

## **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:**

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| 1) Attendance,   | 20% |
| both in-class (10%) and out-of-class instructional events (10%):             |     |
| 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>

Ukrainian tv. Various stations. Programs. Commercials.

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

Ukrainian film magazine. Articles. Reviews of films. News.

<http://www.ukrinform.ua/eng/?topic=true>

Current news in Ukraine. (English language)

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ZZGRIMQAAF0>

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:**

Adriana Helbig, Oksana Buranbaeva, and Vanja Mladineo, *Culture and Customs of Ukraine* (Westport, Connecticut and London: Greenwood Press, 2009).

**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> (*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)*.

**#2. March 10, Wednesday. Early history of Kievan Rus. Christianity.**

Readings to be discussed:

- *The Song of Igor's Campaign: An Epic of the Twelfth Century*, trans. Vladimir Nabokov, 1961, pp. 29-72.
- A.N. Wilson, "The Horsemen of Herodotus" to "Paganism and Neo-Paganism," pp. 27 – 37.

**No class. Spring Break: March 15<sup>th</sup> – 21<sup>st</sup>.**

**#3. March 22, Monday. The Byzantine-Kyivan world.**

Religion as a unifying factor. Architecture. Music. Before the Mongols.

Readings to be discussed:

- Helbig, "Religion: Byzantine, Catholic, Orthodox," pp. 30 – 35.
- Magocsi, "Kievan Rus': Its Formation and Consolidation," pp. 33-39.
- Pelenski, J. "The Contest for the 'Kievan Inheritance' in Russian-Ukrainian Relations: The Origins and Early Ramifications," pp. 3 – 15.
- 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:

- Magocsi, "Kievan Rus': Its Disintegration," pp. 41 – 46; and "Galicia-Volhynia and the End of Kievan Rus'," pp. 51 – 56.

**#5. March 29. Monday. 17<sup>th</sup> and 18<sup>th</sup> centuries.**

Cossacks: Mazepa. Taras Shevchenko. Music.

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.
- Magocsi, "Tatars and Cossacks," pp. 84 – 112.
- A.N. Wilson, "The Cossacks: Coda," pp. 65 – 66.
- Kononenko, *Ukrainian Minstrels* [*Dumy* and historical songs]. "Marusia Bohuslavka," "The Dying Cossack and His Horse," and "Baida," pp. 252-263.
- Helbig, "Religion: Jewish History," pp. 35 – 37.

**#6. March 31. Wednesday. Calendar & Life Cycle Rituals. Material Culture. Popular Belief and Religion. Folk Music.**

Video: *Easter on the Canadian prairies* (Klymasz)

Video: *Shapes in the Wax* (Phillips)

Activity: *Haivky*

Readings to be discussed:

- Matossian, "The Peasant Way of Life," pp. 11 – 31.

- Kononenko, *Slavic Folklore*, "Ritual and Customary Folklore," pp. 47 – 52
- Lewin, M., "Popular Religion in Twentieth-Century Russia," pp. 155-168.

### **#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 19<sup>th</sup> c.

Readings to be discussed:

- Helbig, "Language," pp. 48 – 57; "Literature," pp. 132 – 135.
- Shevchenko, "Preface to an Unpublished Edition of *Kobzar* by Taras Shevchenko," pp. 101 – 104.
- Bilaniuk, *Contested Tongues: Language, Politics and Cultural Correction in Ukraine*, "Introduction," pp. 1-11.

### **#8. April 7. Wednesday. Multivalent Ukraine. Diaspora.**

Possible guest speaker.

Various 19<sup>th</sup> century voices, the situation and diaspora.

In class: poem by Ivan Franko, "The Emigrants."

Readings to be discussed:

- Gogol, *Evenings Near the Village of Dikanka: Saint John's Eve*, pp. 49 – 68.
- Lesya Ukrainka, "The School (1895)," pp. 328 – 336.
- From *Ivan Franko: Selections, Poems and Stories*. "The Serf's Bread," pp. 41-46.
- Worobec, "Temptress or Virgin? The Precarious Sexual Position of Women in Postemancipation Ukrainian Peasant Society," pp. 41 – 50.

### **#9. April 12. Monday. Diaspora (1880s to 1914). Material culture.**

Readings to be discussed:

- Martynowych, *Ukrainians in Canada: The Formative Period, 1891 – 1924*, "The Legacy of Serfdom," pp. 5 – 11; "Immigration and Settlement," pp. 59 – 74; "Old-World Traits Transplanted," pp. 91 – 100.
- Svarich, *Memoirs*, "First Beginnings on the Farm," pp. 151 – 153; "Lost on the Prairies," pp. 172 – 176.

### **#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:

- Reid, *Borderland*, "The Vanished Nation: Ivano-Frankivsk," pp. 139 – 147.
- Sholem-Aleichem, "Chava" in *Classic Yiddish Stories*, pp. 74 - 88.
- Reid, *Borderland*, "The Great Hunger," pp. 112 – 138.

**#11. April 19. Monday. Literature and the arts.**

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:

- Helbig, "Literature," pp. 135 – 140; "Theater & Cinema," pp. 162 – 269.
- Kurbas article (t.b.a.)

**#12. April 21. Wednesday. Visit to IUAM. Culture & Counter culture.**

Visit to IUAM: Larionov, Malevich, Tatlin, Archipenko, Delaunay.

Visual poetry of Mykola Soroka. Identity issues.

Readings to be discussed:

- Soroka, "Visual Poetry in Ukrainian Literature," in *The Ukrainian Review*, Vol. 45, No. 1, pp. 74 - 88.
- Zhuk, "Ukrainian Literary Classics and Problems of Nationalism," pp. 9 - 18.
- Zhuk, "Youth, Identity, and Mass Consumption of Popular Music," pp. 25-47.

**#13. April 26. Monday. Chernobyl and The Orange Revolution.**

Possible guest speaker.

DVD: *Chernobyl*

Readings to be discussed:

- Reid, *Borderland*, "The Empire Explodes: Chernobyl," pp. 191 – 216.
- Bilaniuk, "Epilogue: The Languages of Ukraine's Orange Revolution," pp. 195-201.

**#14. April 28. Wednesday. Music: popular, rock and beyond.**

Guest speaker

Ukrainian popular music. Ruslana. Verka Serdouchka.

Readings to be discussed:

- Helbig, "Music," pp. 157 – 160.
- Pavlyshyn, Marko, "Envisioning Europe: Ruslana's Rhetoric of Identity," *SEEJ*, Vol. 50, No. 3 (2006): pp. 469 – 485. (Optional reading)

**#15. May 3. Monday. Sports. Leisure. Cuisine. Review for final.****#16. May 5. Wednesday. Final exam.**