

DEPARTMENT OF MODERN LANGUAGES
AND CULTURAL STUDIES
www.mlcs.ualberta.ca

2015-2016 SLAV 499 A1 — Medieval Cities of Slavic Europe
(Fall Term)

Instructor	Section	Day	Hour	Room	Class
Dr. Natalia Pylypiuk	A1	TR	11:00-12:50	HC 2-25	66120

Office: Arts 437-E
Cell Phone: to be given in class [Please use only during weekdays from 11:00 am to 3:00 pm]

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<http://www.artsrn.ualberta.ca/~ukraina/>

Office Hours: M 2:00-3:00 pm & by appointment

Course will be on e-class

FB <https://www.facebook.com/UCLLP>

Prerequisite: Consent of the Department.

Note: All readings are available in English for students with little or no proficiency in the original language.

Course-based Ethics Approval in place regarding all research projects that involve human testing, questionnaires, etc. √ No, not needed, no such projects approved

Community Service Learning component: None

Past or Representative Evaluative Course Material: N/A

Additional mandatory Instructional fees (approved by Board of Governors) √ No



Medieval Cracow

COURSE DESCRIPTION

The medieval period, or the Middle Ages, spans about a thousand years between the fall of the Roman Empire, which occurred around 500 CE, and the beginning of the Early Modern period, often identified with the Renaissance, whose onset gradually reached most — but not all— of the Slavic lands under consideration. The idea of a period called the “Middle Ages” was a product of modern historians of culture who contrasted the cultural transformations of the Renaissance with the seemingly less intellectually and culturally valuable products of earlier centuries. Nevertheless, the Middle Ages produced important architectural, iconographic, musical and literary works worthy of our attention. These works link strongly with artistic representations from later ages, including our own. The manner in which modern Czechs, Germans, Poles, Russians, Slovaks, and Ukrainians have “appropriated” and interpreted these works can tell us much about identity formation and the relationship between historical facts and national myths. Many fundamental ideas of culture developed in this middle period. This course will be a comparative survey that endeavors to introduce

you to the very origins of literary and artistic expression in the Middle Ages. We will study the manner in which trade and religion affected language choice among Western and Eastern Slavs. We will also identify and examine the forms, genres, literary conventions, and topics of concern that typify medieval literature and art.

Guest Speakers:

Professor Waclaw Osadnik, MLCS (Polish culture)

Professor Joseph Patrouch, History & Classics (German, Czech and Slovak culture)

All readings will be available in English translation. Students with knowledge of Czech, German, Polish, Russian, Slovak and/or Ukrainian will be encouraged to read contemporary translations of the antique originals, as well as contemporary scholarly debates on relevant topics.

OBJECTIVES

Upon successful completion of this course, you will be able to:

- situate literature and art of the medieval period within its historical context, particularly in relation to the development of Christian culture;
- appreciate the differences between religious cultures oriented toward Rome and those oriented toward Byzantium
- appreciate the impact of German (i.e., Magdeburg) law on life in urban centres
- explain the relevance of central themes in medieval texts (verbal and visual), including those relating to economic, social, religious, and political issues;
- recognize and identify the different genres in which medieval writers and artists worked, and explain how these genres relate to one another both historically and stylistically;
- identify the stylistic and formal elements of medieval poetry and prose;
- define and use important literary terms related to major works of the medieval period;
- and analyze current national myths about medieval cultures.



Medieval Lviv (Leopoldis)

REQUIRED TEXTS

All reading selections will be available on e-class or the Internet.

RECOMMENDED TEXTS

Online: TBA

Translations in print: TBA

METHOD OF METHOD OF EVALUATION

- Attendance (5%) and active participation (5%) in class discussions:	10%
- One monthly report—due at the end of September, October and November (1.5 - 2 pages each)— addressing aspects of readings, to be shared by e-mail with the entire class. These are intended to generate discussion:	15%
- Outline (with vocabulary list) & Bibliography for Oral Presentation [to be submitted in advance of presentation]	07%
- Fifteen-minute Oral Presentation on a particular text (verbal, visual, musical) <i>Students will select topics and methodology in accordance with their own interests and curricular needs. Oral presentations will begin in early October.</i>	08%
- One brief response to a presentation of your choice, lead discussion	05%
- Take-home test, due October 26	15%
- Book review (2.5 pp) due November 16	15%
- Term Project: an analytical research paper in English (8-10 pp typed), due on December 7.	25%

N.B. While there is no final examination in this course, the deadline for the Term Project may be deferred until 20 January 2016, if there are special circumstances preventing the student from completing it by 7 December.

