

MINISTRY OF EDUCATION AND SCIENCE OF UKRAINE
Lesya Ukrainka Volyn National University
International Relations Faculty
International Relations Department

SYLLABUS
of an elective academic component

«INFORMATION WARFARE AND STRATEGIC NARRATIVES»

Bachelor training

Lutsk – 2026

The syllabus of the elective academic component «Information Warfare and Strategic Narratives», Education Level – Bachelor.

Developer: Doctor of Political Sciences, Professor, Professor of the International Relations Department, **Nataliia KARPCHUK**

Approved

by the Guarantor of the Education and Professional Programme:



Associate Professor **Yevheniia VOZNIUK**

The syllabus of the elective academic component was approved at the meeting of the International Relations Department
Protocol № 7 of January 30, 2026.

The Head of the Department:



Associate professor **Yevheniia VOZNIUK**

I. THE DESCRIPTION OF THE ELECTIVE ACADEMIC COMPONENT

Indicator Name	Field of Knowledge, Educational and Professional Programme, Education Level	Characteristics of the Academic Component
Full-Time Form of Education	C «Social Sciences, Journalism, Information and International Relations», C3 «International Relations», «International Communication and Mediation», bachelor	Elective
Number of Hours / Credits 150 / 5		Year of Study – 2
Individual Student's Work: no		Semester – 4
		Lectures – 10 hours
		Seminars – 20 hours
		Independent Work – 110 hours
		Consultations – 10 hours
Language of Study:		English
		Form of Control: Credit

II. INFORMATION ABOUT THE INSTRUCTOR

Name: Nataliia KARPCHUK

Scientific Degree: Doctor of Political Sciences

Academic Title: Professor

Title: Professor of the International Relations Department

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Days Classes: <https://ps.vnu.edu.ua/cgi-bin/timetable.cgi>

III. DESCRIPTION OF THE ELECTIVE ACADEMIC COMPONENT

1. Course Abstract

The syllabus of the optional academic component *Information Warfare and Strategic Narratives* is compiled taking into account the possibility of forming an individual educational trajectory of bachelor's level students. Evolution of information confrontations. Strategic narratives as a tool of political and geopolitical influence. The nature of narratives and their role in the formation of collective perceptions. Structure of strategic narrative. Technologies of disinformation, propaganda and manipulative influences. Social networks as a space of manipulation. Psychological methods of influencing the audience. New challenges: AI, deepfake, algorithmic wars. Information operations of states and non-state actors. Information warfare against Ukraine: history, narratives, tools. Russian narratives: historical myths, pseudohistory, anti-Western messages. Evolution of anti-Ukrainian propaganda (2004–2026). Methods of detecting and analysing disinformation: OSINT and digital hygiene, fact-checking and information verification, narrative analysis, media monitoring. Strategic communications and the formation of a positive narrative of the state.

2. *Goal* – to provide knowledge about the essence of information warfare and the role of strategic narrative in influences on the target audience.

The main objectives of the course are to study the nature of information warfare, to develop and improve the skills of analysing strategic narratives in the context of information malicious influences and the counteraction to such influences.

3. *Soft Skills*: ability to analyse information sources, detect fake news, manipulations and propaganda; assessment of the reliability and bias of content; ability to systematically analyse information campaigns, narratives and influence strategies; work with cases of real information interventions; ability to express opinions in a reasoned manner, to lead discussions on sensitive topics; effective presentation of research results; awareness of cultural characteristics in the perception of information; ability to recognize the emotional impact of information on the audience; awareness of the limits of what is permissible in information warfare; understanding the impact of manipulation on democratic processes; ability to listen and take into account different points of view.

