

**DEPARTMENT OF MODERN LANGUAGES  
AND CULTURAL STUDIES**  
<https://uofa.ualberta.ca/modern-languages-and-cultural-studies>

**2019-2020**

**SLAV 499 (96716/future number SLAV 475) Slavic Languages and Cultures Online and  
in the Community**

(Winter Term)

Instructors: Mariya Mayerchyk, Alla Nedashkivska, Jelena Pogosjan

Time: MWF 2:00-2:50

Place:

Office: Arts and Convocation Hall (see directory)

Office Hours: by appointment

E-mail: instructors

Course Website: eClass

**Bachelor of Arts / Major in Modern Languages and Cultural Studies:**

<https://www.ualberta.ca/modern-languages-and-cultural-studies/undergraduate-program-information/prospective-undergraduate-students>

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**Course Prerequisite:** POLSH 112 or/and RUSS 112 or/and UKR 112 or consent of the department.

It is your responsibility as a student to ensure that you have the appropriate prerequisites for the course.

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

Yes       No, not needed, no such projects approved.

**Community Service Learning** component

Required     Optional     None

**Past or Representative Evaluative Course Material Available**

Exam registry – Students' Union

<http://www.su.ualberta.ca/services/infolink/exam/>

See explanations below

Document distributed in class

Other (please specify)

NA

**Course Description and Objectives:**

Study of Slavic communities in Canada and/or anywhere in the World. The students will choose one Slavic (virtual or physical, contemporary or historical) community to study.

During the term, they will actively follow the chosen community, participate in all the events (if this is a living community), collect information about the chosen community (archival materials and printed materials, interviews of community members, etc.) They will also be introduced to the essential theoretical works dedicated to the local and virtual as well as displaced communities' studies.

This course will provide students with an opportunity to learn more about the chosen community through individual research; and to learn about a wide range of Slavic communities through team work. The course is designed to develop reading and comprehension skills for Polish/Russian/Ukrainian language learners. It will provide multiple opportunities for students to absorb vocabulary, grammar, sentence structure, and discourse structure as they occur in authentic contexts.

By the end of this course, students will be able to identify major Slavic communities unifying narratives; to discuss how these narratives function within the context of local and global cultures. Students will be able to evaluate, integrate, and apply appropriate information from various sources to create cohesive, persuasive arguments, and to present these arguments in oral and written form.

**Textbook:** all reading materials will be provided through the eClass.

**Additional Course Fees**

Yes       No

**Important Dates:** [See Academic Schedule in current Calendar](#)

First Day of Class: January 6, 2020  
Add/Delete Date: January 17, 2020  
50% Withdrawal Date: February 5, 2020  
Winter Term Reading Week: February 18-21, 2020  
Withdrawal Date: April 1, 2020  
Last Day of Class: April 8, 2020

**Grade Distribution (see “Explanatory Notes”):**

|   |            |
|---|------------|
| <b>Participation/Attendance</b>   | <b>10%</b> |
| <b>CSL reflective activities</b>  | <b>25%</b> |
| Online reflective journal (weekly, from January 27 until April 8)               | 5%         |
| Brief in-class reports  | 5%         |
| Presentation of the final CSL project (weeks 12 &13)                            | 15%        |
| <b>Group projects:</b>  | <b>20%</b> |
| Demonstration (January 24 or March 6)<br>& Presentation (January 27 or March 9) | 10%        |
| Individual essay (February 3 or March 16)                                       | 10%        |

|   |            |
|---|------------|
| <b>Test</b> (February 7)                      | <b>10%</b> |
| <b>Individual Presentation</b> (weeks 10 &11) | <b>10%</b> |
| <b>Case Study paper</b> (April 15, 2020)      | <b>25%</b> |

### **Explanatory Notes on Assignments:**

**Participation/Attendance (10%)** In-class participation is vital to your success in this course. In-class participation includes not only evidence of individual preparation and attention, but also contributing to group work. It is important that you review and study the materials on a daily basis.

**Group project (10+10%)** There are two major and widely celebrated events in Russian and Ukrainian communities during the Winter term: Malanka (Ukrainian community) and Maslenitsa (Russian community). Students are expected to choose one of these two events, to attend community celebrations, to study historical roots and the role of these events in community life, and to: a) Participate in group demonstration (January 24 or March 6); b) prepare and deliver a group presentation on the chosen event (January 27 for Malanka & March 9 for Maslenitsa 10%); and c) Students are also expected to submit a short (800 to 1000 words) individual paper summarizing their study (10%; Group 1 by Monday February 3<sup>th</sup> and Group 2 by Monday March 16).

**Test (10%)** In-class test dedicated to the major concepts in the communities studies, the questions will correspond to the introductory lectures and the reading required in the introductory part of the course.

**Individual Presentation** Each student will present their findings on the chosen community, that is, their case study (10 min+5 min discussion).

**Case Study (25%)** 10 pages, double-spaced plus bibliography.

### **CSL reflective activities (25%):**

In this class, you will be required to volunteer approximately 20 hours with a non-profit organization serving the local Russian, Polish or Ukrainian community. This experience is designed to help you gain a first-hand cultural experience serving the community of Edmonton, learn about issues that are important for Russians and Ukrainians in Alberta, and build on your knowledge of the community. The goal is to work on a project with a community partner, through which you will practice language in function/practical settings and engage with authentic texts from various formats.

