The Ukrainian Language Program at Columbia University

The Ukrainian Language Program at Columbia University is a leading Ukrainian language instruction and research program in the United States. Its source of inspiration is the legacy of Professor Yuri (George) Shevelov, the greatest authority in Ukrainian language in the second half of the 20th century who taught at Columbia in 1954-1977. Since 2004, the Program has led the way in developing Ukrainian language instruction resources and pedagogy, and helping students of all levels to master Ukrainian for communication, research, business, and travel. “Beginner’s Ukrainian with Interactive Online Workbook”, the popular textbook for US college students and self-learners around the world was first published in 2011 by the Hippocrene Books in New York. In June 2021, the Ukrainian-English Collocation Dictionary, a resource that is without precedents in world lexicography was publish by the same publishing house. Both these books became the Program’s unique contribution into the Ukrainian language studies worldwide.

The Program has organized academic paper presentations and whole panels dedicated to current issues of the Ukrainian language pedagogy and language situation in Ukraine at such academic forums as the American Association of Teachers of Slavic and Eastern European Languages, the Association for Slavic, Eastern, and Eurasian Studies, the American Council on the Teaching of Foreign Languages, and the International Council for Central and East European Studies. The Ukrainian Studies Program at Columbia University has enjoyed a wide international recognition and respect and is a constant presence in Ukraine. It has fruitfully cooperated with the National University of the Kyiv-Mohyla Academy, the National Ivan Franko University, and the Ukrainian Catholic University (all in Ukraine), the University of Granada (Spain) and other universities. Over the last three years it has worked with the Fulbright Program in Ukraine in selecting the best candidates in Ukraine for the Foreign Language Teaching Assistantship Fellowship.

Through the Shared Course Initiative, the Program offers its courses not only to Columbia University students, but to students of Yale and Cornell Universities. Students of New York University, the New School for Social Research and the City University of New York can enroll in the Ukrainian language courses at Columbia through the Inter-University Consortium.