UNIVERSITY OF TORONTO  
Fall 2010  
POL 414 H 1 F / H 1 F  
POLITICS OF INDEPENDENT UKRAINE  

Instructor: Olga Kesarchuk  
olga.kesarchuk@utoronto.ca  

Class meets: Wednesdays, 5-7 pm, LA 340  
Office hours: Wednesdays, 4-5 pm, location TBA

Course description:

The course will focus on the pertinent challenges of transition from communism the post-Soviet states faced through an in-depth study of the politics of independent Ukraine. Some of these challenges include reforming the state and redefining the role it is to play in the economy and vis-à-vis the society, reforming the economic system and building a viable market economy, undergoing political transformation, constructing a national identity, formulating foreign policy. Although a substantial portion of the readings will be on Ukraine, students will be asked to read some theoretical pieces too and apply the main Political Science theories to explaining Ukrainian politics. The course will also aim to put Ukraine into a comparative perspective by drawing analogies with its eastern and western neighbours. Although some familiarity with Ukraine’s history and politics is desirable, it is not a pre-requisite for taking this course.

Grading:

Your work in this course will be evaluated according to the following grading scheme:

- 15% for the literature review (5 pages double spaced on the readings discussed in class) (due Wednesday, October 20th on topics covered during weeks 3-6; cannot be written on the same topic as your presentation of readings in class (see below))

- 20% for class participation (class attendance, contribution to class discussion and presentation on the readings during one of the seminars)

- 20% for presentation of your final paper including its main argument (during the final two weeks of classes)

- 45% for the final research paper (no more 20 pages double spaced) (due Friday, December 3rd; please email me a short (about one page double spaced) summary of the ideas you are going to explore in your final paper and preliminary bibliography by November 1st. The paper has to be on an important aspect of Ukrainian politics of your choice, although it does not have to cover Ukraine exclusively. Comparative papers will be welcome)
Readings:
The majority of articles assigned are available to students through our university’s library system. The texts that are taken from books will be scanned and posted on Blackboard. You will require access to a printer to print out the materials. After each reading in the syllabus, its location is indicated in square brackets.

Handing in work:
Please hand in written assignment in the hard copy form to me during the class when it is due. Late assignments can be taken to the Political Science Department in Sidney Smith Hall, 3rd floor. Please give them to the departmental secretary and make sure you register your paper in the registration book at the office. All papers have to have your name, the name of the course, and the name of the instructor on top of the first page or on the title page. Students are strongly advised to keep rough and draft work and hard copies of their essays and assignments before handing in to the instructor or to the Department. These should be kept until the marked assignments have been returned.

Late assignments will be penalized by 2 per cent per each working day of lateness.

Please note that according to regulations of the Faculty of Arts and Science, the last day for undergraduate students to submit ALL work to instructors in F section code courses is Tuesday, December 7th.

Office hours:
If you have questions about the readings, about the discussion, or about the assignments, office hours are best. No appointment is needed. If you cannot make office hours but would like to meet, email me to schedule a mutually agreeable alternative time.

Email:

Email should be used for communicating simple information, but extended conversations will be conducted face to face. Please expect to get an answer to your email within 2-3 working days. If you do not receive a reply within this period, resubmit your question(s). Please consult the course syllabus and other course information BEFORE submitting inquiries by email.

Academic offences:
Plagiarism is a serious academic offence and will be dealt with accordingly. For further clarification and information, please see the University of Toronto’s policy on Plagiarism at http://www.utoronto.ca/writign/plagsep.html

Policy on missed classes:
All absences require medical or other documentation to be excused.
Accessibility needs:
The University of Toronto is committed to accessibility. If you require accommodations for a disability, or have any accessibility concerns about the course, the classroom or course materials, please contact Accessibility Services as soon as possible: disability.services@utoronto.ca or http://studentlife.utoronto.ca/accessibility

Week 1 (Sept 15th). Introduction: Ukrainian SSR and the Collapse of the USSR

• No readings assigned

Week 2 (Sept 22nd). Ukraine’s Independence Era: a Chronological Overview


Week 3 (Sept 29th). Challenges of independence: building a state


Week 4 (Oct 6th). Challenges of independence: reforming the economic system. Business and the State


Business and the State in Developing Countries. Cornell University Press. Pp. 63-87 [scanned, on Blackboard].


Week 5 (Oct 13th). Challenges of independence: building a national identity


Week 6 (Oct 20th). Ukrainian-Russian Relations. Integration Efforts in the Post-Soviet Space. REVIEWS ARE DUE THIS WEEK


**Week 7 (Oct 27th). Energy Politics in the Region and Ukraine**


**Week 8 (Nov 3rd). Foreign policy: integration into the EU and NATO.**


3. TBA
Week 9 (Nov 10th). Democratization: the Orange Revolution and Beyond. Internal and External Actors


Week 10 (Nov 17th). Ukraine and its Neighbours: What Does the Comparison Tell Us?

1. Darden, Keith. 2009. Economic Liberalism and Its Rivals. The Formation of International Institutions among the Post-Soviet States. Cambridge University Press: Cambridge. Chapters 1 “A Natural Experiment” (pp.3-22) and 6 “Russia, Belarus, and Ukraine” (pp.150-183) [scanned, on Blackboard].


Weeks 11-12 (Nov 24th and December 1st). Student presentations of their final paper