Masculinities and Men’s Studies in Eastern Europe

European University of Viadrina (Germany), European Studies Department

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Most of my publications (mainly in Ukrainian but also in Russian and in English) could be found at http://ekmair.ukma.kiev.ua/

Course annotation

During the course the constructing of the masculinities in different spheres of social life will be analyzed, the aspects of men’s studies in the western and post-soviet sociology and peculiarities of men’s movement will be discussed. Moreover, the course topics cover such issues as the phenomenon of the crisis of masculinity, the changes of gender roles and their influence on the contemporary men’s identities, hegemonic and alternative masculinities, homosexuality and male sexuality, fatherhood practices, destructive masculine practices etc. And finally the problem of transformation of gender (particularly, male) roles in Eastern Europe and in the contemporary Ukraine will be discussed.

Requirements and Grading

To get credit points, students have the following workload:
3 ECTS - writing course essay of 6-8 pages
6 ECTS - presenting during class; writing course essay of 6-8 pages
9 ECTS - presenting during class; writing and presenting course essay of 12-16 pages

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Type of work</th>
<th>Grading, %</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>9 ECTS</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Class participation (reading assigned literature, participation in discussions)</td>
<td>30</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Power point (10 minutes) presentation of chosen topic for seminar</td>
<td>10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Group project (15 pages, around 5 pages for every participant)</td>
<td>50</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Presentation and discussion of group project results</td>
<td>10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>100</td>
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Grades will be recalculated into European University of Viadrina 1 (best) to 5 (worst) points scale.

### Students’ participation in the classes

Every topic has assigned and additional literature. Students are supposed to read assigned literature to participate in class discussions. Students who want to get 6 or 9 ECTS credits are supposed to choose (in advance) and inform teacher about chosen topic of presentation. Every class has mentioned topics of presentation to choose (accept one class where debates will be organized).

Literature is on course moodle.

**Presentation** should have professionally made Power point (or Prezi) and last not more than 10 minutes. In the presentation additional (and other literature found by presenter) could be used. It should be logical, analytical and critical, based on references (in case of citing figures or thoughts). Structure of presentation: key points, ideas (examples) to explain them, conclusions (and possible questions to audience for discussions).

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Criteria of presentation evaluation</th>
<th>10 points</th>
</tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Logic and structure</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ideas (based on readings), professional terminology</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Time limit</td>
<td>2</td>
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All students should participate in and write results of group project on masculinities in the contemporary Eastern-European societies (choose appropriate title for your project). Students should organize themselves into groups by three people.

The objects of research – men in borderland, Poland close to Frankfurt / Oder. Students are supposed to gather empirical material using such sociological methods as observation or participants observation, interviews, visual methods (pictures) etc.

You could observe men in different public places (shops, cafes, pubs, sports places etc.), doing different practices (fathering, drinking, talking), search for typical male spaces etc., observe different collective (homosocial) male practices etc.

Please note that you security is your personal responsibility. Empirical material should be well connected with literature that you read for the course (theoretical part of essay).

Essay should have academic structure: introduction, main part (it may consists from 2-3 sub-parts), and conclusions.

Students must refer on literature and use academic requirements guidelines.
PLAGIARISM IN ESSAYS IS FORBIDDEN AND PENALTY IS PAPER REJECTION!

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Grading of Essays</th>
<th>50 % of total grade</th>
<th>Your own grade</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Paper structure required, logical and well-reasoned argumentations</td>
<td></td>
<td>15</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Relevant information on your researched topic (situation in men in Frankfurt Oder and / or Germany etc.)</td>
<td></td>
<td>15</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Knowledge of theoretical literature on topic researched and references (correctly done according to academic requirements)</td>
<td></td>
<td>10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Professional terminology</td>
<td></td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Grammatical correctness and academic style</td>
<td></td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td><strong>50</strong></td>
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**Topics for classes**

Week 0 (April 9). Introduction to course.

Week 1 (April 16). Men’s studies in Northern America, EU and in the Eastern Europe.

