

Flying University

for

Ukrainian Students

January 2024



Flying University for Ukrainian Students

January 2024 Call for Applications

Flying University for Ukrainian Students (FUUS) assists students whose lives have been impacted by the war.

Online courses in English will be conducted *pro bono* by distinguished professors from American colleges and universities. Participating students can:

- ✓ deepen their knowledge of current and academically relevant topics
- ✓ learn about other cultures and establish intellectually productive contacts with other Ukrainian students and with American faculty
- ✓ increase their competence in the use of academic English

The courses will take place in January 2024 as online seminars taught in English for undergraduate students in the humanities and social sciences. Classes will consist of around 12 students. Participation required of students includes active engagement in discussion, analysis of readings, and the writing

of a short essay. Students who complete course requirements will receive a certificate of completion.

Students can apply only by completing the electronic form [here](#)

Application Deadline: **December 4, 2023**

Committee of the Flying University for Ukrainian Students:

Izabela Kalinowska-Blackwood, *Stony Brook University, Department of English*

Alexandra Novitskaya, *Indiana University, Hamilton Lugar School of Global and International Studies & Kennan Institute, Woodrow Wilson Center for Scholars*

Andrzej W. Tymowski, *American Council of Learned Societies, retired*

For more information about the program, please visit our website: www.flying-university.org

COURSE DESCRIPTIONS & SCHEDULE

Myth vs. History: Thucydides' Revolutionary Study of War

Introductory meeting: January 14; Class meetings by Zoom on January 15-18, 16:30-18:00 Kyiv

Prof. Louis Rose, Modern History, Otterbein University

Through his account of the Peloponnesian War between Athens and Sparta (431-404BC), the ancient writer Thucydides transformed the study of war and redefined the study of the past. To this day, his work acts as a starting point for the political and historical interpretation of conflict. As a narrator of contemporary events, Thucydides grounded his account of war in his observations as a participant on the battlefield, as an eyewitness at the home front, and eventually as an exile. As an interpreter of the dynamics of war, he analyzed the political links between international and domestic tensions and between foreign and civil wars. Finally, as a student of the past, he stressed the significance of the underlying causes of war that led to the immediate occasion for the outbreak of conflict. In his use of identifiable sources, his attention to political conditions, and his focus on the meaning of past behavior and decisions, Thucydides applied a historical approach that openly challenged the mythic framework within which ancient Greeks viewed their world. This seminar explores the tools, practices, and ideas with which Thucydides confronted myth with history. It relies on five selections from his work, digital copies of which will be provided to students prior to the class. At the end of the seminar, we will reflect on the extent of Thucydides' success in his fight against myth and on the continuing relevance of that fight.

Government Information and Democratic Government

Class meetings by Zoom on January 15, 16, 18, and 19, 17:00-18:30 Kyiv

Prof. Barry Sullivan, Law, Loyola University Chicago

What does it mean to be a citizen in a democratic society, and what do citizens need to know about the government's activities to do their work as citizens? Similarly, what government information must be made available to opposition parliamentarians? Democratic government requires an informed citizenry and parliamentary opposition, but no government can function with perfect transparency. We will explore historical and contemporary efforts to accommodate these conflicting necessities.

Orwell in Asia

Class meetings by Zoom on January 11, 12 and 15, 16, 19:30-21:00 Kyiv

Prof. Jeffrey Wasserstrom, History, University of California-Irvine

George Orwell's links to and relevance for Europe are obvious: he was quintessentially English, wrote about the poor in Paris, fought against Franco in Spain, and his *Animal Farm* and *Nineteen Eighty-Four* are often read as critiques of Soviet Communism. This course will show, however, that his links to and relevance for Asia are just as rich a topic. He was born in India and wrote stories and essays about his time as a colonial policeman in Burma. In recent times, journalists have regularly used the term "Orwellian" to describe China and North Korea and Thailand's most important rap group titled a song "Big Brother" to show contempt for that country's junta. This course will combine discussion of Orwell's life and the afterlives of his two best known books, while also placing his dystopian fiction beside other works in the genre created in or applied to politics in Asia.

