

Brand New: Creating Identity in Contemporary Ukrainian Culture

UKRN GU4054

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

Instructor: Mark Andryczyk (ma2634@columbia.edu)

This course presents and examines post-Soviet Ukrainian literature. Students will learn about the significant achievements, names, events, scandals and polemics in contemporary Ukrainian literature and will see how they have contributed to Ukraine's post-Soviet identity. Students will examine how Ukrainian literature became an important site for experimentation with language, for providing feminist perspectives, for engaging previously-banned taboos and for deconstructing Soviet and Ukrainian national myths. Among the writers to be focused on in the course are Serhiy Zhadan, Yuri Andrukhovych, Oksana Zabuzhko and Taras Prokhasko. Centered on the most important successes in literature, the course will also explore key developments in music and visual art of this period. Special focus will be given to how the 2013/2014 Euromaidan revolution and war are treated in today's literature. By also studying Ukrainian literature 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. Entirely in English with a parallel reading list for those who read Ukrainian.

Modern Ukraine: An Eastern European History of a Borderland

HIST UN2218

HIST GR6998 (Graduate section)

Mondays and Wednesdays, 4:10-5:25PM

Instructor: Iaroslav Kovalchuk (ik2656@columbia.edu)

This course surveys the history of Ukraine from the nineteenth century to the present, tracing its transformation from a contested imperial borderland into an independent nation-state at the center of European and global politics. Topics include Ukrainian national awakening under Russian and Habsburg rule, the Revolution of 1917–1921 and the short-lived Ukrainian People's Republic, Soviet nationality policies and the Holodomor, World War II and the Holocaust in Ukraine, Soviet late socialism and Ukraine's independence in 1991, the Orange Revolution and Euromaidan, and the ongoing Russo-Ukrainian War. Students will engage with primary sources — state documents, literary texts, memoirs, maps, and photographs — alongside secondary scholarship, and will develop skills in historical argumentation and source analysis. No prior knowledge of Eastern European history is required.

Elementary Ukrainian I

UKRN UN1101

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

Instructor: Yana Prymachenko (yp2848@columbia.edu)

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.

Intermediate Ukrainian I

UKRN UN2101

Mondays, Wednesdays, and Thursdays, 10:10-11:25AM

Instructor: Yana Prymachenko (yp2848@columbia.edu)

Prerequisites: UKRN UN1102 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.

Agents of Change: Ukrainian Art Between Revolutions

UKRN GU4121

Mondays, 2:10-4PM

Instructor: Olena Martynyuk (om2327@columbia.edu)

The course will trace the appearance of the avant-garde on the territory of the Russian Empire with a focus on Ukrainian art as compared to Russian. Examining the art aspiring not only to reflect but to alter the reality originating both in the center and the periphery, the class will explore the array of strategies employed by art for that end. The foundational theories of avant-garde, non-conformism, and dissident art will be studied alongside the most celebrated and influential examples of innovative and radical art from the region. Beginning with socially minded realist practices, the class will consider the impact of the collapse of the Russian and then Soviet Empires on art and reflect on how the societal upheavals affect the understanding of the function and the definition of art. The appearance of Socialist Realism and the versions of opposition to it will be studied, from dissident undermining to neglect and escapism of the second avant-gardes. Ukrainian art of recent decades will be studied in the context of several revolutions (Granite, Orange, Euromaidan) that defined its contemporary history.

The class is offered for graduate and advanced undergraduate students. Knowledge of Russian or Ukrainian is not required