

MLCS 299-A2: Euromaidan: Origins and Aftermath of the Ukrainian Revolution

DEPARTMENT OF MODERN LANGUAGES AND CULTURAL STUDIES

<https://uofa.ualberta.ca/modern-languages-and-cultural-studies>

**MLCS 299 – A2: Euromaidan:
Origins and Aftermath of the Ukrainian Revolution.**
(Fall Term • 2017-2018)

Instructor: Professor Natalia Pylypiuk

Time: MWF 10:00 AM – 10:50 AM

Guest Lectures by specialists.

Place: HC 1-15

Office: Arts 437-D; Course will be on eClass

E-mail: Natalia.Pylypiuk@ualberta.ca

Instructor will announce her Cell Phone no.
on the first day of classes

Office Hours: Monday 2-3 pm or by
appointment.

Course Prerequisite: No Prerequisites. This is an introductory course that does not assume or require any previous knowledge of Slavic languages or history. All readings and lectures will be in English.

Note: By taking this course, students pursuing a **Certificate in European Studies** will obtain credit toward the following streams: "Histories and Politics" and "Cultures and Societies." Course will satisfy requirements of the Russian, Polish and Ukrainian Minor in MLCS and the Ukrainian Major in the Faculty of Education.

Course-based Ethics Approval ✓ No, not needed, no such projects involved

Community Service Learning component ✓ None

Past or Representative Evaluative Course Material Available: An example of the types of Quizzes and Take-Home Tests students can expect will be available on e-Class at the beginning of the semester.

Additional mandatory Instructional fees (approved by Board of Governors) ✓ No



More than 200,000 demonstrators gathered on Independence Square (*Maidan Nezalezhnosti*)

Course Description:

This course examines the events and values of Ukraine's *Euromaidan* (also known as the *Revolution of Dignity*) against the background of Europe and Russia. It focuses on the origins and the aftermath of Europe's first major geopolitical conflict in the 21st century. National and imperial discourses, memory politics, cultural and artistic features, and the role of social media are highlighted.

Beginning with a brief overview of Ukraine's modern history, this course will retrace the dramatic events that took place in the capital's *Independence Square (Maidan Nezalezhnosti)*, as well as the squares of other urban centres, from November 2013 through the elections of May 2014. It then continues investigating current developments, especially Russia's manufactured war in Eastern Ukraine and the most recent presidential election in the USA.

We will look at the discourses emanating from Ukraine, Europe and Russia, examining the civic values they represent. The issue of violence and nonviolent civic disobedience is explored. We highlight the role of women, the Church, educational institutions and cultural minorities (Muslims and Jews) in the creation of a pluralistic society. **Guest lectures.**

Three films will be shown: "The Winter that Changed Us" by Babylon 13 (2014), "Freedom or Death" by Damian Kolodiy (2015), and Women of the Maidan (2017).

Course Objectives:

At the end of this course, students will be able to understand the complexities of European history and the structure of the European Union, as well as the manner in which competing narratives have influenced European and North American perceptions of Ukrainian, Polish and Russian cultures. They will also be able to discern the difference between scholarly, journalistic and propaganda discourses.

Required Readings:

Andrey Kurkov, *Ukraine Diaries. Dispatches from Kiev* (Harvill Secker, 2014).

Sections to be subdivided among all class members.

Serhy Yekelchuk, *The Conflict in Ukraine: What Everyone Needs to Know* (Oxford University Press, 2015).

Suggested Background Reading:

Serhy Yekelchuk, *Ukraine: Birth of a Modern Nation* (Oxford University Press, 2007).

(All three books available on Amazon, as Kindle Books.)

All other readings, consisting for the most part of brief newspaper items or Internet texts, will be available online or in PDF format.

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A Ukrainian Jew prays for the success of the Maidan. A Muslim Mufti speaks to Maidan demonstrators.

Grade Distribution with Explanatory Notes:

Attendance. Attendance will be taken every class after the Add/DROP deadline.	10%
Participation and Preparedness (includes discussion of readings and oral team reports).	20%
Quizzes (October 2, 30, November 27.) <u>There will be no make-up opportunities for missed quizzes.</u>	30%
Team oral report: 12-15 minutes in length. Topics—to be selected by students—may include: business; culture, including poster art and songs; economics; educational reform; media and propaganda (fake news); politics; religion, etc. Presentation may be scheduled for one of the three following dates: Nov. 13, 17, 22. Guidelines will be provided during first week of classes. Sample reports from earlier versions of the course will be available on eClass.	15%
End-of-Term Take-Home Test, consisting of a combination of fill-in the blanks, multiple choice, and questions requiring short answers (between 2-4 sentences). (Pick up: December 4; DUE DATE: December 8 via email)	25%

Date of Deferred Final Exam (if applicable):

There is no final exam in this course (see End-of-Term Take-Home Test above)

Explanatory Notes on Assignments: See above “Grade Distribution”

Required Notes:

“Policy about course outlines can be found in the [Evaluation Procedures and Grading System](#) of the University Calendar.”

