMAN RIGHTS**

International Affairs U6202 Call Number: 10389 **Points:** 3

Day/Time: W 6:10pm-8:00pm **Location:** To be announced

Instructor: Peter Micek

Whoever controls the future of the internet, controls the future of the world. We'll look at the technical roots of the internet, and the people and entities -- telecom companies and their regulators, technologists and idealists, security forces and hackers -- shaping it today. Each group faces challenges. Policymakers have reached consensus that human rights apply online, but need to update and replace laws, regulations, and norms for the digital age. Companies have responsibilities to law and policy, but vary widely in their respect for users and governments. The UN Sustainable Development Goals identify internet access as essential to development, but policy environments fail to extend connectivity to vulnerable or marginalized communities. And the cat-and-mouse game between cyber offense and defense continues, leaving many less-resourced groups -- and the right to privacy -- lagging behind. Will national sovereignty reassert itself, breaking the internet, or will the vision of a borderless cyberspace prevail? Will the European approach to data protection set global standards? Does network neutrality function amidst the internet of everything? To find the answers, we nimbly role-play, enjoy small group activities, welcome guest experts, and hone tech policy skills under time pressure. Expect to participate frequently, and learn to navigate the most pressing issues facing companies, governments, and technologists today.

*****FOUNDATIONS OF CYBERCONFLICT**

International Affairs U6383 Call Number: 10403 Points: 3

Day/Time: T 4:10pm-6:00pm Location: To be announced

Instructor: Jason Healey

This class examines the dynamics of cyber conflict. We will focus less on the technology of cyberspace than the national security threats, challenges, and policy responses including lessons from history and other kinds of conflict. After taking this course, you will understand about the Internet and Internet-based attacks; how cyber conflicts unfold at the tactical and strategic levels; how cyber conflicts and cyber power are different or similar to conflict and power in other domains; the evolution of US cyber policies and organizations; as well as legal issues and the policies and organizations of other nations. The centerpiece of the course is an exercise to reinforce the fundamentals of national security response to a major cyber incident. Accordingly, you will demonstrate the ability to formulate policy recommendations in the face of the uncertainties of an unfolding cyber conflict.

Polish

ADVANCED POLISH II

Polish 4102GU Call Number: 13756 Points: 3

Day/Time: TR 1:10pm-2:25pm Location: To be announced

Instructor: Christopher Caes

Prerequisites: two years of college Polish or the instructors permission. Extensive readings from 19th- and 20th-century texts in the original. Both fiction and nonfiction, with emphasis depending on the interests and needs of individual students.

Regional Institute

ENERGY, CORPORATE RESPONSIBILITY & HUMAN RIGHTS

Regional Institute U6149 Call Number: 11359 Points: 3

Day/Time: TR 4:10pm-5:25pm Location: To be announced

Instructor: Jenik Radon

This class examines how to reconcile the differing/conflicting interests/goals of energy, and mining, companies and the public interest (e.g. governments); how to negotiate PPP agreements; understand the function/impact of laws and international trade agreements; and determine how CSR, especially environment and anti-corruption, and human rights apply. Case studies of multi-billion international energy pipeline projects, including TAP in Albania and Greece, TAPI in Turkmenistan, Afghanistan, Pakistan and India, BTC in Georgian and the Caucasus and , for comparative purposes, the controversial Keystone in US and Canada, will be the prism/focus for analysis. The class is dynamic and cross-disciplinary.

POST-SOVIET GEOPOLITICS

Regional Institute U6536 Call Number: 16262 **Points:** 1.5

Day/Time: W 2:10pm-4:00pm **Location:** To be announced

Notes: SIPA Subterm A

Instructor: Renata Mustafina

This 7-week class is designed as a journey through the complex geopolitics of the post-Soviet region, mediated by cultural artifacts, infrastructural objects, specific sites, and landscapes. The class adopts a bottom-up approach to geopolitics, moving beyond state-centric or national-level understandings of international politics to focus on the everyday experience of geopolitics at the micro level (Bono & Stoffelen, 2020; Dodds, 2019; Gaufman, 2023*). Each session aims to locate the “international” and ground various geopolitical processes in both practice and place. This perspective provides a starting point for discussing major geopolitical issues such as war, political violence, ethnic conflict, and energy crises. The six case studies—varied in both time and space—are carefully selected to offer students a glimpse of the diverse geopolitical dynamics in the region, as well as analytical frameworks that can be useful in approaching these dynamics. The seminar adopts an interdisciplinary perspective, engaging with political science, anthropology, literature, geography, and law. In addition to academic research, the seminar will incorporate visuals (photos, maps, videos) to help convey this often physically distant social reality.

