



Ministry of Education and Science of Ukraine Petro Mohyla Black Sea National University

Syllabus of the Academic Discipline «Women in the Political History of Ukraine»

Degree Level	3rd (Educational-Scientific) Level
Specialty	032 History and Archaeology
Number of Credits	4 ECTS Credits (120 hours)
Classes	Lectures – 20 hours Seminars – 20 hours
Language of Teaching:	English
Department Offering the Course	History
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1. Course Annotation

The course "*Women in the Political History of Ukraine*" is designed to explore the significant yet often underrepresented role that women have played throughout Ukrainian history, particularly in the political sphere. This course will offer students an in-depth analysis of the diverse contributions, struggles, and political engagements of Ukrainian women from the early modern period to the present day, analysing the intersection of gender, power, and politics in the context of Ukraine's social, cultural, and political evolution.

The role of women in the political life of Ukraine has been historically marginalized, with their contributions often sidelined in mainstream narratives. However, Ukrainian women have long been involved in shaping the political landscape of the country, whether through activism, leadership in resistance movements, participation in major political events, or challenging societal norms. This course will highlight how women have been central figures in critical political moments in Ukraine's history, from the Cossack period and national revival to their involvement in contemporary political movements such as the Euromaidan protests.

The course will begin with an introduction to the historical context in which women's political roles developed, offering a broad overview of the societal expectations and gender dynamics that shaped political participation in different historical periods. Students will examine the period of the Cossack Hetmanate and the early modern era, focusing on the roles of women in the political and military spheres. The contributions of female figures during this time—especially those in influential families – will be explored to show how women subtly but significantly shaped the political and military decisions of the time.

The 19th century, marked by the Ukrainian national revival, will also be a key focus. Women were instrumental in the intellectual and cultural movements that laid the foundations for Ukrainian nationalism, and this period saw the rise of notable female figures who were not only involved in cultural and social movements but also played a key role in advancing political thought in Ukraine. These women, many of whom were writers, educators, and political activists, shaped the discourse on Ukrainian identity and independence.

The early 20th century, particularly during the period of Ukraine's brief independence in 1917-1921, witnessed significant involvement by women in revolutionary movements and political activism. Female figures took part in both the military and political wings of independence movements, contributing to the formation of the Ukrainian People's Republic. This period will be explored in detail to understand how women navigated the political turmoil of this time, seeking both social change and political freedom.

The Soviet era (1922-1991) represents a complex period of political repression, but also a time when women gained political representation within the structures of the Soviet regime. Students will study the contradictions of Soviet gender policies, focusing on the tension between official support for women's equality and the reality of their political marginalization. Special attention will be given to the participation of women in the Communist Party, the Ukrainian dissident movement, and their involvement in underground resistance efforts during periods of heightened repression.

The course will also address the contemporary political landscape in post-independence Ukraine, beginning with the significant political transitions after 1991. Following Ukraine's independence, women faced both opportunities and challenges as they navigated a new political environment. The course will analyse the evolving role of women in the Ukrainian parliament, their participation in national elections, and their leadership in various political movements. The Orange Revolution (2004) and the Euromaidan protests (2013-2014), which were both pivotal moments in Ukraine's democratic development, will be examined to understand the crucial role of women in these political upheavals. The course will consider how the increased political participation of women during these events has influenced gender equality in politics and continues to shape women's political involvement in contemporary Ukraine.

Throughout the course, students will engage with primary and secondary sources, including historical documents, political writings, autobiographies, and scholarly articles, to conduct research on specific women leaders and movements. They will critically assess the impact of these women on Ukrainian political history and explore the broader implications of their involvement in political life.

By the end of the course, students will gain a comprehensive understanding of the historical and contemporary experiences of women in Ukrainian politics. They will be able to analyse the complex relationship between gender and political power and will have developed the skills to conduct independent historical research. This course aims to provide graduate students with both a historical and theoretical framework to understand the intersection of gender and politics, and its relevance to the ongoing development of Ukrainian society.

In addition to the historical analysis, the course will encourage students to think critically about contemporary gender issues in Ukraine, focusing on women's ongoing struggles for political power, representation, and equality in the context of Ukraine's rapidly evolving political landscape. This will involve a critical evaluation of the barriers women face in entering politics, the strategies they use to overcome these barriers, and the impact of their increasing political participation on both local and national governance.

Overall, *"Women in the Political History of Ukraine"* is designed to provide students with a nuanced and interdisciplinary understanding of women's roles in the political history of Ukraine. Through this course, students will gain a deeper appreciation of the historical contributions of Ukrainian women and will be equipped to contribute to the academic discourse on gender, politics, and history in Ukraine and Eastern Europe.

