DRAHOMANOV UKRAINIAN STATE UNIVERSITY

COURSE SYLLABUS
(WORKING PROGRAM OF THE ACADEMIC DISCIPLINE)

HUMANITARIAN STUDIES: PHILOSOPHICAL DISCOURSE ABOUT CULTURE

Year of Study: 1st year, **Semester:** 2nd
Form of Study: Full-time, Part-time

Field of Study
B Culture, Arts and Humanities
Specialty
B10 Philosophy
Educational Level
Third (educational and scientific level)

Department and Instructor	Viktor Andrushchenko, Academician of National Academy of Pedagogical Sciences in Ukraine, corresponding member of National Academy of Sciences in Ukraine, Doctor of Science in Philosophy, Professor rector@udu.edu.ua https://scholar.google.com/citations?user=eP5HhOwAAAAJ&hl=ua
I. Main Goal / Learning Objectives	To provide students with a comprehensive understanding of how culture is conceptualized and analyzed within contemporary philosophical and interdisciplinary humanitarian studies. The course invites critical engagement with cultural phenomena through philosophical reflection and theoretical interpretation.
II. The Place of the Course in the Educational Program	Cycle of Specialized Training Disciplines СП 03
III. Scope of the Academic Discipline	

Number of Credits	*4 ECTS credits*	*4 ECTS credits*
Total Number of Hours	*120 hours*	*120 hours*

	Lectures	*Full-time: 30 hours*	*Full-time: 8 hours*
	Seminars / Practical Classes	*Full-time: 22 hours*	*Full-time: 6 hours*
	Independent Study	*Full-time: 68 hours*	*Full-time: 108 hours*

IV. Course Description

MODULE 1: FOUNDATIONS OF THE PHILOSOPHICAL UNDERSTANDING OF CULTURE

Topic 1. What Is Culture? Between Worldview, Practice, and Symbol

– Historical transformations of the concept of culture (from Cicero to Taylor)
– Culture as symbolic order, way of life, and value system
– Normative, descriptive, and critical models of cultural analysis

Topic 2. Interpretation and the Humanities: Hermeneutics as Method

– Understanding vs. explanation (Dilthey)
– Hermeneutic circle and the fusion of horizons (Gadamer)
– Interpretation and the ethics of meaning (Ricœur)

Topic 3. Memory, Narrative, and Historical Consciousness

– Collective memory and cultural trauma
– Narrative identity and the philosophy of history
– Commemoration, forgetting, and identity in the humanitarian context

Topic 4. Language, Discourse, and Power in Cultural Philosophy

– Language as a condition of thought and culture
– Discourse, truth, and knowledge (Foucault)
– Culture as a space of symbolic domination and resistance

MODULE 2: CONTEMPORARY HUMANITARIAN THOUGHT ON CULTURE, MEDIA, AND IDENTITY

Topic 1. Culture as Representation and Signification

– The construction of meaning through language, symbols, and media
– Stuart Hall's theory of representation
– Philosophical implications of the "cultural turn"

Topic 2. Identity, Otherness, and Cultural Difference

– Identity as performative and relational
– The self and the Other in humanitarian discourse
– Ethics of difference and recognition

Topic 3. Everyday Life, Subjectivity, and Cultural Practice

– The role of consumption in identity-making
– Cultural objects as mediators of self-understanding
– Habitus, lifestyle, and symbolic interaction

	Topic 4. Cultural Regulation and the Power of Media – Media as institutions of cultural control and possibility – Surveillance, normalization, and symbolic power (Foucault revisited) – The philosophical critique of media modernity
V. Learning Outcomes	PH2. Freely present and discuss research results, scientific and applied problems of philosophy with specialists and non-specialists in the state and foreign languages, publish research results in scientific publications in leading scientific journals. PH3. Effectively apply in professional activities knowledge of the basic principles of theoretical and practical philosophy, the history of world and domestic philosophical thought, as well as the main directions and leading trends in modern world philosophy. PH4. Formulate and test hypotheses; use appropriate evidence to substantiate conclusions, in particular, the results of theoretical analysis, applied research, and available literature data; analyze the problem under study, taking into account the broad intellectual and socio-cultural contexts. PH5. Plan and carry out theoretical research in philosophy and related interdisciplinary areas using modern tools, critically analyze the results of one's own research and the results of other researchers in the context of the entire complex of modern knowledge regarding the problem under study. PH8. Develop and implement scientific and innovative projects that provide an opportunity to create holistic new knowledge and professional practice and solve significant scientific problems of philosophy, taking into account social, economic, environmental and legal aspects. PH9. Organize and implement the educational process in the field of philosophy, its scientific, educational, methodological and regulatory support, apply effective methods of teaching academic disciplines. PH10. To produce new system-forming knowledge at the intersection of fundamental problems of philosophy and modern social transformations in Ukraine and the world, flexibly modeling one's own research trajectory in accordance with the specifics of the chosen scientific direction (from classical historical and philosophical academism to cultural and anthropological or socio-educational studies), and to verify them in modern scientific discourse.
VI. Assessment Procedure and Criteria	Student performance in the course *"Humanitarian Studies: Philosophical Discourse about Culture"* is evaluated based on a 100-point system, distributed across various types of academic activity: **Theoretical Component** – 35 points (attendance and participation in lectures and theoretical discussions (7 sessions × 5 points each); demonstration of understanding key philosophical concepts, ability to engage in reflective dialogue); **Practical Component** – 35 points (participation in seminars, discussions, and practical tasks (6 sessions × 5 points each); presentation of brief analytical essays, responses to texts, or group tasks); **Modular Tests** – 30 points (**Mid-term test 1:** 15 points (based on Module 1); **Mid-term test 2:** 15 points (based on Module 2). Test formats may include multiple choice, short answers, and open-ended analytical questions). **Final Assessment: Pass/Fail (Credit)** **Assessment Criteria** **During oral responses:**