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Academic Integrity:

"The University of Alberta is committed to the highest standards of academic integrity and honesty. Students are expected to be familiar with these standards regarding academic honesty and to uphold the policies of the University in this respect. Students are particularly urged to familiarize themselves with the provisions of the Code of Student Behaviour (online at www.governance.ualberta.ca) and avoid any behaviour that could potentially result in suspicions of cheating, plagiarism, misrepresentation of facts and/or participation in an offence. Academic dishonesty is a serious offence and can result in suspension or expulsion from the University."

Learning and Working Environment:

The Faculty of Arts is committed to ensuring all students; faculty and staff are able to study and work in an environment that is safe and free from discrimination and harassment. It does not tolerate behaviour that undermines that environment. The Department urges anyone who feels that this policy is being violated to:

- Discuss the matter with the person whose behaviour is causing concern; or
- If that discussion is unsatisfactory, or there is concern that direct discussion is inappropriate or threatening, discuss it with the Chair of the Department.

For additional advice or assistance regarding this policy you may contact the [Office of the Student Ombuds](#). Information about the [University of Alberta Discrimination and Harassment Policy and Procedures](#) is described in [UAPPOL](#).

Academic Honesty:

All students should consult the information provided by the Student Conduct & Accountability Office regarding avoiding cheating and plagiarism in particular and academic dishonesty in general (see the [Academic Integrity Undergraduate Handbook](#) and [Information for Students](#)). If in doubt about what is permitted in this class, ask the instructor.

Students involved in language courses and translation courses should be aware that on-line "translation engines" produce very dubious and unreliable "translations." **Students in languages courses** should be aware that, while seeking the advice of native or expert speakers is often helpful, **excessive editorial and creative help** in assignments is considered a form of "cheating" that violates the code of student conduct with dire consequences.

An instructor or coordinator who is convinced that a student has handed in work that he or she could not possibly reproduce without outside assistance is obliged, out of consideration of fairness to other students, to report the case to the Associate Dean of the Faculty. See the [Academic Discipline Process](#).

Recording of Lectures:

Audio or video recording, digital or otherwise, of lectures, labs, seminars or any other teaching environment by students is allowed only with the prior written consent of the instructor or as a part of an approved accommodation plan. Student or instructor content, digital or otherwise, created and/or used within the context of the course is to be used solely for personal study, and is not to be used or distributed for any other purpose without prior written consent from the content author(s).

Attendance, Absences, and Missed Grade Components:

Regular attendance is essential for optimal performance in any course. In cases of potentially excusable absences due to illness or domestic affliction, notify your instructor by e-mail within two days. Regarding absences that may be excusable and procedures for addressing course components missed as a result, consult sections [Attendance](#) and [Examinations](#) of the University Calendar. Be aware that unexcused absences will result in partial or total loss of the grade for the "attendance and participation" component(s) of a course, as well as for any assignments that are not handed-in or completed as a result.



A Catholic priest leads demonstrators.

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In this course attendance and participation is mandatory. Each absence will result in a 1-point deduction from both the Attendance and Participation parts (30%) of the grade. PLEASE ARRIVE ON TIME.

Policy for Late Assignments:

There will be no make-up opportunities for missed quizzes. There will be a 10% deduction for the late submission of the Take-Home Test.

Student Accessibility Services:

If you have special needs that could affect your performance in this class, please let me know during the first week of the term so that appropriate arrangements can be made. If you are not already registered with [Student Accessibility Services](#), contact their office immediately (1-80 SUB; Email sasrec@ualberta.ca; Email; phone 780-492-3381).

Grading:

Assessment of the individual course components may be in the form of numerical marks or letter grades. The final letter grade will be based on "a combination of absolute achievement and relative performance in a class" (University Calendar, [Evaluation Procedures and Grading System](#)). The University Grading Procedure mandates that "a student's level of achievement of the goals/outcomes of a course, their grade, and the descriptor of that grade must be aligned" (<https://policiesonline.ualberta.ca/>). The following guidelines have been adopted by the Department of Modern Languages and Cultural Studies:

