Gender Politics in Ukraine: Challenges of Europeanization

European University of Viadrina (Germany), European Studies Department

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My professional background to teach this course:
I am public sociologist, social problems researcher, human (first of all, women’s) rights activist, sometimes journalist. My courses at the Department of Sociology at the National University of “Kyiv-Mohyla Academy” include “Introduction to Gender Studies”, “Gender and Politics”, “Feminism as Social Theory and Social Movement”, “Masculinity and Men’s Studies”, “Gender and Economics”, “Social Problems in Ukraine and in the World” and others and my research interest focuses on the social structure of society and, particularly, on gender relations. I am also a member of International Sociological Association and Sociological Association of Ukraine, Gender Expert Platform (Ukraine), International human rights movement Amnesty International. In 2011 I worked as gender expert in EU Project Women’s and Children’s Rights in Ukraine – Communication Component (where I focused on women in business, family-friendly working environment). Moreover, I was Chopivsky Post-Doctoral Fellow, CREEES, Stanford University, USA (March-June 2012) working for topic of women’s political empowerment titled “Gender Party Quotas in Ukraine as an Alternative for Women to Overcome Barriers on their Way to Ukrainian Parliament: Could Ukraine Benefit from International Experience?” In spring 2012 I gave lectures at Stanford University and Woodrow Wilson International Center “Women's Top-Level Political Participation in Ukraine: Challenges and Opportunities”. In 2012 I participated in European Union Visitors Program with topic of visit “Gender Equality and Women in Decision-Making”.

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

The course aims to examine gender relations in the contemporary Ukrainian society (in comparative international perspective) and discuss of (possible) impact of Western (EU) influence on them. Gender (in)equality in the public (politics, labor market) and private (family)
spheres in Ukraine are studied. Students are supposed to evaluate critically different researches of gender relations in Ukraine (conducted during large EU, UNDP etc. projects), main gender legislation adopted recently, international obligations of Ukraine towards implementation of equal rights and opportunities for women and men.

Moreover, gender politics in EU will be discussed critically (based on experience of particular countries). For example, as it is argued in “Strategy for equality between women and men – 2010–2015”: “Women are under-represented in the decision-making process, both in parliaments and national governments and on management boards of large companies, despite making up half the workforce and more than half of new university graduates in the EU.” The question is: What should be done on different levels by different actors (EU, member states, NGOs etc.) to change (improve) situation? It will be stressed on reconciliation of work, private and family life that is recognized at the EU level as an important priority for achieving gender equality and to facilitate women’s possibilities to take part in political life.

Both negative and positive trends, challenges and opportunities in the recent Ukrainian politics that are connected with gender equality implementation issues will be discussed. Besides, particular course topics will be devoted to LGBT issues; gender intersection with ethnicity / nationality (Roma women problems).

Course will have mainly sociological perspective. International and national reports, public opinion surveys, legislation, research etc. will be critically analyzed. Moreover, besides Sociology, course intersects such majors as Political studies, Area studies (Eastern European / Post-Soviet, European Union Studies), Human rights studies and others.

### 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

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<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>
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<tr>
<td>Course essay (size depends on ECTS)</td>
<td>50</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Presentation and discussion of (draft) essay</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 topics of presentation to choose (accept one class where debates will be organized).

**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>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Logic and structure</td>
<td>3</td>
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<tr>
<td>Ideas (based on readings)</td>
<td>5</td>
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<tr>
<td>Time limit</td>
<td>2</td>
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All students should write **course essay** on any topic of this course. It could be not only broad topic (labor market) but it is better to have very specific and focused one (for example, women on traditionally “male” professions). Your essay should be based on secondary data analysis (reports, public opinion surveys, official documents, speeches etc.) and include comparative perspective from EU gender politics in general or gender politics of any EU country (that you should choose and explain your choice; for example, in case you are from EU country, you may choose your home country).

**Suggested (broad) topics for essays:**
- How could we empower Ukrainian women to participate in politics? EU experience
- Strategies to decrease gender pay gap in Ukraine: success of EU countries
- Gender-based violence in Ukraine: EU lessons to solve it
- Gender-based and sexual education: should it be implemented in Ukraine?
- Female migration work and “new” gender order
- Minority women integration in Ukraine: “culture” vs. discrimination?
You may suggest your own topic but should discuss it with teacher.

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!

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Grading of Essays</th>
<th>50 % of total grade</th>
<th>Your grade</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Paper structure required, logical and well-reasoned arguments</td>
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<td>10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Information on Ukraine that you use in essay</td>
<td></td>
<td>15</td>
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<tr>
<td>Information on other EU country or countries, or general EU policies (you choice for essay)</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>5</td>
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<tr>
<td>Grammatical correctness and academic style</td>
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<td>5</td>
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<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
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**Topics for classes**

**Week 0 (April 8). Introduction to the course.**

Presentation of course syllabus, topics, readings and requirements for students.