Reading Byron's *Don Juan* through the Siege of Ismail

Class meetings by Zoom on January 15, 16, 17, 18, 17:00-18:30 Kyiv; optional welcome meeting on January 14, 17:00 Kyiv

Prof. Peter Manning, English, Stony Brook University

We speak of Byron's *Don Juan* as a single work, but it was written over several years and published serially. The work's publishing history inflects our reading because installments written later and under different circumstances offer both continuity and the possibility of new perspectives. Cantos VI-VIII, introduced by a sharp prose preface and focused on the Siege of Ismail by Russian forces in 1790, and followed by Juan's experiences at the court of Catherine the Great in Cantos IX and X, present the most dramatic of these swings. Such Russian conquest is of obvious pertinence today, and within the poem it bridges from Byron's indirect account of his childhood and marriage cast as that of the boy Juan in Spain to a deeper confrontation with the English society he

had left in 1816 and the politics of post-Napoleonic Europe. These are the levels and twists we shall track in our readings and discussions.

Psychology of Men and Masculinity

Class meetings by Zoom on January 15, 16, 17, 18, and 19, 17:30-19:00 Kyiv

Prof. Darryl Hill, Psychology and Women, Gender, and Sexuality Studies, College of Staten Island and the Graduate Center, City University of New York

This course will review recent scholarship on the psychology of men and masculinity offering a critical interrogation of “positive” conceptions such as: “meninist” empowerment, critical positive masculinity, a celebration of men’s bodies, “male femininities,” and male sexual practices in the digital age. We’ll read a few articles, listen to a few podcasts, you’ll read and annotate these sources, and we’ll discuss them in class.

The Trial of Joan of Arc

Class meetings by Zoom on January 16, 17, 18, and 19, 17:00-18:30 Kyiv

Prof. Winnifred Sullivan, Law, Indiana University Bloomington

Joan of Arc was burned at the stake in 1431. Accused of heresy and war crimes, she was feared by both the French and English kings. We will focus primarily on the trial of condemnation in the context of fifteenth century religion, law, and politics, as well as later religious, legal, cinematic, literary and political lives of Joan. Who was Joan? Who is she? Can we separate her from the legend? Was she a victim of the church or the state?

The Falls of the Roman Empire

Class meetings by Zoom on January 15, 16, 17, 18, 18:00-19:30 Kyiv

Prof. James O’Donnell, History, University of Arizona

The Roman Empire fell many times. This course will discuss four pivotal moments that can be taken as dates for Rome’s fall. The connecting theme will be the deeper question of what it means to claim that a political, social, and cultural monolith has “fallen”. The dates in question will be 476 CE (end of the reign of Romulus Augustulus), 1453 CE (Constantine XI Palaeologos), 1917 CE (Nicholas II), and 1922 CE (Mehmed VI Vahideddin).

Modernities

Class meetings by Zoom on January 14, 17:00-18:00 Kyiv – Introductions; January 15-18, 17:00-18:30 Kyiv

Prof. Nancy Condee, Film & Media Studies, University of Pittsburgh

The seminar is organized around three questions: 1. When did modernity “begin” (and how would we know)? 2. Is modernity a Western phenomenon (as we have been taught) or are there other narratives that would end up provincializing this story? 3. What are modernity’s recurrent features across time and space? The seminar looks at readings from Foucault, Anderson, Jameson, Giddens, Gellner, Appadurai, and others.

Gulliver’s Travels as a Colonial Narrative

Class meetings by Zoom on January 16, 18, 23, and 25, 18:00-19:30 Kyiv

Prof. Gene Hammond, Writing & Rhetoric, Stony Brook University

Gulliver’s Travels, written in 1726 by Jonathan Swift, is not only one of the masterpieces of World Literature but one of the first trenchant critiques of European colonialism. It begins as a good-humored children’s travel book, but then slips gradually into a detailed critique of the psychology and the deceptive and callous tactics of those in power. Class discussion concerning modern analogues to the descriptions Swift offers will be encouraged. Students should complete the reading of one of the four “Books” of *Gulliver’s Travels* (about 60 pages each) for each class. If time permits, we will spend part of each class on tips for writing professional-quality English.