Syllabus:  
Introduction to Ukrainian Culture

U223/523  
Spring 2010, March 8 – May 5; 4:00 – 6:30pm MW  
Sycamore Hall, Room 001

Instructor:  
Dr. Monica Kindraka Jensen  
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Office Hours:  
Please E-mail to schedule an appointment.

Course Description:  
This course is designed to introduce students to the fascinating world of Ukrainian culture, from the earliest records of Herodotus regarding the Scythians, through Kyivan Rus with its glittering Byzantine connections, to the present day. Throughout, we will examine the many cultural forces that have helped to create Ukraine: history, literature, art, cinema, folklore, music, current events, modern pop culture, all the myriad facets of Ukrainian culture that shape modern Ukraine. And we’ll explore how to read wax shapes (fortune-telling), what visual poetry means, the best (and most outrageous) contributions to contemporary music, cartoons and Ukrainian satire—these are a sampling of the course’s moments. We will meet twice at the Indiana University Art Museum (IUAM) to view art related to Ukraine or created by Ukrainian artists. All required texts are in English. No knowledge of Ukrainian is required.

Course Requirements and Grading Criteria:  
1) Attendance,  
   both in-class (10%) and out-of-class instructional events (10%): 20%  
2) Participation in class discussion: 15%  
3) Random in-class quizzes on readings: 10%  
4) In-class report, on a topic to be decided in consultation with professor: 15%  
5) Group presentation, an analysis and critique of a Ukrainian music video: 20%  
6) Final exam: 20%
Useful websites for “Introduction to Ukrainian Culture”:

http://2onlinetv.com/tv/?cid=21&r=1

http://www.kinokultura.com/specials/9/ukrainian.shtml

http://www.ukrinform.ua/eng/?topic=true
  Current news in Ukraine. (English language)

http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ZZGRIMQAOF0
  Ruslana (female pop singer) performing a Christmas/New Year’s 2010 concert in Kiev at Independence Square

http://www.crees.ku.edu/SEEFA
  Resources of the Slavic and East European Folklore Association
Readings:

For sale in the IU Bookstore:

Also on reserve in the Main Library: DK 508.4 .H45 2009

All other readings will be available on Oncourse on a weekly basis. Students will be responsible for all assigned reading materials, including in-class handouts, materials e-mailed to you, posted on Oncourse, available through reserve. Reading assignments listed for each class period should be completed in preparation for that class (read in advance). Students should be prepared to discuss these materials in class. A bibliography of all reading sources is attached to this Syllabus.

On computer trouble:
If you have difficulties with your computer, call the computer help line which is available 24 hours/day at 855-6789.

Plagiarism and cheating:
For definitions of plagiarism and cheating, as well as their consequences, see [http://dsa.indiana.edu/Code/index1.html](http://dsa.indiana.edu/Code/index1.html) (*Student Code*, Part II, Student Responsibilities, Academic Responsibilities & Misconduct.)

Cell phones and computers:
Cell phones are to be turned off. No texting or tweeting in class. No computer use in class. There will be a 15-minute break, from 5:00 to 5:15pm, for each class.

Class Meetings:

#1. March 8, Monday. Introduction to the Syllabus and Course
What is culture?
Pre-Christian Ukraine: Herodotus; Nomadic groups; the Black Sea arena.
DVD: *Beyond Our Borders: Ukraine*
Youtube: *Welcome to Ukraine* (2008)
Youtube: *Sand painting on glass* (2010).


Readings to be discussed:
No class. Spring Break: March 15th – 21st.


Readings to be discussed:
• Sichynsky, Ukraine in Foreign Comments..., pp. 30 – 38. (Optional reading)
***For class #4: meet at IUAM, promptly at 4:00pm.***

#4. March 24. Wednesday. Visit to IUAM.
At the IUAM: Hellenic gold, Nomadic metal work, icons.
In class: Mongols from the east, their destruction of Kievan Rus. Cossacks and Bohdan Khmel’nyts’kyi. Ukraine and Russia in the Agreement of Pereiaslav (1654).

Readings to be discussed:

#5. March 29. Monday. 17th and 18th centuries.
In class: poems by Shevchenko: “Haidamaki” and “My Testament”
Film: With Fire & Sword [or Mamay]

Readings to be discussed:
• Reid, Borderland, “Poles and Cossacks,” pp. 23 – 45.
• Kononenko, Ukrainian Minstrels [Dumy and historical songs]. “Marusia Bohuslavka,” “The Dying Cossack and His Horse,” and “Baida,” pp. 252-263.

Video: Easter on the Canadian prairies (Klymasz)
Video: Shapes in the Wax (Phillips)
Activity: Haivky

Readings to be discussed:
• Kononenko, *Slavic Folklore*, “Ritual and Customary Folklore,” pp. 47 – 52

**#7. April 5. Monday. Language and Nationalism.**
German Romanticism: Herder, the notion of nation, use of vernacular.
Ukrainian-Russian dialogue: the issue of language, its use in the 19th c.

Readings to be discussed:

**#8. April 7. Wednesday. Multivalent Ukraine. Diaspora.**
Possible guest speaker.
Various 19th century voices, the situation and diaspora.
In class: poem by Ivan Franko, “The Emigrants.”

Readings to be discussed:


Readings to be discussed:

**#10. April 14. Wednesday. Wars, pogroms and famine.**
Austro-Hungarian Empire. Jewish life and music. WWI. Civil War. WWII
Video: Dovzhenko: *Earth* (1930) [88 minutes]
Web clip: *Sand painting on glass.*

Readings to be discussed:
Socialist Realism vs. Expressionism (theater/drama: Les Kurbas)
Film: Shadows of Our Forgotten Ancestors
***For class #12: meet at IUAM, promptly at 4:00pm***.

Readings to be discussed:
• Kurbas article (t.b.a.)

Visit to IUAM: Larionov, Malevich, Tatlin, Archipenko, Delaunay.
Visual poetry of Mykola Soroka. Identity issues.

Readings to be discussed:

Possible guest speaker.
DVD: Chernobyl

Readings to be discussed:

Guest speaker

Readings to be discussed:
