



Ukrainian Studies Newsletter

At the University of Washington



Issue 5, June 2013

News from USEC

As the 2012-13 academic year winds down, it is natural to reflect upon activities in Ukrainian Studies at the UW in the past six months. Most notably, after a four-year hiatus, two new Ukrainian literature courses were offered by the Slavic Department in Winter and Spring quarters, respectively. Dr. Maria Rewakowicz taught “Literature, Language and Identities in Post-Soviet Ukraine” and “The Ukrainian Novel” courses, drawing both undergraduate and graduate students from various departments who were eager to expand their knowledge about Ukraine either because of their Ukrainian ethnic background, or because of research interest. Moreover, students, faculty and the general public had an opportunity to participate in two campus events organized by the Ukrainian Studies Endowment Committee (USEC) that dealt with Ukrainian subjects: the screening of a documentary by Małgorzata Potocka *The Guardian of the Past* about Borys Voznytsky, Director of the Lviv National Art Gallery, and Prof. Serhy Yekelchyk’s talk on “Memory Wars on the Silver Screen.” Organizing such events as well as the continuation of Ukrainian Studies at the UW will not be possible without your active involvement. As always, we do count on your ongoing support. To find out how you can help, please contact Co-Chairs, Prof. James West of the UW Slavic Dept. (jdwest@uw.edu; tel. 206-543-4829) or Dr. Maria Rewakowicz of the UW Slavic Dept. (mrewakow@uw.edu; tel. 206-985-9415). You can also contact the UW Slavic Department at 206-543-6848 or visit the Endowment web page at: <http://depts.washington.edu/slavweb/endow/Ukrainian-eng/>

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Profile: Tania Bardyn

Tania Bardyn, MLIS, AHIP, is an Associate Dean of University Libraries, the Director of the Health Sciences Library, and Director, National Network of Libraries of Medicine (NN/LM) Pacific Northwest Region (PNR) at the University of Washington. She joined the University of Washington in November 2011 and has served in her role since then. She held positions at UCLA, NYU Medical Center, and University of Texas Health Science Center at San Antonio. At UCLA she led the project team that looked at the data needs of translational researchers associated with the CTSA award and led the cause to have librarians work with translational researchers.



Finding and evaluating the best clinical and scientific tools and resources takes time, as does learning how to use them effectively and quickly. Tania leads a staff of 40+ who assist students, faculty, staff, and health professionals in Seattle and the greater WWAMI region with information needs before, during and after their medical, dental, social work, public health, and nursing studies. These information needs include emergencies and disasters.

"We evaluate, license, and make accessible on the Library Web site many point-of-care resources, mobile apps and other information resources that are useful in the clinical and educational and research settings. All of the librarians collaborate to provide the best evidence-based patient care for the citizens of Washington, and faculty, staff, and students at the University of Washington. With small steps and big leaps, libraries and information organizations are evolving in new and exciting ways. The fast changing technology and social trends are fueling this evolution in sometimes scary ways as well. Computers, spaces, library and information services are all growing in different and positive directions. We are focused heavily on using mobile devices and gaming technology to change teaching practice and services in the UW libraries, UW Medical Center hospitals and classrooms. We are also focused on evaluating and accessing whether the informationist skills, competencies, and roles that are quickly developing to deal with all these changes in our research communities and campus is right for our library organization. Opportunities abound, but taking risks and trying new and different things is always a challenge. We want to lead libraries in the country by coordinating our clinical information services to support systematic reviews, manage curriculum renewal efforts and excel in teaching evidence-based practice to all students and faculty we work with and do not work with."

