Ukraine: Politics, Economy and Society
Fall 2015/Spring 2016

University College (UC)
15 King's College Circle, room 87

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The course meets twice a week on Tuesdays and Thursdays, 10-11 am

This is the history of Ukraine through the study of its society, culture, and politics since the earliest times. Among the topics to be considered are: Kievan Rus’ (ninth to thirteenth centuries); the Mongol impact; Lithuanian-Polish-Crimean period; Orthodox revival; the Cossack state; national movement under Austrian and Russian rule; post World War I statehood; interwar Poland and Soviet Ukraine; the Great Famine; World War II to independent statehood. Ukraine will be studied as a territorial concept encompassing different historical experiences of major communities such as Ukrainians, Poles, Jews, and Russians who have lived for centuries on the territory of present-day Ukraine. Students will learn how Ukrainians have become the dominant national project in Ukraine during the last two hundred years.

GRADING

Participation 10%
One in-class test 25%
Book review (due December 3) 15%
Final essay (due April 5) 50%

WRITTEN WORK

Essay of 3,000 words (12 pages) should be written in the end of the second term. The essay topic should be chosen in consultation with the instructor.

The syllabus contains the basic readings for the course. Some additional readings will be assigned for discussion sections.

The following book will be placed on reserve at Robarts Library:
- Paul Robert Magocsi, *A History of Ukraine: the Land and Its People*. 2nd ed. (Toronto: University of Toronto Press, 2010), can also be purchased at U of T bookstore;
- Lindheim Ralph and Luckyj, George, *Towards an Intellectual History of Ukraine: An Anthology of Ukrainian Thought from 1710 to 1995* (Toronto: University of Toronto Press, 1996);
- Ševčenko, Ihor, *Ukraine between East and West* (Edmonton: Canadian Institute of Ukrainian Studies Press, c2009);

Articled from *Daedalus, Social Research, Slavic Review, Russian Review, Comparative Studies in Society and History, English Historical Review*, and *Journal of Contemporary History* are available on-line. Most other readings are placed on Blackboard. Some additional readings may be assigned for particular discussions.

**LECTURES (First term)**

Week 1 (Tuesday September 15 – Thursday September 17)
1. **Introduction: where and what is Ukraine?**
2. **Geographic and ethno-linguistic setting**

**Questions for discussion** [the last 10 minutes of a meeting]
- What are Von Hagen’s major points?
- How diverse is Ukraine?

Week 2 (Tuesday September 22 – Thursday September 24)
3. **Greek colonies and the steppe peoples**
4. **The Slavs and Khazars**

**Questions for discussion**
- Elaborate on Szporluk’s thesis that the making of Ukraine meant the unmaking of “great” Russian and Polish nations.
- Where were most Greek colonies located?
- Who are the Slavs?

Week 3 (Tuesday September 29 – Thursday October 1)
5. **Kyivan Rus’**: a khanate or a “feudal” state?
6. **Economy and society: Europe or Eurasia?**

**Questions for discussion:**
What was the role of the Vikings and the steppe traditions in founding Kievan Rus’?
- Which were the most famous rulers?
- Was Kievan Rus’ a feudal state?

Week 4 (Tuesday October 6 – Thursday October 8)
- The Mongol invasion: Pax Mongolica
- Kyivan Rus’ between Russia and Ukraine: the legacy


Questions for discussion:
- Who has more rightful claims to the legacy of Kievan Rus’ – Russia or Ukraine?
- How politics has been intermingled with the studies of Kievan Rus’?
- Why did Mongols move so fast? What were the consequences?

Week 5 (Tuesday October 13 – Thursday October 15)
- The Kingdom of Galicia-Volhynia
- East Meets West: The Union of Lublin (1569)

Magocsi, *A History of Ukraine*, pp. 120-158; Ševčenko, *Ukraine between East and West* (selections);

Questions for discussion:
- What was unique about Galicia-Volhynia?
- Was the Union of Lublin an annexation of Ukraine?

Week 6 (Tuesday October 20 – Thursday October 22)
- Orthodoxy, the Protestant Reformation, and the Union of Brest
- The Tatars and the Crimean Khanate


Questions for discussion:
- The reasons behind the Church Union.
- Why was the Orthodox Church in crisis?
- What made parts of Ukraine a part of Islamic civilization?