	Completeness of the answer; Logical structure and clarity of expression; Confidence and argumentation; Use of core and additional literature (textbooks, manuals, journals, other periodicals, etc.); Analytical thinking, ability to compare and draw conclusions. **During written assignments:** Completeness of the topic coverage; Coherence, systematic structure, logical consistency, and ability to formulate conclusions; Neatness and proper formatting of the written work. **Levels of Achievement Based on Criteria** **Creative level (90–100 points):** The student has fully mastered the course, demonstrates confident knowledge of the material, successfully and creatively solves problems of various complexity levels, articulates arguments clearly, engages in self-directed learning, and is capable of actively participating in academic projects and competitions. **High level (80–89 points):** The student has mastered the course to the required extent, demonstrates solid understanding of the material, has completed assignments for all topics, though some minor inaccuracies may occur in responses. **Sufficient level (70–79 points):** The student has a general understanding of the course content but demonstrates uneven mastery of the material; capable of basic analysis but struggles to formulate comprehensive conclusions. **Satisfactory level (65–69 points):** The student has generally grasped the course material but shows a superficial understanding of most topics. **Low level (60–64 points):** The student has minimal and fragmented knowledge of the course, understands the material at an elementary level, and is unable to independently articulate the content of most topics. **Unsatisfactory level:** • *35–59 points* – The student has partially learned the course content, failed to master the majority of topics, possesses only basic knowledge, and struggles to express ideas logically and clearly. May retake the assessment. • *0–34 points* – The student failed to complete most tasks, does not demonstrate understanding of the course content, and must retake the course.
VII. Course Policy	The policy of the academic discipline is based on the principles of academic integrity and is defined by the system of requirements set for higher education students at Drahomanov Ukrainian State University.

VIII. Key Information Resources	Andrushchenko V. The insurmountable energy of the mind – education, science and culture – in the strategy of the civilizational development of mankind. Філософія освіти. Philosophy of Education. 2024. Vol. 30, No. 1. P. 56–74. https://doi.org/10.31874/2309-1606-2024-30-1-4; Andrushchenko V., Nesterova M., Dielini M., Yatsenko O. Intercultural studies in the university community in the focus on social cohesion development. Interdisciplinary Studies of Complex Systems. 2022. No. 21. P. 5–18. https://doi.org/10.31392/iscs.2022.21.005; Andrushchenko V., Yershova-Babenko I., Kozobrodova D., Seliverstova A., Lysakova I. Digitalization of society: implications and perspectives in the context of the psycho-dimensionality of social reality / psychosynertics. Amazonia Investiga. 2022. Vol. 11, No. 56. P. 183–195. https://doi.org/10.34069/AI/2022.56.08.19;иApel, K.-O. (1994). *Selected Essays: Ethics and the Theory of Rationality*. Humanities Press.; Barker, C. (2000). *Cultural studies: Theory and practice*. SAGE Publications.; Bauman, Z. (2000). *Liquid Modernity*. Polity Press.; du Gay, P. (Ed.). (1997). *Production of culture/cultures of production*. SAGE Publications.; Eagleton, T. (2000). *The Idea of Culture*. Wiley-Blackwell; Foucault, M. (1972) *The Archaeology of Knowledge and the Discourse on Language.* Translated from the French by A. M. Sheridan Smith. Pantheon Books, New York.
	Discussed and approved at the meeting of the Department of __ Social Philosophy, Philosophy of Education and Educational Policy minutes №._1__ dated __August 27, 2026___