**Week 1 (April 15). Ukraine in the international perspective: gender inequalities in reports.**

- Millennium Development Goals and Ukraine.
- Main principles of human development and Human Development Index in Ukraine.
- Global Gender Gap Report and Ukraine: comparative perspective.

**Assigned readings / online resources:**

**Additional readings:**
5. OSCE Project Coordinator in Ukraine // http://www.osce.org/ukraine

Topics for presentations:
Compare Ukraine with
1) other former Soviet Union / Socialist bloc countries;
2) EU countries

Week 2 (April 22). EU gender politics: challenges and opportunities.
- Gender equality and gender politics in EU: main areas
- Strategy for gender equality via critical perspective

Assigned readings:

Additional readings:
2. Gender Equality Index // http://eige.europa.eu/content/activities/gender-equality-index

Articles for presentations:

Week 3 (April 29). Public policy for promotion of gender equality in Ukraine.

- Institutional mechanism of gender equality implementation in Ukraine (legislation and structures)
- Law of Ukraine “On Ensuring Equal Rights and Opportunities for Men and Women”

Assigned readings:
1. Rubchak, Marian J. (2012), Discourse of Continuity and Change: The Legislative Path to Equality in *Gender, Politics, and Society in Ukraine*, ed. by Olena Hankivsky and Anastasiya Salnykova, University of Toronto Press, p. 54-74.

Additional readings:

Topics for presentation:
- Law of Ukraine “On Ensuring Equal Rights and Opportunities for Men and Women”: important issues in comparison with EU legislation
- CEDAW State Report from Ukraine: successes and failures

Week 4 (May 6). Gender mainstreaming in Ukraine: does it really work?

- Applicability of gender mainstreaming concept in Ukraine

Assigned readings:

Additional readings:

Additional readings and articles / books for presentations:

**Week 5 (May 13). Gender and labor market in Ukraine.**
- Demographic discourses in Ukraine
- Women and men in the Ukrainian labour market (employment and unemployment trends, gender pay gap and other aspects of gender inequality)

Assigned readings:

Additional readings:

Topics for presentation:
Watching during class:
Social advertisement on gender equality on labor market in EU

**Week 6 (May 20). Gender and education in Ukraine.**
- Gender Policy and Education in Contemporary Ukraine: Discourses and Contraversies
- Hidden curriculum in schools

**Assigned readings:**

**Additional readings:**

**Book chapters for addional readings and presentation:**

**Week 7 (May 27). Women in Ukrainian politics: to be or not to be?**

- Women’s participation in politics: views of political parties and the public
- Institution building for gender equality (women’s parliamentary bodies)

** Assigned readings:**
1. Inter-Parliamentary Union, Women in National Parliaments, Ukraine and other countries // [http://www.ipu.org/wmn-e/world.htm](http://www.ipu.org/wmn-e/world.htm)

** Additional readings:**

**Topics for presentations:**
Week 8 (June 3). Affirmative actions in Ukraine: could gender quotas help to change situation?

- Debates “pros” and “cons” of legislative gender quotas in Ukraine (moderator – intro to current situation – max 7 min, one person from every position)

Assigned readings:

Additional readings:

Week 9 (June 10). Gender-based violence and migration problems in Ukraine

- Gender-based violence in Ukraine: impact of international projects
- Migration and transnational motherhood.

Assigned readings:

Additional readings and online resources:


**Topic for presentations:**


**Watching during class:**

Social advertisement on gender-based violence awareness

**Week 10 (June 17). LGBT issues and sexuality politics in Ukraine.**

- Homophobia in the Ukrainian society
- State and sexuality politics in Ukraine

**Assigned readings:**


Additional readings:

Report for presentation:

Week 11 (June 24). Reconciliation of public and private life as an important priority for achieving of gender equality.
- Working Flexibilities
- Examples from EU countries and Ukraine

Assigned readings:

Additional readings:
1. JUMP offers women practical tools to help them achieve their professional and personal aspirations, and supports organisations that wish to promote better gender balance within their management http://www.jump.eu.com/

Topics for presentations:
- What are measures to promote women in top-business?
- How EU and members states are trying to promote female entrepreneurship and self-employment?
- What is done in EU to create family-friendly working environment?

Week 12 (July 1). Gender, intersectionality and state politics: Roma women
• Early marriage in Ukraine and Roma women: double discrimination

We will watch and discuss in class: film about the work of Roma mediators in Ukraine: http://vimeo.com/70159323

**Assigned readings:**
1. Martsenyuk, Tamara (2013), Child marriage in Ukraine factsheet, UNFPA Office in Ukraine

**Additional readings:**

**Topics for presentations:**
• Discrimination of Roma women and men in Ukraine
• Roma women in EU: state politics to overcome discrimination

**Weeks 13 (July 8) & 14 (July 15)** – essay presentation and discussion