Week 7 (Tuesday October 27 – Thursday October 29)
- The Cossacks: War and Peace on the Steppe Frontier
- The Making of the Ruthenian Nation


Questions for discussion:
- Who were Cossacks?
- Characterize the role of the steppe frontier.
- What was the role of Cossacks in the making of the Ruthenian nation?

Week 8 (Tuesday November 3 – Thursday November 5)
15. The Khmel’nyts’kyi revolution of 1648 and its aftermath
16. The Hetmanate: State, Order and Nation in the Borderlands
Magocsi, A History of Ukraine, pp. 209-52; Ukrainian-Jewish Relations, pp. 43-56;
Questions for discussion:
- Was the Cossack revolution inevitable? Was possible without Khmel’nyts’kyi?
- Was the union with Moscow a smart (and only) choice for Ukraine?
- How would you characterize the Hetmanate?

Week 9 (Tuesday November 10 – Thursday November 12)
17. Tuesday: NO CLASS: November break!
18. Ivan Mazepa: hero or traitor?
Questions for discussion:
- Was Mazepa a great ruler?
- What was the importance of the Battle at Poltava?

Week 10 (Tuesday November 17 – Thursday November 19)
19. From the Enlightenment to Romanticism: the “death” of a nation
20. The end of the Eurasian steppe frontier: the invention of New Russia
Questions for discussion:
- Was the expiration of Ukraine’s autonomous statehood inevitable? Why did it happen?
- What was new about New Russia?
- Can you compare North American western frontier with Ukraine’s steppe frontier?
- Was serfdom in Right Bank Ukraine indeed a slavery?

Week 11 (Tuesday November 24 – Thursday November 26)
21. Right Bank Ukraine in Poland: serfdom as slavery
22. Popular violence, the peasant Jacquerie
Questions for discussion:
- Which were the reasons behind the popular violence in Right Bank Ukraine?
- What did Uman’ stand for as a symbol?

Week 12 (Tuesday December 1 – Thursday December 3)
23. The partitions of Poland-Lithuania: new order in Eastern Europe
24. Whose empire? Ukrainians as empire-builders
Questions for discussion:
- Why was Poland-Lithuania partitioned?
- Why Ukrainians joined the Russian empire-building project? Could they be considered traitors to Ukraine?
- In which ways Ukrainians were similar to Scots?

Week 13 (Tuesday December 8)
25. In-class test

LECTURES (Second term)

Week 1 (Tuesday January 12 – Thursday January 14)
1. The origins of modern Ukraine: different legacies (review)
2. Ukrainian lands in the Russian Empire in the nineteenth century:
   Peasants into Nation
Questions for discussion [the last 10 minutes of a meeting]
- What is the Cossack mythology?
- Are Cossacks the major symbol of Ukraine? Why?
- Elaborate on Szporluk’s thesis that the making of Ukraine meant the unmaking of “great” Russian and Polish nations.

Week 2 (Tuesday January 19 – Thursday January 21)
3. Modernization and Tradition in Dnieper Ukraine
4. The peoples of Dnieper Ukraine
Questions for discussion
- Urbanization in Ukraine: who benefited from it?
- Were Ukrainian cities in Ukraine “Ukrainian” in the 19th century?
- Describe the socioeconomic status and historical importance of major national minorities in Ukraine: Poles, Russians, and Jews. Are they part of Ukrainian history?

Week 3 (Tuesday January 26 – Thursday January 28)

5. Imagining Ukraine: The Origins of Ukrainian National Movement
6. The Ukrainian Question in Russia

Questions for discussion:
- What was the role of imagination in shaping modern Ukraine?
- What was intelligentsia and what was its role?
- What was so subversive about Kostomarov’s famous article?

Week 4 (Tuesday February 2 – Thursday February 4)

7. Urban life in Ukraine: Modernity, Identities, and Social Relations: Kyiv
8. Kyiv II
Bilenky, "Inventing an Ancient City: How Fiction, Ideology, and Archeology Refashioned Kyiv during the 1830s and 1840s" (forthcoming, attached below); Hamm, Kiev, pp. 55-135; Meir, Kiev: Jewish Metropolis, pp. 101-135; excerpts from Sholom Aleichem’s “Bloody Hoax,” Alexander Kuprin’s “Yama” and Volodymyr Vynnychenko’s “A Zealous Friend”

Questions for discussion:
- How was Kiev perceived in Russian literature?
- How politics was intermingled with the studies of Kiev’s past?
- Describe Kiev’s multicultural face

Week 5 (Tuesday February 9 – Thursday February 11)

10. Odessa II

Questions for discussion:
- Which epidemic diseases were recurrent in Odessa? The reasons behind major epidemics?
- Which was ethnic composition of social classes in Odessa? What can demographics tell us about Odessa’s economy, social relations, etc?
- Which was the role of the state in Odessa’s development? Was Russian state effective in dealing with Odessa’s growth?