- Why do we need men’s studies in gender / women’s / feminist studies? Friendship or competition?
- Institutionalization of men’s studies

**Assigned readings:**
1. American Men’s Studies Association (about, news, resources; Journal of Men’s Studies) [http://mensstudies.org/](http://mensstudies.org/)

**Additional readings:**

Task for students: choose country (except USA) and prepare overview of men’s studies online resources

**Week 2 (April 23). Concept of hegemonic masculinity and its rethinking.**
- Origin, formulation and application
- Critiques, review and reformulation

**Assigned reading:**

**Additional readings and articles for presentations:**

**Week 3 (April 30). Gender, state and society in Soviet and Post-Soviet Eastern-European countries.**
- Gender, masculinity and working mother in the service of Soviet state power
- Gender after Soviet rule
- Models of masculinity in Soviet and Post-Soviet times: general overview

**Assigned readings:**

**Additional readings:**

Additional readings and articles for presentations:

Week 4 (May 7). Gender, masculinity and sexuality in Eastern Europe.
- Sexuality and politics in Russia: historical and sociological perspectives
- Sexualities of different masculinities: challenges of intersectionality

Assigned readings:

Additional readings and articles for presentations:


Week 5 (May 14). Gay masculinities and homophobia in Eastern Europe.
- Reconstruction of gay identity
- Homophobia in Post-Soviet societies

Assigned readings:


**Additional readings and literature for presentation:**


**Week 6 (May 21). Crisis of masculinity or men in crisis: challenges of Post-Soviet transformation.**

- ‘Being a man’ in contemporary Russia
- (Self)-Marginalization of men, homeless men and the crisis of masculinity

**Assigned readings:**


**Additional readings and chapter for presentation:**


2. Riabchuk, Anastasiya (2012), Homeless Men and the Crisis of Masculinity in Contemporary Ukraine in *Gender, Politics, and Society in Ukraine*, ed. by Olena Hankivsky and Anastasiya Salnykova, University of Toronto Press, p. 204-221.

**Week 7 (May 28). Models of (Post)Soviet masculinities: how to survive transitions?**

- New Russian masculinities: challenges of new market economy
- Heavy drinking practices

**Assigned readings:**


**Additional readings:**

**Topics for presentation:**

**Week 8 (June 4). Historical models of masculinity in Post-Soviet Ukraine**
- Cossacks discourses and practices
- Vikings and Cossacks in present Sweden and Ukraine

**Assigned readings:**

**Article for additional reading and presentation:**

**Week 9 (June 11). Men and army: masculinities and state.**
- To be “real” men or socialization via military institutions
- Masculinity and heroism
- Obligation or discrimination?

**Assigned readings:**

Additional readings and article for presentation:

Week 10 (June 18). Sports, health, and masculinities in transition.
- Body politics and masculinity

Assigned readings:

Additional readings:

Additional readings and articles for presentation:
Kay, Rebecca (2006), Just give me an aspirin and I’ll be fine: the provision of social services and support for men: a case study of the Altai Regional Crisis Centre for Men in Men in Contemporary Russia. The Fallen Heroes of Post-Soviet Change? London, Ashgate, p. 179-206.

Week 11 (June 25). Fatherhood in (Post)Soviet and Western societies.
- Fathering practices and responsible parenthood
- Watching and discussing Ukrainian documentary on parental leave and men’s involvement into parenting
Assigned readings:

Additional readings:

Topic for presentation:
Koshulap, Iryna (2007), Cash and / or Care: Discourses and Practices of Fatherhood in Contemporary Ukraine, Central European University, for degree of MA in Gender Studies (Chapter 3 and 4).

Week 12 (July 2). Involving men into gender equality implementation: case studies from OSCE region.
- Could men be (pro)feminist?
- Effective practices in engage men and boys

Assigned readings:

Topics for presentation:
Presentation and discussion of chosen strategy:
- Addressing Inequalities in Employment
- Engaging Men through Health
- Security and conflict


**Weeks 13 (July 9) & 14 (July 16)** – group projects presentation and discussion