2. The Aim and Objectives of the Course

The **aim of the course** *"Women in the Political History of Ukraine"* is to provide a comprehensive understanding of the significant roles and contributions of women in Ukraine's political history. Through an exploration of key historical events, movements, and figures, the course will critically analyse the intersection of gender and politics, highlighting both the challenges and

achievements of women in shaping the political landscape of Ukraine from the early modern period to the present.

The main **objectives of the course** are:

- *To examine the historical context* in which women participated in Ukrainian political life, identifying key periods of political change and the evolving roles of women in these contexts.
- *To analyse the contributions of Ukrainian women* to major political movements, such as the struggle for independence, Soviet-era politics, and post-independence developments, with a focus on the women's political activism and leadership.
- *To highlight the role of women in national and cultural resistance*, particularly during periods of political repression, including the Soviet era and the struggle for Ukrainian identity.
- *To assess the political and social challenges faced by women* in Ukraine throughout its history, including gender-based barriers to political leadership and participation, and how women have navigated these challenges.
- *To explore the impact of political movements* such as the Orange Revolution and Euromaidan on the role of women in contemporary Ukrainian politics, and the significant female leaders involved in these movements.
- *To foster critical thinking* about the intersection of gender, power, and politics, and to encourage discussions on how women's political involvement has shaped the course of Ukrainian history and continues to influence modern-day politics.

3. Outcomes:

- Analyse the role of women in shaping Ukrainian political history through a historical lens, understanding their contributions in key periods such as the national revival, the struggle for independence, Soviet-era politics, and the post-independence era.
- Identify and evaluate significant historical figures and movements involving women in Ukrainian political history, considering their impact on national and international political developments, and their influence on shaping the political identity of Ukraine.
- Critically assess the intersection of gender and political power, examining how social, cultural, and historical factors influenced women's roles in political life and how gender norms have been challenged or reinforced throughout Ukrainian history.
- Evaluate the political, social, and economic barriers women faced in Ukraine's political history, particularly under periods of political oppression and authoritarian rule, and the strategies they employed to overcome these obstacles.
- Engage with primary and secondary sources to conduct independent historical research, particularly on the topic of women in Ukrainian politics, and produce scholarly papers that contribute to the academic field of history.
- Interpret the impact of key political movements such as the Orange Revolution and Euromaidan on women's participation in contemporary Ukrainian politics, understanding how these events influenced gender equality and political representation.
- Contextualize the historical evolution of women's political rights in Ukraine, considering both the historical and contemporary struggles for gender equality in the political sphere, and assess the trajectory of women's political participation since Ukraine's independence in 1991.
- Understand the historiography of gender and politics in Ukraine and Eastern Europe, comparing Ukrainian experiences to broader trends in post-Soviet states, and situating women's political roles in the context of global feminist movements.

4. Topics:

- Topic 1. Introduction to Women in Ukrainian History: Context and Historical Framework
- Topic 2. Women in the Cossack Hetmanate and Early Ukrainian Politics (17th - 18th Centuries)
- Topic 3. The Influence of Women in the Ukrainian National Revival (19th Century)
- Topic 4. Women's Contributions to the Struggle for Ukrainian Independence (1917-1921)
- Topic 5. Soviet Ukraine: Women in Politics under Soviet Rule (1922-1991)
- Topic 6. Women's Political Engagement During the Independence Period (1991-Present)

Topic 7. Women and Political Movements: From the Orange Revolution to the Euromaidan

Topic 8. Contemporary Issues and Challenges for Women in Ukrainian Politics

5. Methods

A variety of forms and methods of work: lecturing, conducting seminar classes, organizing independent student work under the guidance of the lecturer, supervising and controlling the completion of creative individual tasks, encouraging students to participate in discussions on problematic issues raised in the practical sessions.

6. Control

The assessment of the quality of students' knowledge is carried out through current and final (semester) control.

Forms of students' participation in the educational process subject to current control include:

- Presentation on the main topic
- Supplementing, asking questions to the speaker, reviewing the presentation
- Participation in discussions, interactive forms of organizing the class
- Analysis of legal acts, historical sources, and monographs
- Written assignments (independent work, analytical work, etc.)
- Scientific research task (project) (written work formatted according to requirements).

A positive assessment of current performance (the cumulative result of the current assessment for the semester), provided there are no missed or unmade seminar sessions, is the basis for admission to the final form of control – the pass/fail assessment.