Tania holds an adjunct faculty appointment in the School of Medicine in the Department of Bioinformatics and Medical Education. Tania is widely published in both library management and health sciences journals, and is a frequent presenter at conferences. Most recently, she presented at the Medical Library Association Meeting on organizational change, reorganizations, leadership, and creating a research and innovation unit within the library. Tania holds a B.A. with honors in Political Studies and Economics from Queen's University in Ontario, and an MSLIS from the University of Western Ontario. Tania participated in the NLM/Association of Academic Health Sciences Libraries' Leadership Fellows Program and the Association of Academic Health Sciences Libraries' New Directors Symposium. She currently serves on the Association of Academic Health Sciences Libraries Program and Education Committee and serves as the UW representative to the Association of Academic Medical Centers' Group on Information Resources (GIR). Originally from Toronto, Canada Tania has been active in the Ukrainian community in Toronto and is a member of PLAST.

Ukrainian Events on Campus

On May 7, 2013 the Ukrainian Studies Endowment Committee together with the Polish Studies Endowment Committee hosted jointly the screening of a documentary “The Guardian of the Past” (2004) by a Polish director Małgorzata Potocka. In her film she paid tribute to Borys Voznytsky (1926-2012), a long-time Director of the Lviv National Art Gallery, an extraordinary man who despite Soviet tyranny managed to preserve some twelve thousand works of Polish and Ukrainian sacred art. He spent his entire career traveling around Ukraine and its abandoned churches in search of neglected icons, liturgical objects, and other remnants of religious art. Among the artifacts saved by Voznytsky were fragments of a Baroque altar by Johann Pinsel in Horodenka and a relief sculpture by Karl Albert Thorvaldsen on the Poninski family tombstone in Horyniec-Zdroj. Potocka’s film, which garnered awards at documentary festivals in Los Angeles (2005), Kyiv (2006) and Moscow (2007), offered a unique view at the remarkable collection salvaged by Voznytsky. The screening was introduced by Marek Wieczorek, Associate Professor of Modern Art History at the UW, who not only provided a historical context for the salvaged collection but also discussed in detail a few more notable art works from that collection. The public had a chance to talk about the film at a reception that followed the show. This event was facilitated by the Polish Cultural Institute in New York and co-sponsored by the UW Slavic Dept. and the Ukrainian Association of Washington State.



Our second event this past Spring Quarter included a talk by Dr. Serhy Yekelchyk, Associate Professor of Slavic Studies and History at the University of Victoria. On May 16, 2013 he delivered a lecture titled “Memory Wars on the Silver Screen: Ukraine and Russia Look Back at the Second World War.” He argued that under Putin’s rule Russian cinema engages in a well-funded mythmaking effort at re-establishing the old Soviet image of the Great Patriotic War as the foundation of the new official memory. Many recent Russian war films include negative Ukrainian characters but the moribund Ukrainian film industry has not been able to produce a successful answer and engage the opponent by using the same tools of mass culture. Mykhailo Iliencko’s recent movie *Firecrosser* (2012) changed this slightly. It found a way to link new and old myths of the war in a film crafted in the Hollywood tradition and with elements of fantasy. Often labeled “the first Ukrainian blockbuster,” this

movie entered the mainstream film distribution system and was even released in Russia. In his talk, Prof. Yekelchyk aimed at making sense of this success story by positioning it in the context of post-Soviet memory struggles and global cultural trends.

Ukrainian Courses 2013: Students' Voices

Literature as a mirror reflecting the identity and soul of a nation and its people. To me this summarizes the two Ukrainian 420 classes I audited this past winter and spring quarters: *Literature, language and Identities in Post-Soviet Ukraine* and the *Ukrainian Novel*. Both were taught by Dr. Maria Rewakowicz. The first class also included guest lectures on language by Prof. Laada Bilaniuk. The reading selections, lectures and discussions were interesting, informative and often thought provoking. Dr. Rewakowicz provided invaluable context with information regarding literary styles, social, linguistic and political issues, history, anthropology, geography and belief systems. As a member of the Diaspora, having the opportunity to discuss and process the complex and thorny issues of national identity in both the past and present has given me a clearer understanding of events in contemporary Ukraine.

Irene Hrab

The Ukrainian Novel

This course examines major works of fiction from the mid-19th century to the present. We will especially focus on **novels that challenge established conventions** and impact Ukrainian literature by introducing new themes, concepts, and techniques. Novels will be presented within a wider historical, political and social context.