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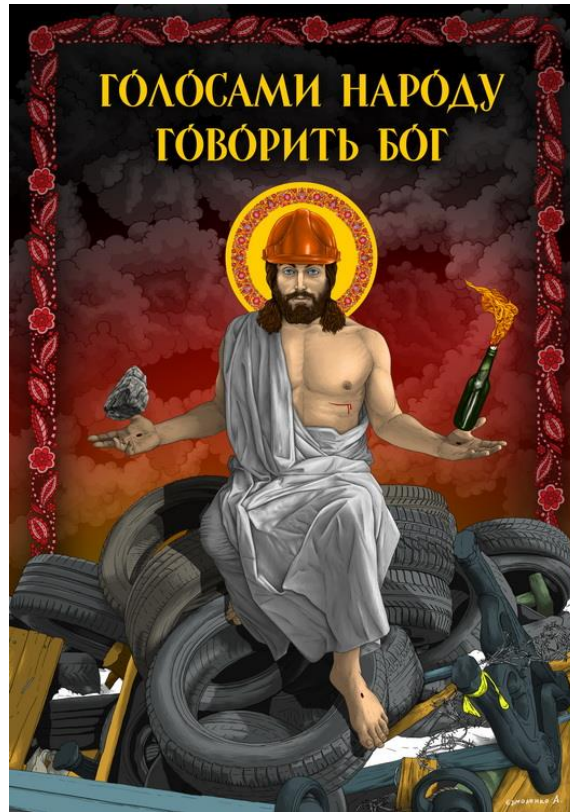
“MLCS Undergraduate Grading Scale”

Descriptor	Letter Grade	Grade Point Value	%
Excellent. A+, A or A- is earned by work which is superior in content and form and demonstrates an exceptional grasp of the subject matter. The grade of A+ designates work that far exceeds course expectations. Grades in the A range are normally achieved by a small number of students.	A+	4.0	97-100
	A	4.0	93-96
	A-	3.7	90-92
Good. B+, B or B- is earned by work that demonstrates a thorough comprehension of the course material and a good command of relevant skills. Grades in the B range are normally achieved by the largest number of students.	B+	3.3	87-89
	B	3.0	83-86
	B-	2.7	80-82
Satisfactory. C+, C or C- is earned by work that demonstrates an adequate grasp of the course material and relevant skills. Grades in the C range designate work that has met the basic requirements of the course.	C+	2.3	77-79
	C	2.0	73-76
	C-	1.7	70-72
Poor/Minimal Pass. D+ or D is earned by work that demonstrates minimal familiarity with the course material. Grades in the D range generally indicate insufficient preparation for subsequent courses in the subject matter.	D+	1.3	65-69
	D	1.0	60-64
Failure.	F	0.0	0-59

Award for Excellent Performance in this course: Doris Schuh Prize in Ukrainian Studies

1 (one) at \$750.00 -- Conditions: Awarded to an Alberta resident with superior academic achievement entering third or fourth year of an undergraduate degree program, who has successfully completed a course or courses in the area of culture, history, language, and/or literature of Ukraine. Recipient will be selected on the basis of academic achievement in these courses.

Apply: By nomination from the Department of Modern Languages and Cultural Studies



Euromaidan poster by Andriy Yermolenko:
“God Speaks with the Voices of the People.”

Tentative selection of topics available to students:

HISTORY

The events of November 2013 — May 2014: from Yanukovich’s refusal to sign the EU Association agreement to his self-imposed exile; the torture and murder of Maidan activists. Current trials.

The Idea of Europe. Educational reforms among the Catholics and Orthodox in the Polish-Lithuanian Commonwealth (XVI and XVII cc) and their impact on the development on civil society in modern Poland and Ukraine. Cultural differences between Ukrainian and Russian Orthodoxy. The support of Polish intellectuals and civic leaders during the Euromaidan.

History of the Crimean Tatars, the indigenous people of the Crimean peninsula. The contribution of Crimean Tatars leaders to the Maidan and civil society. The displacement of Crimean Tatars after the Russian invasion. Comparative overview of the treatment of indigenous peoples: the Russian Empire and Canada.

BUSINESS

The business climate in Ukraine before and after the Revolution of Dignity. Ukrainians and Silicone Valley. Promising Ukrainian Startups.

POLITICS

German and French political attitudes toward the Maidan and subsequent events: similarities and differences. Putin’s support of the extreme right in Europe (the Netherlands, France, Germany).

Russia’s propaganda machine (*Russia Today*, *Vesti*, etc.) and the production of Fake News. Ukraine’s response and the creation of the program *StopFake*, which was recently featured on CNN.

European and North American sanctions on Russia. Russian interference with the American election.

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The Dutch referendum and the recent vote to support the EU Association agreement with Ukraine.

Other Revolutions from a Comparative Perspective: **Syria. Venezuela**

RELIGION and SOCIETY

Ecumenism on the Maidan: Christians (Catholics, Orthodox, Lutherans, Baptists, Evangelicals); Jews, Muslims pray together on the Maidan. The absence of the Russian Orthodox Church and the role of the Moscow Patriarchate.

History of Ukraine's Jewish community and the contribution of its various organizations to the Maidan and civil society.

The activism of Evangelicals on the Maidan. The murder of Evangelical ministers in Donetsk by the pro-Russian separatists. Religious scholars incarcerated in Donetsk.

SOCIAL ACTIVISM

Women and feminist ideals on the Maidan.
The LGBT community on the Maidan.

ART

Poetry, poster art and folklore on the Maidan.

Songs and music on the Maidan.

Performance art on the Maidan.

Ukraine's impact on the world of fashion design (*Vogue* and other publications).

War Songs Today.



A protester on the Maidan.