GLOBAL RELIANCE ON RUSSIAN ENERGY

Regional Institute U6538 Call Number: 11360 **Points:** 3

Day/Time: W 4:10pm-6:00pm **Location:** 1219 International Affairs Building

Instructor: Natasha Udensiva

Russia’s unprovoked war in Ukraine dramatically changed the world energy landscape and created one of the primary energy crises in the world. The Russian Federation is the world's largest energy exporter of fossil fuels. However, shocked by the war, the West imposed sanctions on the Russian energy sector. The course will discuss a significant energy geopolitical shift happening worldwide because of the war. We will focus on how the EU navigates this crisis and how Russia tries to escape sanctions. What new energy alliances appear, and what disappear because of this war?

PUTIN AND GLOBAL ANTI-AMERICANISM

Regional Institute U6552 Call Number: 16263 **Points:** 1.5

Day/Time: W 2:10pm-4:00pm **Location:** To be announced

Notes: SIPA Subterm B

Instructor: Mikhail Zygar

This course explores the development of relations between Russia and the United States from the end of the Cold War to the present day. It also reveals a broader trend: in the early 1990s, it seemed that Western liberal values were triumphant worldwide. However, as Russia failed to transition into a democratic state,

anti-Americanism and revanchism began to flourish. After becoming president, Vladimir Putin exploited these sentiments, ultimately making anti-Americanism a central aspect of his international political agenda. Russian propaganda has not only influenced the Russian population but also seeks to spread these ideas and conspiracy theories beyond Russia's borders. As an inherently unstable political system, Russia aims to destabilize the West. The course concludes with an analysis of present-day dynamics.

POLITICS OF THE CAUCASUS

Regional Institute U6562 Call Number: 11362 Points: 3

Day/Time: T 11:00am-12:50pm **Location:** To be announced

Instructor: Julie George

This course tracks the trajectories of politics in the Caucasus, focusing on the political development of the independent states of the South Caucasus: Armenia, Azerbaijan, and Georgia. While the focus is on contemporary political dynamics, the course considers the mechanisms through which the legacies of Imperial Russian expansion and Soviet structures interact with current mechanisms of interest articulation and power. Students in this course will examine the contours and mechanisms of the collapse of Soviet hegemony in the South Caucasus, spending some time examining the conflicts that accompanied this process and persist today. The course will address the country contexts both individually and comparatively, thereby encouraging students to delve deeply into the politics of each state, but then also enabling them to find continuities and contrasts across major thematic considerations.

UKRAINE: POWER POLITICS & DIPLOMACY

Regional Institute U8755 Call Number: 11363 Points: 3

Day/Time: W 11:00am-12:50pm **Location:** To be announced

Instructor: Valerii Kuchynskyi and Alexander J Motyl

The seminar-like course consists of three parts: Historical Background, Thematic and Political Issues and Conclusions. It provides historical perspectives on the development of today's Ukraine, analyzes the evolution of its politics since Independence and its quest for Euroatlantic integration. While providing an assessment of political, social and economic transformations, the course examines major causes of Euromaidan and the Revolution of Dignity. The current political situation in the country and an ongoing military conflict are thoroughly investigated. The results of the 2019 Presidential and Parliamentary election and its impact will also be analyzed in detail. What are the chances by the new Government to reach a "peaceful solution" in the Donbass, eradicate corruption, improve economic situation and implement reforms? Is there a future for the Minsk accords? What's the significance of the Normandy Summit? These and other issues, including behind-the-scenes activities, power struggle and diplomatic activities, are dealt with in the newly revised course delivered by a career diplomat. The 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 on current political situation to be discussed at each session. During the course each student is 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.

