

Ukrainian Literature and Popular Culture

Tamara Hundorova, PhD, Corresponding Member of the National Academy of Sciences of Ukraine

(4 units: UN, GR, NC)

This course provides an interdisciplinary analysis of Ukrainian literature from the point of view of popular culture studies. It explores the role of popular culture in construing national literature in the periods of romanticism, realism, modernism and postmodernism. The special aim of the course will be to examine how different styles and genres of popular culture influence literary discourse and the extent to which literary imagination is formed by images and narratives of popular culture. The course also examines the phenomenon of kitsch and its place in modern and postmodern literary consciousness. Students will read and interpret various texts of Ukrainian literature from *Eneida* by Ivan Kotliarevsky to *Moskoviada* by Yuri Andrukhovych.

Prerequisites: reading knowledge of Ukrainian or permission of the instructor.

COURSE REQUIREMENTS:

Class participation: 30%

Midterm: 20%

Class presentation: 10%

Final exam: 40%.

Readings will consist of excerpts of literary texts and pertinent articles, some of which will be provided in class. A course pack will be available for purchase before the beginning of the session. Students are expected to read ahead of each class, so as to be prepared to participate in class discussions.

TOPICS:

1. Legitimizing popular culture: Ivan Kotliarevskyi's *Eneida*, *Natalka Poltavka*, *Moskal'-charivnyk*.
2. Popular culture as masquerade: Hryhorij Kvitka-Osnovianenko's *Soldats'kyj portret*, *Pidbrekhach*, *Konotops'ka vid'ma*

3. Emblems and persona of popular culture: marketplace, disguise, roguery.
4. Literary *narodnytstvo* and popular culture. Popular literature as performance (Ivan Nechuj-Levyts'kyi's *Kajdasheva sim'ia*) and imitation (Marko Vovchok).
5. Cossack myth in Ukrainian literature.
6. Feminine neoromantic romance: Olha Kobylans'ka's *U nediliu rano zillia kopala* and Lesia Ukrainka's *Lisova pisnia*.
7. Urban romance: Valerian Pidmohyl'nyj (*Nevelychka drama*) and Viktor Domontovych (*Divchynka z vedmydykom*).
8. Avant-garde and popular culture: movies, arts, anecdotes and kitsch. Majk Johansen "*Podorozh doktora Leonardo*", Leonid Skrypnyk "*Inteligent*".
9. Socialist realism and popular culture: Oleksandr Kornijchuk, Ostap Vyshnia, Oles' Honchar.
10. Postmodern literature and popular culture: Yuri Andrukhovych, Serhij Zhadan, Sashko Ushkalov, Irena Karpa.
11. Kitsch in Ukrainian literature.

Texts

- Ivan Kotliarevskyi. *Eneida, Natalka Poltavka, Moskal'-charivnyk (excerpts)*
- Hryhorij Kvitka-Osnovianenko. *Soldats'kyj portret, Konotops'ka vid'ma (excerpts)*
- Marko Vovchok. *Sestra*
- Ivan Nechuj-Levyts'kyi. *Kajdasheva sim'ia (excerpts)*
- Olha Kobylans'ka. *U nediliu rano zillia kopala(excerpts)*
- Lesia Ukrainka. *Lisova pisnia (excerpts)*
- Viktor Petrov(Domontovych) *Divchynka z vedmydykom (excerpts)*
- Valerian Pidmohyl'nyj *Nevelychka drama (excerpts)*
- Majk Johansen. *The Journey of the Learned Doctor Leonardo and His Future Mistress, The Beautiful Alceste, into Slobodian Switzerland by Mike Yohansen //Before the Storm: Soviet Ukrainian Fiction of the 1920s. – Edited by George Luckyj translated by Yuri Tkacz. – Ardis, Ann Arbor, 1986.*
- Yuri Yanovskyj. *The Sailor// Before the Storm: Soviet Ukrainian Fiction of the 1920s. – Edited by George Luckyj translated by Yuri Tkacz. – Ardis, Ann Arbor, 1986.*
- Ostap Vyshnia. *Yarmarok*.
- Yuri Andrukhovych. *Recreatsii, Moskoviada(excerpts)*.

Literary criticism

Тамара Гундорова. Післячорнобильська бібліотека. Український літературний постмодерн. – Київ: Критика, 2005.- с.65-136.

Тамара Гундорова. Література і кітч. Травестії. – Київ: Факт. – 2008. – стор. 92-165, 166-219.

Григорій Грабович. Ще про «неісторичні» нації і «неповні» літератури; Диптих про Тичину; Семантика котляревщини// До історії української літератури. Дослідження, есе, полеміка. – Київ, Основи. – 1997. – стор. 316-385, 543-570.

Микола Зеров. Нове українське письменство // М.Зеров. Українське письменство. – Київ, Основи, 2003.

Oleh.S.Ilnytskyj. *Ukrainian Futurism, 1914-1930. A Historical and Critical Study.* – Harvard University Press. – 1997. – pp. 316–323.

Halyna Hryn, “The Executed Renaissance Paradigm Revisited,” *Harvard Ukrainian Studies* 27 (2004–2005): 67–96.