4. Structure of the Elective Academic Component

Titles of Content Modules and Topics	Total	Lec.	Sem.	Cons.	Indep. Work	Control/ Points**
Content Module 1. Theoretical Aspects						
Topic 1. The Evolution of Information Confrontations	26	2	2	2	20	DS, P, Ab 10
Topic 2. Strategic Narratives as a Tool of Political and Geopolitical Influence	28	2	4	2	20	DS, P, Ab 10+10
Topic 3. Information Operations of States and Non-State Actors	28	2	4	2	20	DS, P, Ab 10+10
Total for Content Module 1	82	6	10	6	60	50
Content Module 2. Cases of Counteraction						
Topic 4. Information Warfare against Ukraine	35	2	6	2	25	DS, P, Ab 10+10+10
Topic 5. Detecting and Analysing Malicious Narratives	33	2	4	2	25	DS, P, Ab 10+10
Total for Content Module 2	68	4	10	4	50	50
Total	150	10	20	10	110	100

*Control methods: DS – discussion, DB – debate, T – tests, TR – training, PM/CM – problems/cases management, IST/ISW – individual task/individual work of the student, SGW – work in small groups, MTP/TP – module test paper/test paper, Ab – abstract, analytical note, analytical essay, analysis of the work, P – presentation.

IV. TASKS FOR INDEPENDENT WORK

Independent work includes studying the material covered in practical classes. Students can work with the materials covered in practical classes on the distance learning platform <https://teams.cloud.microsoft/>. The effectiveness of independent work is assessed during thematic testing and reflected in the overall assessment of the elective academic component.

V. ASSESSMENT POLICY

The instructor's policy regarding the student. Attendance at classes is mandatory. For objective reasons (for example, illness, international internship, participation in scientific events, etc.), training may take place according to an individual plan in agreement with the instructor. In conditions of martial law or quarantine restrictions, the educational process at the university may be carried out in a mixed form of learning, namely: in person in the classroom or remotely in Microsoft Teams.

Academic Integrity Policy. Plagiarism, data falsification, and unauthorized use of AI tools are prohibited. If AI tools are used, students must clearly indicate this and bear responsibility for the validity and interpretation of results.

Deadlines and Rescheduling Policy. All theoretical tasks are submitted on the day of the seminar. Working students coordinate the assignment schedule with the instructor. Missed classes are passed only if there is confirmation of a valid reason for the absence (certificate of absence due to illness or a statement about the need to miss classes).

If the student has completed the training and received the relevant Certificate, then the topic/topics of the discipline or modular test papers (work) can be counted (depends on the subject of the training and is decided separately in each individual case).

Opportunity to get additional (bonus) points. There is the respective system of bonuses at the International Relations Faculty and students may be added no more than 15 points to their current control.

VI. FINAL CONTROL

The credit is given based on the results of the current work, provided that the student has completed the types of academic work specified in the syllabus. If the student did not attend individual classroom classes, during consultations he/she has the right to work through the missed classes and get the number of points that was determined for the missed topics. On the date of the credit, the instructor writes down in the statement the amount of current points that the student scored during the current work (scale from 0 to 100 points). If the student scored less than 60 points during the current work, he/she takes the credit during the liquidation of academic debt. In this case, the points scored during the current assessment are canceled. The maximum number of points for the credit during the liquidation of academic debt is 100.

Questions:

1. Theoretical foundations of information warfare.
2. Evolution of information confrontations.

3. Strategic narratives as a tool of political and geopolitical influence.
4. The nature of narratives and their role in the formation of collective perceptions.
5. Structure of strategic narrative.
6. Technologies of disinformation, propaganda and manipulative influences.
7. Social networks as a space of manipulation.
8. Psychological methods of influencing the audience.
9. New challenges: AI, deep fake, algorithmic wars.
10. Information operations of states and non-state actors.
11. Information warfare against Ukraine: history, narratives, tools.
12. Russian narratives: historical myths, pseudohistory, anti-Western messages.
13. Evolution of anti-Ukrainian propaganda (2004–2026).
14. Methods of detecting and analysing disinformation: OSINT and digital hygiene, fact checking and information verification, narrative analysis, media monitoring.
15. Strategic communications and the formation of a positive narrative of the state.

VII. GRADING SCALE

Scores	Linguistic Grade
90-100	Passed
82-89	
75-81	
67-74	
60-66	
1-59	Fail (needed to retake)

VIII. REFERENCES

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