Russian

CHTENIIA PO RUSSKOI LITERATURE: *Voina i mir*

Russian GU4338 Call Number: 11538 Points: 3

Day/Time: TR 2:40pm-3:55pm **Location:** To be announced

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Instructor: Irina Reyfman

PRACTICAL STYLISTICS-RUSSIAN LANG

Russian GU4434 Call Number: 11531 **Points:** 3

Day/Time: TR 1:10pm-2:25pm **Location:** To be announced

Instructor: Irina Reyfman

Prerequisites: RUSS W4334 or the equivalent or the instructor's permission. Prerequisite: four years of college Russian or instructor's permission. The course will focus on theoretical matters of language and style and on the practical aspect of improving students' writing skills. Theoretical aspects of Russian style and specific Russian stylistic conventions will be combined with the analysis of student papers and translation assignments, as well as exercises focusing on reviewing certain specific difficulties in mastering written Russian.

LITERARY TRANSLATION

Russian GU4910 Call Number: 13953 **Points:** 4

Day/Time: M 4:10pm-6:00pm **Location:** To be announced

Instructor: Ronald Meyer

Prerequisites: four years of college Russian or the equivalent. Workshop in literary translation from Russian into English focusing on the practical problems of the craft. Each student submits a translation of a literary text for group study and criticism. The aim is to produce translations of publishable quality.

RUSSIAN ORTHODOX CULTURE

Russian GR6142 Call Number: 11533 **Points:** 4

Day/Time: W 4:10pm-6:00pm **Location:** To be announced

Instructor: Valentina Izmirlieva

From Prince Valdimir's Rus' to the Post-Soviet Russia of Vladimir Putin, religion has remained a key factor in the making and remaking of Russian polity and culture. This course will explore how Orthodox Christianity—whether privileged or persecuted—came to dominate the Russian religious scene and shape Russian institutions, discourses, and lived experiences. Students will draw from a variety of primary and secondary sources—chronicles, saints' lives, travel narratives, memoirs, letters, legal documents, icons and other ritual objects, films and fictional texts, as well as a large body of scholarly works and contemporary media materials—to examine how Russia's Orthodox past and its rewriting into competing "histories" have been used over time as "legacies" shaping the present and the future.

LATE SOVIET UNDERGROUND LITERATURE AND ART

Russian GR6511 Call Number: 11532 **Points:** 4

Day/Time: R 2:10pm-4:00pm **Location:** To be announced

Instructors: Mark Lipovetsky

The Soviet underground constitutes a highly important example of alternative culture that developed in the USSR outside of restraints of censorship, albeit not in a full isolation from Soviet environment. The goal of the course is to familiarize students with this rich legacy as the extrapolation of interrupted trajectories of Russian modernism and the avant-garde as well as underdeveloped tendencies that can form a foundation for new Russian culture of the 21st century. The course, if approved, can be offered in several iterations,

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each time with a focus on a particular genre. This version of the syllabus focuses on prose and dramaturgy, but there can be a syllabus on poetry, performance, and visual art in any combination.

Ukrainian

ADVANCED UKRAINIAN THROUGH LITERATURE MEDIA AND POLITICS II

Ukrainian GU 4007 Call Number: 11574 **Points:** 3

Day/Time: MW 1:10pm-2:25pm **Location:** To be announced

Instructor: Yuri Shevchuk

This course is organized around a number of thematic centers or modules. Each is focused on stylistic peculiarities typical of a given functional style of the Ukrainian language. Each is designed to assist the student in acquiring an active command of lexical, grammatical, discourse, and stylistic traits that distinguish one style from the others and actively using them in real-life communicative settings in contemporary Ukraine. The styles include literary fiction, scholarly prose, and journalism, both printed and broadcast