Week 6 (Tuesday February 16 – Thursday February 18)
NO CLASSES: READING WEEK

Week 7 (Tuesday February 23 – Thursday February 25)
11. Ukrainians vs. Russian Imperial Challenge, the 1860s-1900
12. The Ukrainian movement on the eve of World War I [On Bagrov and the murder of Stolypin]

Miller, The Ukrainian Question, pp. 263-264 (Appendix I), 267-269 (Appendix II); Mykola Kostomarov “Two Rus’ Nationalities” (file attached); V. Antonovych, “The Views of the Ukrainophiles” (file attached); Rudnytsky, “Drahomanov as a Political Theorist,” in his Essays, pp. 203-253; Rudnytsky, “The Ukrainian Movement on the Eve of the First World War,” in his Essays in Modern Ukrainian History, pp. 375-388; Towards an Intellectual History, pp. 201-226 (Mikhnovsky)

Questions for discussion:
- How did the attitudes toward Ukrainians change in Russia in the course of the 19th century?
- Why did Russian imperial government persecute the Ukrainian identity?
- Was Ukrainian movement a mass political movement on the eve of the World War I?
- Evolution of Ukrainian nationalism from Antonovych to Mikhnovsky.

Week 8 (Tuesday March 1 – Thursday March 3)
15. Western Ukraine under Austrian Habsburgs, 1772-1914: Galicia as the Ukrainian Piedmont
16. World War I and Ukrainian lands


Questions for discussion:
- Describe the major identity choices among Ruthenians in Galicia
- Why did Ruthenians become Ukrainians in Galicia?
- Describe Russian imperial policies in occupied Galicia

Week 9 (Tuesday March 8 – Thursday March 10)
17. Russian Revolution in Ukraine
18. Revolution, Social Conflict, and Anarchy in Ukraine, 1917-1920


Questions for discussion:
- Characterize major Ukrainian political regimes in Ukraine in 1917-1920
- Who were the enemies of the Ukrainian revolution and why?
- Why did the Ukrainian revolution fail?
Week 10 (Tuesday March 15 – Thursday March 17)

19. Soviet Experiment in Ukraine: from Economic Modernization and Cultural Revival to Terror
20. Was Holodomor the Ukrainian Genocide?

Krawchenko, Social Change and National Consciousness, pp. 46-170; Towards an Intellectual History, pp. 269-83; Holodomor Reader, pp. 19-26; 79-86; 104-107.

Questions for discussion:
- Was the Soviet Union an affirmative action empire?
- Why did the Bolsheviks launch the policy of Ukrainianization?
- Do you agree that the Great Famine was the genocide against Ukrainians?

Week 11 (Tuesday March 22 – Thursday March 24)

22. Ukraine during World War II, 1939-1945: the Holocaust, collaboration, and resistance


Questions for discussion:
- Which were the reasons for the emergence of Ukrainian radical nationalism?
- Why did nationalism dominate over communism among Western Ukrainians?
- How did Ukrainians react to Nazi invasion?
- Describe the main features of Nazi politics in occupied Ukraine

Week 12 (Tuesday March 29 – Thursday March 31)

23. The Ukrainian Radical Nationalists: Heroes or Villains?
24. Soviet Experiment Reloaded: Ukraine after World War II


Questions for discussion:
- Was Stalin a Ukrainian nation-builder? Explain why Stalin added new territories to Soviet Ukraine and what were the consequences of this for Ukraine?
- Did Ukraine become a modern nation by the early 1980s (Serhy Yekelchyk), or remained a colonized province?
- Did Soviet modernity mean loss of Ukrainian identity to Russification?

Week 13 (Tuesday April 5 – Thursday April 7)

25. The Birth of (New) Nation: Independent Ukraine

Readings: Magocsi, A History of Ukraine, pp. 715-751; Catherine Wanner, Burden of Dreams (selections)

Questions for discussion:
- What led to Ukraine’s independence?
- What is a post-Soviet identity?
- Why did Ukraine lag behind compared to its Central and East European neighbors?
- Compare two the most recent revolutions in Ukraine. Were they nationalist, democratic or “bourgeois”?