

**DEPARTMENT OF MODERN LANGUAGES
AND CULTURAL STUDIES**
www.mlcs.ca
Fall 2009

SLAV 599: Language Issues in Contemporary Ukraine, Poland and Russia

Instructor: Alla Nedashkivska Time: MWF 12:00-12:50
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Course Prerequisite: consent of Department

Course-based Ethics Approval in place regarding all research projects that involve human testing, questionnaires, etc.?

Yes X No, not needed, no such projects involved

Community Service Learning component

Required Optional XNone

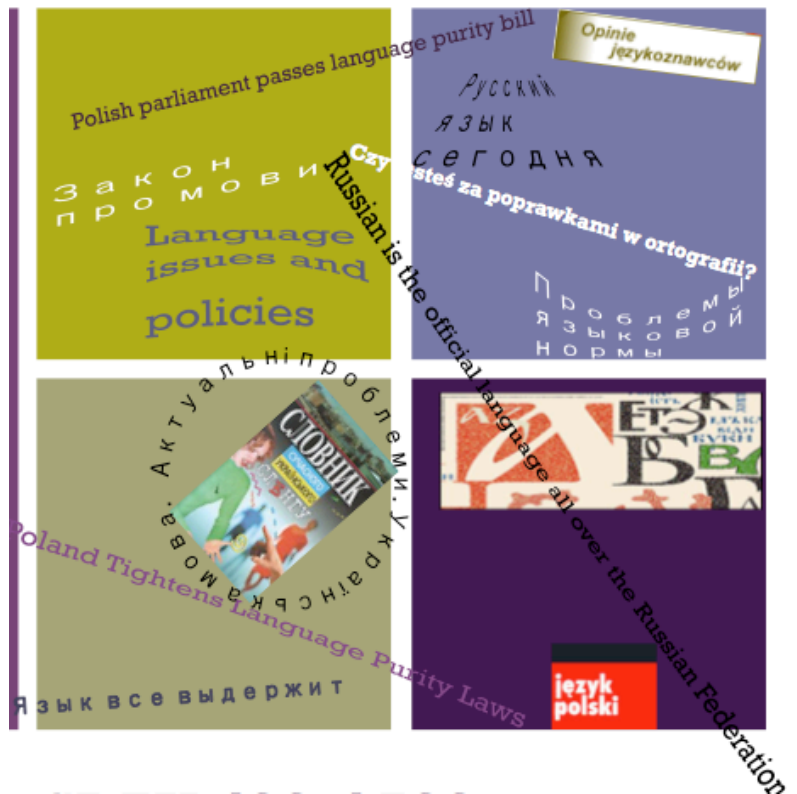
Course Description:

An introduction to the language situation and the state of linguistics in independent Ukraine, Poland and post-Soviet Russia. A number of sociolinguistic topics are considered: language contact, language maintenance, language shift, media language, political language, language and gender, internet language, minority languages, as well as language laws and policies.

Requirements: active participation in class discussions, brief written article reports, leading class discussions on the assigned readings, one bibliographic project, one independently researched topic paper and presentation on it. Suggested topics are but not limited to: an analysis of one speech community, issues in bilingualism, code-switching, language contact, language and gender, language and education, language and ideology, language and identity, minority languages, and language laws/policies.

Objectives:

The course will be run as a seminar, with very active student participation. Each class meeting will normally be based on the critical reading of various topical articles related to the three language areas. During each meeting, discussions



will be led by students and the instructor. All students will: get familiarized with the language situation in the three geographical regions, discover different views on relevant language debates, and be encouraged to actively discuss relevant topics with classmates and outside of the classroom. Graduate students will also learn how to read linguistics articles critically, learn how to synthesize information effectively, learn how to present research and be encouraged to engage in their own research project that analyzes linguistic community and linguistic issues of their choice.

In addition, at the end of the course, students will be engaged in "Three Slavic Languages - a Survival Kit" activities (basic vocabulary and expressions, sources and opportunities for further studying Ukrainian, Polish and Russian).

Reading Materials

The Slavonic Languages. Bernard Comrie and Greville G. Corbett. eds. 1993.

Ukrainian: Shevelov, George Y. p. 947-998.

Polish: Robert A. Rothstein. p. 686-758

Russian: Alan Timberlake. p. 827-886

http://books.google.com/books?id=F4yvzLnMw3cC&dq=the+slavonic+languages+comrie&printsec=frontcover&source=bl&ots=ZF9CtjMMYz&sig=fYW8LW-ZilkHu6vYUV7pFW-spqo&hl=en&ei=D1iESvmHH4qoMMaG7d4E&sa=X&oi=book_result&ct=result&resnum=1#v=onepage&q=&f=false

There will be several additional articles on various topics of Ukrainian, Polish and Russian linguistics.

Grade Distribution (see “Explanatory Notes”):

Class discussions and summaries of readings [Sep 2-Dec 2 2009]	20%
you will be expected to actively participate in class discussions, to complete all of the assigned readings on time and to be able to comment on them in class. Please note that you are required to send to the instructor a summary of assigned readings (one paragraph per article/text) the evening before the class meeting	
Leading discussions of readings [Sep 14-Dec 2, 2009]	15%
you will be responsible for leading a discussion on a selected reading(s) in class, one article per week, beginning third week of classes	
Two tests [Oct 16, Nov 23]	20%
Bibliographic project (written) [Oct 28, 2009]	10%
an annotated bibliography, 20-25 entries, related to your final project and a one-page abstract of your final paper	
Final Paper (written) [Due Dec 15, 2009]	30%
major course-paper on a topic arising from the course as chosen by the student in consultation with the instructor. MA student papers are to be 4,500-5,000 words in length; PhD students papers are to be 6,000-6,500 word in length	
Final paper presentation (oral, 20 minutes long) [Dec 2, 2009]	5%

Required Notes:

“Policy about course outlines can be found in Section 23.4(2) of the University calendar.” (GFC 29 SEP 2003). “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.ualberta.ca/secretariat/appeals.htm) and avoid any behaviour which 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.” (GFC 29 SEP 2003)

Plagiarism and Cheating:

All students should consult the “Truth-In-Education” handbook or Website (<http://www.uofaweb.ualberta.ca/TIE/>) regarding the definitions of **plagiarism** and its consequences when detected.

Students involved in translation courses should be aware that on-line “translation engines” produce very dubious and unreliable “translations.”

Students not writing in their native language 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. Before unpleasantness occurs consult <http://www.uofaweb.ualberta.ca/TIE/>; also discuss this matter with any tutor(s) and with your instructor.

Attendance, Absences, and Missed Grade Components:

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 23.4.2 and 23.4.3 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.

In this course, attendance is crucial as 15% of your grade depends on active participation in class work (see above).

Policy for Late Assignments:

Students who consult in advance with an instructor regarding contingencies preventing the timely completion of an assignment may, at the discretion of the instructor, be granted an extension. Otherwise, assignments will be penalized as follows:

written article reports, bibliographic project and abstract, and final paper: 5% per day (will not be accepted after 5 days of lateness)

Grading:

Marks for assignments, tests, and exams are given in percentages, to which letter grades are also assigned, according to the table below (“**MLCS Graduate Grading Scale**”). The percentage mark resulting from the entire term work and examination then produces the final letter grade for the course.

“MLCS Graduate Grading Scale”

A+	97-100	Excellent
A	93-96	Excellent
A-	90-92	Excellent
B+	87-89	Good
B	79-86	Good
B-	74-78	Satisfactory
C+	68-73	Satisfactory
C	63-67	Failure
C-	58-62	Failure
D+	54-57	Failure
D	50-53	Failure
F	00-49	Failure