7. Grade

Grade in Points	Grade on the National Scale	Grade on the ECTS Scale	
		Grade	Explanation
90-100	Excellent	A	Excellent (Excellent performance with only a few minor mistakes)
82-89	Good	B	Very Good (Above average level with a few mistakes)
75-81		C	Good (Generally correct performance with a significant number of substantial mistakes)
67-74	Satisfactory	D	Satisfactory (Not bad, but with a considerable number of shortcomings)
60-66		E	Sufficient (Performance meets the minimum criteria)
35-59	Unsatisfactory	FX	Unsatisfactory (With the possibility of re-taking)
1-34		F	Unsatisfactory (With mandatory re-taking of the course)

8. Recommended Literature

1. Sources:

- Lesya Ukrainka. *The Selected Works of Lesya Ukrainka*. Kyiv: State Publishing House, 1956.
- Zaitseva, Olha (ed.). *Ukrainian Women's Movement: 1917–1939. A Collection of Documents and Materials*. Kyiv: Institute of History of Ukraine, 2003.

- Holodomor Memorial Archive. *Survivors' Testimonies*. Kyiv: Holodomor Memorial Museum, 2016.
- Ukrainian National Women's Democratic Party. *Materials of the Party's Activities (1920s–1930s)*. Kyiv: National Archives of Ukraine, 2000.
- The Memoirs of Olha Basarab. *The Struggle for Ukrainian Independence: The Role of Women in the Political Movements of the 20th Century*. Lviv: Lviv National University Press, 1998.
- Euromaidan Women's Testimonies. *Women's Voices from the Revolution (2013-2014)*. Kyiv: Euromaidan Press, 2015.
- Reports and Publications of the Ukrainian Women's Committee. Kyiv: Ukrainian Women's Committee, 1990–2020.
- Verkhovna Rada of Ukraine. *Women's Rights and Political Participation: Parliamentary Records*. Kyiv: Verkhovna Rada, 2000–2020.
- Ukrainian Women's Resistance Movements (1940s–1950s). *Archival Documents and Memoirs*. Lviv: Ukrainian Historical Society, 2004.

2. Literature

- Андрusяк, І. (2013). Наталія Кобринська про гендерну рівність. Вісник Львівського університету. Серія юридична. Випуск 57. С. 75-80
- Білосорочка, С. (2018). Олена Пчілка й Наталія Кобринська як започатковувачки суспільно-політичних рухів українських жінок за гендерну рівність. Актуальні проблеми державного управління. № 2. С. 73-77.
- Богачевська, М. (2000). Націоналізм та фемінізм – одна монета спільногого вжитку. Незалежний культурологічний часопис І. Ч.17.
- Богачевська-Хомяк, М. (2018.) Білим по білому: Жінки у громадському житті України. 1884-1939: монографія. Львів : Український католицький університет, 520 с.
- Жіночі студії в Україні. Жінка в історії та сьогодні: монографія. (1999). За загальн. ред. Л. О. Смоляр. Одеса : Астропrint. 440 с.
- Кісів, О. (2000). Дефініції фемінізму. Незалежний культурологічний часопис І. Ч.17.
- Книш, І. (1956). Іван Франко та рівноправність жінки. У 100-річчя з дня народин. Віннпег, 155 с.
- Кобринська, Н. (1887). Замужня жінка середній верстви. Перший вінок. Жіночий альманах. Львів: друкарня Товариства ім. Шевченка. С. 406-416.
- Кобринська, Н. (1887). Про рух жіночий в новійших часах. Перший вінок. Жіночий альманах. Львів : друкарня Товариства ім. Шевченка. С. 5-23.
- Кобринська, Н. (1887). Руське жіноцтво в Галичині в наших часах. Перший вінок. Жіночий альманах. Львів : друкарня Товариства ім. Шевченка. С. 68-102
- Маланчук-Рибак, О. (2006). Ідеологія і суспільна практика жіночого руху на західноукраїнських землях XIX – першої третини ХХ ст. : типологія та європейський культурно-історичний контекст: монографія. Чернівці : Книги–XXI. 500 с.
- Марценюк, Т. (2017). Гендер для всіх. Виклик стереотипам: монографія. Київ: Основи. 256 с.
- Основи теорії гендеру: навчальний посібник. (2004). Київ : «К.І.С.». 536 с.
- Aliyeva, S. (2024). Evolution of the women's movement in Ukraine and Europe in the 20th century: The path to gender equality. European Chronicle, 9(1), 38-46.
- Avsheniuk, N., Anishchenko, O., Hodlevska, K., & Seminikhyna, N. (2022). Training to professional fulfillment: The history of women's education in Ukraine (at the end of the 19th – early 20th centuries). SHS Web of Conferences, 142, 01001.
- Brennan, E., & Prescott, H. (n.d.). Chapter 7: Women, gender, and activism in contemporary Ukraine. In Ukrainian independence after 1991. Conn College Open Press.
- Council of Europe (2013). Women's participation in the social and political life in Ukraine, 2010–2012. Council of Europe. <https://rm.coe.int/1680599099>
- Dudar, O., Bezzub, Y., & Klymenko, N. (2020). Women's movement in Ukrainian lands (end of the 19th – early 20th century) on the ego-documents of the Kosach and Grinchenko families. Codrul Cosminului, 26(1), 73-92.

