

B. Ukraine's Long Road to Independence

Jordan Gans-Morse, *Associate Professor, Political Science & Director, NU's Russian, Eurasian, and Eastern European Studies Program*

Tuesdays, 1:00 - 2:30 p.m. Norris University Center

This lecture series will provide an overview of the evolution of Ukraine's political system, national economy, and foreign relations with Russia and the West, with a focus on how these dynamics led to Russia's catastrophic invasions of Ukraine in 2014 and 2022.

Jan. 14 Entangled Histories

This course will begin with a brief survey of Russia and Ukraine's entangled histories from ancient Rus through the Soviet era.

Jan. 21 The Soviet Collapse

This week's lecture will be an analysis of the key factors contributing to the Soviet Union's disintegration and the emergence of an independent Ukraine.

Jan. 28 The Chaotic '90s

This will be an introduction to Ukraine's initial efforts to create a democracy, market economy, and nation-state in the 1990s.

Feb. 4 Russia and Ukraine's Divergence

We will consider how Putin's ascension to power and Ukraine's Orange Revolution set Russia and Ukraine on diverging paths in the early 2000s.

Feb. 11 Ukraine's National Identities

We will analyze the evolution of Ukrainian national identities with respect to language, ethnicity, and divided allegiances to Russia and the West.

Feb. 18 Ukrainian Foreign Policy

We will cover key events in Ukrainian relations with Russia and the West throughout the nearly quarter century between the Soviet collapse and the 2014 Maidan Revolution.

Feb. 25 The 2014 Maidan Revolution

We will consider the causes of the Maidan Revolution and its aftermath, including Russia's invasion of Ukraine and annexation of Crimea.

Mar. 4 Russia's Full-Scale Invasion

We will discuss the factors leading up to Russia's full-scale invasion of Ukraine in 2022, including the Maidan Revolution, Russia's authoritarianism, and Ukraine's westward turn.

Mar. 11 Ukraine, Russia, and 21st Century Democracy

We will place Russia's war and the growing divide between a neo-totalitarian, anti-western Russia and a democratic, pro-western Ukraine in the context of global trends.

Recommended Reading: Popova, Maria and Shevel, Oxana, *Russia and Ukraine: Entangled Histories, Diverging Stories*, Polity Press (January 16, 2024).