

## **SPRING 2026 COURSES IN UKRAINIAN STUDIES**

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### **SOVIET UKRAINIAN MODERNISM: REVOLUTIONS, REBIRTH, AND EXPERIMENTATION**

Slavic

GU4037

Points: 3

Tuesday and Thursdays, 1:10PM-2:25PM

Instructor: Mark Andryczyk

This course studies the renaissance in Ukrainian culture of the 1920s - a period of revolution, experimentation, vibrant expression and polemics. Focusing on the most important developments in literature, as well as on the intellectual debates they inspired, the course will also examine the major achievements in Ukrainian theater, visual art and film as integral components of the cultural spirit that defined the era. Additionally, the course also looks at the subsequent implementation of the socialist realism and its impact on Ukrainian culture and on the cultural leaders of the renaissance. The course treats one of the most important periods of Ukrainian culture and examines its lasting impact on today's Ukraine. This period produced several world-renowned cultural figures, whose connections with 1920s Ukraine have only recently begun to be discussed. The course will be complemented by film screenings, and presentations of visual art and rare publications from this period. Entirely in English with a parallel reading list for those who read Ukrainian.

Mark Andryczyk can be reached at [ma2634@columbia.edu](mailto:ma2634@columbia.edu)

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### **UKRAINE: POWER POLITICS AND DIPLOMACY**

Regional Institute

U8755

Points: 3

Wednesdays, 10:00-11:50AM

Instructor: Alexander J. Motyl

The course focusses on the historical background of contemporary Ukraine and its post-independence efforts to establish itself as a Western democracy and market economy. Particular attention will be paid to the ongoing Russo-Ukrainian War. The course is aimed at both graduate and advanced undergraduate students. It will be conducted as a colloquium/seminar with some lecturing by the professor and three guest appearances via Zoom.

Requirements: Active participation and two in-depth oral presentations discussing the key issues raised by that week's readings. Students are encouraged to consult the Recommended Readings.

Alexander J. Motyl can be reached at [ajmotyl@rutgers.edu](mailto:ajmotyl@rutgers.edu)

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## **ELEMENTARY UKRAINIAN II**

Slavic

UN1102

Points: 4

Mondays, Wednesdays, and Thursday, 11:40AM-12:55PM

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

UN2102

Points: 4

Mondays, Wednesdays, and Thursday, 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 THROUGH LITERATURE, MEDIA, AND POLITICS II**

Slavic

GU4007

Points: 3

Mondays and Wednesdays, 1:10PM-2:25PM

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.

Yuri Shevchuk can be reached at: [sy2165@columbia.edu](mailto:sy2165@columbia.edu)

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**BREADBASKET, BORDERLAND, BATTLEGROUND: ECONOMY, SPACE, & POWER  
IN UKRAINE, CA. 750 BCE – 2026 AD**

History

HIST 2319

Points: 4

Mondays and Wednesdays, 1:10-2:25 PM

Instructor: Andrey Shlyakhter

Why has Ukraine so often been a fulcrum of European and Eurasian history – and what does geography have to do with it? Adopting a long-term perspective that centers on the dynamic interplay of economy, space, and political power, we will investigate how Ukraine's geography – its richness in natural resources and trade routes; its centrality as a crossroads between sea, settlement, and steppe, and between rival religious, imperial, and national projects; its vastness, which fostered divergent developmental trajectories and deep regional diversity; and its openness, which offered few natural barriers to contact and conquest – have shaped the country's history from antiquity to the present. Throughout, we ask how economic activity and spatial configurations – cities, shtetls, and homesteads; market squares and cafes; ports and railways; vast expanses and shrinking distances – shaped group identities, center-periphery relations, and foreign entanglements. This is a lecture course with a discussion component; no prerequisites.

Andrey Shlyakhter can be reached at [as7997@columbia.edu](mailto:as7997@columbia.edu)

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**DEBATING THE HOLODOMOR**

History

HIST 4334

Points: 4

Mondays, 4:10-6 PM

Location: 1201 IAB

Instructor: Andrey Shlyakhter

Why did millions of Ukrainians starve under Stalin? In this seminar, we will engage with the contentious historiography of the Ukrainian famine of 1932-34 – a defining event of Ukrainian and Soviet history, and an essential touchstone for understanding the Russo-Ukrainian War today. Without losing sight of the famine's human tragedy, we will focus especially on questions of causality, intent, and agency at multiple levels, from the Kremlin to the village. Drawing on studies of other famines within and outside the Soviet context (Russia, Kazakhstan, and China), participants will develop a robust comparative toolkit. We will highlight recent historiographical advances, explore newly accessible primary sources, and identify remaining gaps in the scholarship. Students will also gain hands-on experience with historical GIS to interpret regional variation in famine outcomes within Soviet Ukraine, and will synthesize historiography with original primary-source analysis to advance a significant research question.

Andrey Shlyakhter can be reached at [as7997@columbia.edu](mailto:as7997@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. Please visit the Columbia University School of Professional Studies (<https://sps.columbia.edu/academics/auditing-programs>) for more details.

January 20th is the first day of classes. For more information about courses or the Ukrainian Studies Program at Columbia University, please contact Dr. Mark Andryczyk at [ukrainianstudies@columbia.edu](mailto:ukrainianstudies@columbia.edu) or (212) 854-4697.