FIN DE SIECLE UKRAINIAN LITERATURE

Ukrainian GU4033 Call Number: 11868 **Points:** 3

Day/Time: TR 1:10pm-2:25pm **Location:** To be announced

Instructor: Mark Andryczyk

The course focuses on the emergence of modernism in Ukrainian literature in the late 19th century and early 20th century, a period marked by a vigorous, often biting, polemic between the populist Ukrainian literary establishment and young Ukrainian writers who were inspired by their European counterparts. Students will read prose, poetry, and drama written by Ivan Franko, the writers of the Moloda Muza, Olha Kobylanska, Lesia Ukrainka, and Volodymyr Vynnychenko among others. The course will trace the introduction of feminism, urban motifs and settings, as well as decadence, into Ukrainian literature and will analyze the conflict that ensued among Ukrainian intellectuals as they shaped the identity of the Ukrainian people. The course will be supplemented by audio and visual materials reflecting this period in Ukrainian culture. Entirely in English with a parallel reading list for those who read Ukrainian.

Not Yet Listed

RESOURCES AND REGIMES: ENVIRONMENTAL HISTORIES OF CENTRAL EUROPE

History GU4XXX Call Number: Not yet listed **Points:**

Day/Time: To be announced **Location:** to be announced

Instructor: Andras Vadas

Environmental historical research began to intensify in the 1960s to interpret human history through the lens of historical and ecological processes. This framework of interpretation gained impetus with the growing concerns of environmental degradation, pollution, and man-induced climate change. The course is intended to demonstrate the intricate relationship and the intertwined nature of societies with their environments using case studies and examples from Central Europe. Firstly, there will be a review of how environmental history thinks of processes in the disciplines and sub-disciplines that have developed and what approaches exist in the field to human-nature relations. Then sources the discipline utilizes will be overviewed. Classes then look at the formation of water management systems, forest utilization, the exploitation of soil and mineral goods, and the impact of the different political, economic, and social changes on the landscapes from the period of state formations in the region (ca. tenth – eleventh centuries)

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to the change of regimes at the turning of the 1980s and the 1990s. While the main focus will be on the long-term changes, case studies look at short-term environmental processes – floods, droughts, sea surges, tornadoes, epidemic diseases – to introduce concepts of resilience and vulnerability.

WAR AND PEACE: EXPLORING CONTEMPORARY UKRAINE

History GU4XXX Call Number: not yet listed **Points:** 4

Day/Time: not yet listed **Location:** To be announced

Instructor: Serhiy Bilenky

On 24 February 2022 Russia attacked Ukraine. How did we get there? This course will explore the complex relationship between Ukraine, Russia, and the West on the eve of Russia's war in Ukraine. We will cover Ukraine's pre-Soviet, Soviet, and post-Soviet history, with special attention to the country's current political, social, and cultural issues, including the legacies of the past in post-1991 Ukraine, corruption, the power of oligarchs, the role of mass civic protests such as Euromaidan, Ukraine's new cultural achievements, decommunization, post-Soviet urbanism, and the shaping of an inclusive civic identity and the challenge of radical nationalism in the wake of the Russian invasion. The seminar will also provide students with tools for verifying information in the fast-moving context of war. Finally, students will be asked to think about and develop postwar scenarios.

BETWEEN EMPIRE AND NATION: UKRAINE, 1772-1917

History GR6999 Call Number: Not yet listed **Points:** 4

Day/Time: To be announced **Location:** To be announced

Instructor: Serhiy Belinky

The focus of this 3000-level seminar is on the imperial experience of Ukraine and complex relations between tradition and modernity. When the powers of Europe were at their prime, present-day Ukraine was divided between the Austrian and Russian empires. Despite being subjected to different and conflicting power models during this time, Ukraine was not only imagined as a distinct entity with a unique culture and history but was also realized as a set of social and political institutions. In this seminar, we will explore such topics as the imperial expansionism; colonialism; antisemitism; the central role of cities and urbanization; the rise of nationalism; Ukraine's multiethnic society; and why empires fall, among others. Students learn why studying Ukraine is essential for our understanding of the modern world. We will use a variety of sources, including literary and visual. The course is open to both undergraduate and graduate students.