In class and through your assignments, your instructors will help you make links between your experience and the classroom as well as discuss a variety of topics related to interpersonal communication and social issues. For example, in your work with the community, you may experience culture shock, challenges in dealing effectively with native speakers, discovery of realities that you did not know exist, success in helping others, etc. In order to reflect on your experience and make these links, you will be asked to share weekly journal entries with your

peers and react to what they are experiencing. In addition, readings and class discussions that will follow will help you gain a better understanding of some social issues that you may experience through CSL (e.g., uni/bilingualism in Canada, minority rights, responsible citizenship, etc.). At the end of the class, you will be expected to present an overview of your project that you created with the community partner, in which you will present an overview of your experience (the process, challenges, what are some tips and other relevant info; detailed criteria are available on e-class).

CSL Project examples:

- ❖ creation of a webpage, promotional materials or other texts using Russian/Ukrainian;
- ❖ creating bilingual texts for the community partners;
- ❖ writing newsletter articles for special community events;
- ❖ preparing an exhibit or a cultural event in the community (writing promotional materials and/or review and articles);
- ❖ other formats to be explored depending on community partners' input and their needs

### **Required Notes:**

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

### ***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](#) 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.

All students should consult [the Academic Integrity website](#). If you have any questions, ask your instructor.

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](#).

### ***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](#).

***Sexual Violence Policy:***

It is the policy of the University of Alberta that sexual violence committed by any member of the University community is prohibited and constitutes misconduct. Resources and more information can be found at <https://www.ualberta.ca/campus-life/sexual-violence>

***Territorial Statement:***

“The University of Alberta acknowledges that we are located on Treaty 6 territory, and respects the histories, languages, and cultures of the First Nations, Métis, Inuit, and all First Peoples of Canada, whose presence continues to enrich our vibrant community.” (*from the beginning of the Calendar*).

***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.

Deferral of term work is a privilege and not a right; there is no guarantee that a deferral will be granted. Misrepresentation of facts to gain a deferral is a serious breach of the Code of Student Behaviour.

***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 just one time throughout the course with no penalty. However, if a second excuse will be granted for late assignments, half of the mark assigned for this

particular work will be deducted. Otherwise, all assignments should be handed in on the stated deadline. Any assignment not handed-in in time or unexcused late assignments will not be given any marks. Late excuses will not be accepted for any reason.

***Disclaimer:***

Any typographical errors in this syllabus are subject to change and will be announced in class and posted on eClass. The date of the final examination is set by the Registrar and takes precedence over the final examination date reported in this syllabus.

**Student Resources:**

The best all-purpose website for student services is: <https://www.ualberta.ca/current-students>.

**Accessibility Resources: (1 – 80 SUB)**

The University of Alberta is committed to creating work and learning communities that inspire and enable all people to reach their full potential. Accessibility Resources promotes an accessible, inclusive, and universally designed environment. For general information to register for services visit the [Accessibility Resources](#) webpage.

**The Academic Success Centre: (1-80 SUB)**

[The Academic Success Centre](#) offers a variety of workshops on effective study and exam strategies. There are in-person and online sessions available for a modest fee.

**The Centre for Writers: (1-42 Assiniboia Hall)**

The [Centre for Writers](#) offers free one-on-one writing support to students, faculty, and staff. Students can request consultation for a writing project at any stage of development. Instructors can request class visits and presentations.

**Health and Wellness Support:** There are many health and community services available to current students. For more information visit the [Health and Wellness Support](#) webpage.

**Office of the Student Ombuds:**

The [Office of the Student Ombuds](#) offers confidential interviews, advice and support to students facing academic, discipline, interpersonal and financial difficulties.

***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:

**“MLCS Undergraduate Grading Scale”**

| Descriptor  | Letter Grade | Grade Point Value | %             |
|---|--------------|-------------------|---------------|
| <b>Excellent.</b> 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. | <b>A+</b>    | 4.0               | <b>97-100</b> |
|   | <b>A</b>     | 4.0               | <b>93-96</b>  |
|   | <b>A-</b>    | 3.7               | <b>90-92</b>  |
| <b>Good.</b> 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>B+</b>    | 3.3               | <b>87-89</b>  |
|   | <b>B</b>     | 3.0               | <b>83-86</b>  |
|   | <b>B-</b>    | 2.7               | <b>80-82</b>  |
| <b>Satisfactory.</b> 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.  | <b>C+</b>    | 2.3               | <b>77-79</b>  |
|   | <b>C</b>     | 2.0               | <b>73-76</b>  |
|   | <b>C-</b>    | 1.7               | <b>70-72</b>  |
| <b>Poor/Minimal Pass.</b> 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.   | <b>D+</b>    | 1.3               | <b>65-69</b>  |
|   | <b>D</b>     | 1.0               | <b>60-64</b>  |
| <b>Failure.</b>   | <b>F</b>     | 0.0               | <b>0-59</b>   |

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