Whenever possible we will also screen film adaptations. Topics include identity construction, gender relations, regionalism, postcolonialism, ideology and subversion.

All readings are in English. No prerequisites.



UKR

420

Spring

2013

**Tuesday/
Thursday**

1:30-

3:20PM

**5 Credits
VLPA**

**with Dr. Maria
Rewakowicz**

The Ukrainian 420 class quite sufficiently provided me with what I was looking for when I signed up for it. I'm a student in the scientific discipline, looking to immerse myself in the development and diversity of Slavic literature, especially in Ukraine, a country dear to me. This course led me on a journey through the evolution of the Ukrainian novel, doing so quite efficiently considering how much of a constraint was imposed by time. I was exposed to a variety of representative authors and genres from their respective time periods in Ukrainian history, and learned about the struggles these authors had to endure along with the adversities and social dynamics of Ukraine itself. Overall, I was left with a much greater sense of appreciation and awareness of the richness of Ukrainian prose that is already out there and that which is being published today..

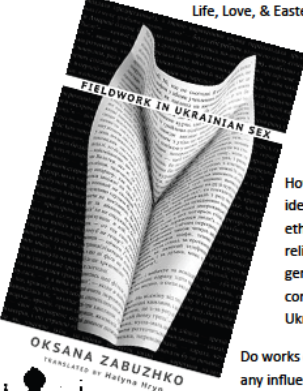
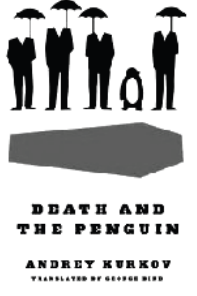

Yuriy Golub

Ukrainian Courses 2013: Students' Voices *(continued)*

UKR 420: Literature, Language, & Identity in Post-Soviet Ukraine

May be of interest to students in...

- Slavic Languages & Literatures
- Comparative Literature
- International Studies
- History
- Political Science
- Anthropology
- Life, Love, & Eastern Europe!



How are various identities (national, ethnic, territorial, religious, class and gender) reflected in contemporary Ukrainian literature?

Do works of literature exert any influence on forming these identities in the post-Soviet reality?

This course will address issues of cultural hybridity, bilingualism, and the decentralization of the literary process since the fall of the Soviet empire in 1991.

WINTER 2013
TuTh 1:30-3:20
with Dr. Maria Rewakowicz

5 VLPA Credits!

For me as a Ukrainian, the course in Ukrainian literature at the University of Washington was a way of learning about my heritage. I have come to a greater appreciation of the Ukrainian culture and arts, which I see as instrumental in shaping of Ukrainian identity, and the future of the country. Furthermore, contemporary Ukrainian literature is authentic and unique, dealing with topics that are relevant to the postcolonial world.

Vasiliy Matsyuk

If you wish to make a tax-deductible contribution to the UW USE, here is how you can do it:

1. Donate online by going to the Slavic Department website:

<http://depts.washington.edu/slavweb/>

Click on "Make a Gift". You will then be directed to various Slavic Dept. Funds, including two Ukrainian Studies Funds. You can select either **Endowed Fund for Ukrainian Studies**, created to endow a Chair of Ukrainian Studies at the UW, or, **Friends of Ukrainian Studies Fund**, which supports ongoing activities in Ukrainian Studies such as a lectures series or language and culture instruction.

2. If you prefer, you can mail your contribution (payable to: **UW FUSF** if you want to support the **Friends of Ukrainian Studies Fund** or payable to: **UW USE** if you want to support the **Endowment Fund**) to:

Department of Slavic Languages and Literatures
M253 Smith Hall, Box 353580
University of Washington
Seattle, WA 98195-3580

Please indicate on your check to which Fund you would like to donate, Endowed Fund for Ukrainian Studies, or Friends of Ukrainian Studies Fund.

Pursuant to RCW 19.09, the University of Washington is registered as a charitable organization with the Secretary of State, State of Washington. For information, call the Office of the Secretary of State, 1-800-332-4483.