- Hankivsky, O., & Salnykova, A. (2012). *Gender, politics and society in Ukraine*. University of Toronto Press.
- Hrycak, A. (2001). The dilemmas of civic revival: Ukrainian women since independence. *Journal of Ukrainian Studies*, 26(1–2), Summer–Winter, 1–28.
- Ihnatenko, M. (2023). The ideology of the Ukrainian women's movement at the turn of the nineteenth and twentieth centuries. *Intermarum: History, Policy, Culture*. <https://doi.org/10.35433/history.112058>
- Malets, M., Lesko, N., Khomyshyn, I., Skochylas-Pavliv, O., & Lukianova, H. (2023). Realising women's political rights in Ukraine. *Fundacja Pro Scientia Publica*, 14(1), 568–574.
- Mitsuyoshi, Y. (2006). Public representations of women in Western Ukraine under late Stalinism: Magazines, literature, and memoirs. *Jahrbücher für Geschichte Osteuropas, Neue Folge*, 54(1), 20–36. Franz Steiner Verlag.
- Nikolayenko, O., & DeCasper, M. (2018). Why women protest. *Slavic Review*, 77(3), 726–751. Cambridge University Press.
- Romanets, M. (2014). Gender, politics and society in Ukraine. *Gender in Management*, 29(7), 445–457. <https://doi.org/10.1108/GM-05-2013-0087>
- Sereda, A. (2019). Gendered obstacles and opportunities for women seeking positions of prime minister and president: The case of Yulia Tymoshenko of Ukraine, 1999–2010 (Publication No. 13901942) [Doctoral dissertation, University of Lethbridge]. ProQuest Dissertations & Theses.
- Strelnyk, O. (2025, February 6). The feminist movement in war-torn Ukraine: Challenges and opportunities. *Spotlight on Ukraine* 13. Zentrum für Ostmitteleuropa und Baltenstudien (ZOiS).
- Strelnyk, O. O., Yuzva, L., & Zlobina, T. (2025). Local feminist perspectives as transformation levers for sustainable development in Ukraine in the context of ongoing defence (IDOS Discussion Paper No. 7/2025). German Institute of Development and Sustainability (IDOS).
- Zhytkova, O., Gillanders, R., Aja-Eke, D., & Maiga, E. (n.d.). Fighting for the future: Women and the fights for Ukrainian independence in the 20th and 21st centuries. *Corruption, Gender, and Sustainable Development (COGS) Policy Brief* No. 3.
- Yarosh, O. (2015). Gender transformations in the political system of contemporary Ukraine: Will Ukraine remain gender blind? In *New Imaginaries* (pp. 63–83). Berghahn Books.

3. Online Resources:

- Ukrainian Women's Fund. URL: <https://ufw.org.ua/en/>
- Ukrainian Institute of National Memory. URL: <https://uinp.gov.ua/en>
- National Academy of Sciences of Ukraine: Institute of History. URL: <http://www.history.org.ua/>
- European Network for Women's Rights. URL: <https://www.womenlobby.org>
- Women in the 20th Century: Political Participation in Eastern Europe. URL: <https://www.uea.ac.uk>
- Eurostat: Gender Statistics. URL: <https://ec.europa.eu/eurostat>
- The Ukrainian Women's Encyclopedia (Ukrainian-language resource). URL: <https://www.shechuka.org>
- The Library of the Ukrainian Parliament. URL: <https://www.rada.gov.ua>
- Ukraine Crisis Media Center. URL: <http://uacrisis.org/en>
- The International Institute for Democracy and Electoral Assistance (IDEA): Gender and Political Participation. URL: <https://www.idea.int>
- Women's Political Network of Ukraine. URL: <http://www.womenpolitics.org>
- National Women's Studies Association (NWSA). URL: <https://www.nwsa.org>