Concerning oral presentation:

Each student is expected to present a fifteen-minute oral report pertaining to one or more text (verbal, visual or musical). The presentation may be a critical analysis, a comparison with similar text/s in/ outside the Slavic realm, or a discussion of the manner in which the text/s can be taught to an audience with no knowledge of Slavic cultures. The evaluation of the presentation is based on its content (is there enough information?), organization, delivery (did the speaker speak clearly, maintaining eye contact with the audience, etc.?), response (did the audience pose questions / engage in discussion?). Each presentation will be followed by questions (to the presenter) and discussion. The oral presentation will serve as a basis for term project.

Writing a book review (some useful guidelines):

<http://library.queensu.ca/research/guide/book-reviews/how-write>

<http://guides.library.ualberta.ca/content.php?pid=54968&sid=827653>

<http://www.writing.utoronto.ca/advice/specific-types-of-writing/book-review>

The book review will help you prepare for the term project.



Prague today

University of Alberta Required Notes:

“Policy about course outlines can be found in Section 23.4(2) 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 (online at

<http://www.governance.ualberta.ca/en/CodesofConductandResidenceCommunityStandards/CodeofStudentBehaviour.aspx>) 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.”

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 safe and free of discrimination and harassment. It does not tolerate behaviour that undermines that environment. The Department urges anyone who feels this policy has been or 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 directs 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 student ombudservice (<http://www.ombudservice.ualberta.ca/>).

Information about the University of Alberta Discrimination and Harassment Policy and Procedures is described in UAPPOL at

<https://policiesonline.ualberta.ca/PoliciesProcedures/Pages/DispPol.aspx?PID=110> .

Academic Honesty:

All students should consult the information provided by the [Office of Judicial Affairs](#) regarding avoiding cheating and plagiarism in particular and academic dishonesty in general (see the [Academic Integrity Undergraduate Handbook](#) and [Information for Students](#)). If in doubt about what is permitted in this class, ask the instructor.

Students involved in language courses and translation courses should be aware that on-line “translation engines” produce very dubious and unreliable “translations.” **Students in languages courses** 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. See the [Academic Discipline Process](#) .

Recording of Lectures:

Audio or video recording 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. Recorded material 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 23.3(1) and 23.5.6 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 and participation are assigned 10% of the final grade. Oral presentations (15%), as well as responses (5%) will encourage you to be an active participant in all classes.

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. Otherwise, they will be penalized 5% on the second day. *Afterwards, they will not be accepted.*”

Student Accessibility Services:

If you have special needs that could affect your performance in this class, please let me know during the first week of the term so that appropriate arrangements can be made. If you are not already registered with Specialized Support & Disability Services, contact their office immediately (2-800 SUB; Email sasrec@ualberta.ca; Email; phone 780-492-3381; WEB www.sds.ualberta.ca).

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

“MLCS Grading Scale”

Letter	%	Pts	Descriptor
A+	95-100%	4	Outstanding: Superior performance showing understanding and knowledge of the subject matter far exceeding expectations.
A	90-94%	4	Excellent: Superior performance showing comprehensive understanding of subject matter.
A-	86-89%	3.7	Very good: Clearly above average performance with complete knowledge of subject matter.
B+	82-85%	3.3	Very good
B	75-81%	3	Good: average performance with knowledge of subject matter generally complete.
B-	70-74%	2.7	Good
C+	66-69%	2.3	Satisfactory: Basic understanding of the subject matter
C	61-65%	2	Satisfactory
C-	58-60%	1.7	Satisfactory
D+	55-57%	1.3	Minimal Pass: Marginal performance; generally insufficient preparation for subsequent courses in the subject matter.
D	50-54%	1	Minimal Pass: Marginal performance; generally insufficient preparation for subsequent courses in the subject matter.
F	0-49%	0	Fail: Unsatisfactory performance or failure to meet course requirements.



Theotokos, Sophia Cathedral, Kyiv (Ukraine)



Sophia icon (Novgorodian tradition) Dormition Cathedral, Moscow (Russia)