

Ukraine: Historiography, Language, Nation-Building (A005156)

Course size *(nominal values; actual values may depend on programme)*

Credits 5.0

Study time 150 h

Course offerings and teaching methods in academic year 2025-2026

A (semester 1)

Dutch

Gent

peer teaching

independent work

seminar

Lecturers in academic year 2025-2026

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LW21

lecturer-in-charge

Offered in the following programmes in 2025-2026

[Micro-credential Ukraine: History, Language, Identity](#)

crdts

5

offering

A

Teaching languages

Dutch

Keywords

History, Linguistics, Identity, Ukraine, Russia, Ukrainian, Russian

Position of the course

This is an advanced course which aims to give students a deeper insight into the key issues of the Ukrainian historiography, language situation and identity. In particular, it discusses the ideological differences that led to the Russian attack on Ukraine in 2022.

Contents

The course examines what people historically thought and still think in Ukraine and Russia on the following issues:

- 1 Historically, is Ukraine a different country from Russia?
- 2 Is Ukrainian a different language than Russian?
- 3 How did Ukrainian identity come about?

The introductory lectures provide an overview of the main points of discussion related to Ukrainian history, historical politics, language, nation-building and identity, which are historically contested by Russia. Furthermore, these controversial points are studied based on teacher-provided or indicated resources. Not only scholarly texts are discussed, but also ideological and propaganda texts. Students present the results of their studies from different ideological points of view during the seminars and discuss them in group with the teacher.

Initial competences

Have an academic Bachelor's degree or after permission from the teacher. Meet the language requirements for Dutch. Proficiency in Ukrainian or Russian is not necessary. If it exists, it can be used. Prior knowledge of the political and social history of Ukraine and Russia is not required, although it can be an advantage.

Final competences

- 1 To understand the contemporary problems and interpretations of historical, political, linguistic and cultural phenomena connected with Ukraine.
- 2 To understand and interpret scientific (historiographical, linguistic and other) texts in Russian or in western languages.
- 3 To understand and judge back through time social assumptions of scientific publications in the field of Ukrainian studies.
- 4 To understand the dynamics between politics, society, language and culture in

Ukraine in diachronic and synchronic perspective.

5 To be able to find information in scientific literature and use it in a discussion.

6 To report and present orally or in written form on own research.

Conditions for credit contract

Access to this course unit via a credit contract is determined after successful competences assessment

Conditions for exam contract

This course unit cannot be taken via an exam contract

Teaching methods

Seminar, Independent work, Peer teaching

Extra information on the teaching methods

Microteaching: presentations by students during seminars

Study material

Type: Slides

Name: Ukraine: historiography, language, nation building

Indicative price: Free or paid by faculty

Optional: no

Available on Ufora : Yes

Online Available : No

Available in the Library : No

Available through Student Association : No

References

Course content-related study coaching

Guidance both personally and in group, interactive support via Ufora, teacher consultation via e-mail and MS Teams.

Assessment moments

end-of-term and continuous assessment

Examination methods in case of periodic assessment during the first examination period

Oral assessment

Examination methods in case of periodic assessment during the second examination period

Oral assessment

Examination methods in case of permanent assessment

Oral assessment, Assignment

Possibilities of retake in case of permanent assessment

examination during the second examination period is possible in modified form

Extra information on the examination methods

Non-periodical evaluation: oral presentations on a self-chosen or teacher-specified topic that reflects one of the existing points of view in the discussion. After some introductory lectures, the students read and summarise primary sources and scientific literature related to the issues of the seminars and prepare their participation in the discussion. EELC students, as well as other students who know the Russian language, prefer to work with sources in Russian. Students who do not know Russian, work with sources in the Western or Slavic languages known to them. The students orally present and analyze the content of read publications. The revised presentations and summaries of the sources read are later issued as papers. Active participation in the seminars is mandatory in order to succeed.

Periodic evaluation: a classic oral exam. Each student is given two questions about the history and modernity of Ukraine and about the factors of its nation-building. The exam takes the form of a conversation and serves not only to test factual knowledge, but above all to test the student's ability to critically interpret different points of view on a certain point of discussion and to consciously adopt his own point of view.

Calculation of the examination mark

Non-periodical: paper (30%), presentations (40%).

Periodical: oral examination (30%).

If a student does not participate in the evaluation of one or more parts, he/she can no longer pass the entire course. If the average final score is still a grade of ten or more out of twenty, this will be reduced to the highest non-deliberative grade (= 8/20).

Facilities for Working Students

- 1 Possible exemption from presence during the courses compensated by an alternative task.
- 2 Possibility of an oral exam at a different time within the exam period.
- 3 Possibility of feedback at a different time: by appointment.