

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

SYLLABUS
of an optional academic component
«COMMUNICATION ASPECTS OF HYBRID WARFARE»

training

Bachelor

Lutsk – 2026

The syllabus of the academic component *Communication Aspects of Hybrid Warfare* of the Bachelor degree program.

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

Approved

by the Guarantor of Education and Professional Programme:



signature

Assoc. prof. Ilona Balak

The syllabus of the academic component “Communication Aspects of Hybrid Warfare” was approved at the meeting of International Relations Department Protocol № 7 of January 30, 2026

The Head of the Department:



Assoc. prof. Yevheniia Vozniuk

I. The description of 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 Relations” bachelor	Optional
		Year of study: 4
		Semester: 7
		Lectures 10 h.
		Seminars 20 h.
		Independent work 110 h.
		Consultations 10 h.
Number of hours / credits 150 / 5		Form of control: credit.
Language of education: English		

II. Information about the instructor

Name Nataliia Karpchuk

Scientific Degree Doctor of Political Sciences

Academic Title Professor

Title Professor of the International Relations Department

Contacts Natalia.Karpchuk@vnu.edu.ua, 097 494 3183

Days Classes according to the schedule (<https://ps.vnu.edu.ua/cgi-bin/timetable.cgi>)

III. Description of the academic component

1. A Course Abstract

The syllabus of the elective educational component “Communication Aspects of Hybrid Warfare” is compiled taking into account the possibility of forming an individual educational trajectory of bachelor's level students.

The evolution of the concept of “hybrid warfare”. Information and psychological operations as a key component of HW. The role of communications in achieving the strategic goals of hybrid actors. Target audiences and methods of influence. Psychological vulnerabilities of societies. Mechanisms of information manipulation and disinformation technologies. Framing, propaganda, content fabrication. Cyberspace and digital technologies in hybrid wars. Strategies and tools for countering disinformation in democratic states: European approach (East StratCom, EUvsDisinfo), Ukrainian models (Center for Strategic Communications, StopFake). Balance between freedom of speech and information security. Strategic communications as a tool for countering hybrid influences. Communication dimensions of the Russian-Ukrainian war as an example of modern hybrid aggression. Communication diplomacy of Ukraine.

2. Goal and tasks of the academic component

The aim of the optional AC is to provide knowledge about the essence of strategic communications in the context of security challenges of international actors.

The main objectives of the course are to study the basic categories and concepts of strategic communications, to develop and improve the skills of analyzing strategic communications tools used by participants in international relations.

3. Soft skills

ability to analyze information sources, detect fake news, manipulations and propaganda; assessment of the reliability and bias of content; ability to systematically analyze 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.

3. Structure of the academic component

Titles of content modules and topics	Total	Lec.	Sem.	Indep. work	Cons.	Control/ points
Content Module 1. Communication tools of influence in hybrid warfare						
Topic 1. The concept of "hybrid warfare"	16	2	2	10	2	DS, P, Ab 10
Topic 2. Techniques, methods and tools of hybrid warfare	28	2	4	20	2	DS, P, Ab 10+10
Topic 3. Communications in achieving the goals of hybrid warfare	28	2	4	20	2	DS, P, Ab 10+10
Total for content module 1	72	6	10	50	6	50
Content Module 2. Communication tools for countering hybrid warfare						
Topic 4. Strategic communications as a tool for countering hybrid influences	40	2	6	30	2	DS, P, Ab 10+10+10
Topic 5. Communication dimensions of the Russian-Ukrainian war as a case of modern hybrid aggression	38	2	4	30	2	DS, P, Ab 10+10
Total for content module 2	78	4	10	60	4	50
Total	150	10	20	110	10	100 points

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. Evaluation Policy

The teacher'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 teacher.

In conditions of martial law or quarantine restrictions, the educational process at the university may be carried out in a blended form of learning, namely: in person in the classroom or remotely in Microsoft Teams.

Academic Integrity Policy.

Zero tolerance for write-offs. Plagiarism and copying during the performance of written assignments (in particular, using mobile devices) are gross violations of the principle of academic integrity and are unacceptable in the process of studying the course.

If AI was used for the preparation of analytical tasks, the student recognizes and claims it and bears full responsibility for the validity of the results.

Deadlines and Rescheduling Policy.

All theoretical tasks are submitted on the day of the seminar. Working students coordinate the assignment schedule with the teacher. 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 can be considered as passed (it depends on the subject of the training and is decided separately in each individual case).

Passing and retaking the exam from the course is regulated by the Regulation on current and final assessment of knowledge of students of higher education of Volyn National University named after Lesya Ukrainka (https://hell.your-objectstorage.com/vnustorage/s3fs-public/inline-files/-2025-olozhennya_pro_org_anizatsiyu_navch-pr_otseu_u_vnu_red_0.pdf).

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.

V. 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 (for good reasons), during consultations he 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 teacher 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 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 to prepare for the credit:

1. Evolution of the concept of "hybrid warfare".
2. Information and psychological operations as a key component of HW.
3. The role of communications in achieving the strategic goals of hybrid actors.
4. Target audiences and methods of influence.
5. Psychological vulnerabilities of societies.
6. Mechanisms of information manipulation and disinformation technologies.
7. Framing, propaganda, content fabrication.

8. Cyberspace and digital technologies in hybrid wars.
9. Strategies and tools for countering disinformation in democratic states
10. European approach (East StratCom, EUvsDisinfo)
11. Ukrainian models (Center for Strategic Communications, StopFake)
12. Balance between freedom of speech and information security.
13. Strategic communications as a tool for countering hybrid influences.
14. Communication dimensions of the Russian-Ukrainian war as an example of modern hybrid aggression.
15. Communication diplomacy of Ukraine

VI. Grading Scale

Grading scale	Linguistic scale
90 – 100	credited
82 – 89	
75 - 81	
67 -74	
60 - 66	
1 – 59	Not credited (it is necessary to repass)

VI. Recommended literature and Internet resources

Educational and methodological publications

1. *Стратегічні комунікації ЄС: протидія деструктивним впливам*: кол. моногр. / за заг. ред. д-ра політ. наук, проф. Н. Карпчук. Луцьк : Вежа-Друк, 2023. 308 с. (С. 90-128, 210-259, 280-302) <https://evnuir.vnu.edu.ua/handle/123456789/22712>
2. Карпчук Н. Еволюція стратегічних комунікацій Європейського Союзу в умовах агресії РФ проти України. *European Perspective: Сучасні виклики та можливості для України*: кол. моногр. / за заг. ред.: Н. В. Павліхи, упорядкування І. О. Цибалюк. Луцьк: Вежа-Друк, 2024. (306 с.). 228 243 с. <https://evnuir.vnu.edu.ua/bitstream/123456789/24034/1/compressed.pdf>

Basic literature

1. 1. Карпчук Н. Сучасні тренди дипломатичної комунікації: “Whatever works”. *Міжнародні відносини, суспільні комунікації та регіональні студії*, 2024. № 1 (18). С. 69-84, <https://relint.vnu.edu.ua/index.php/relint/article/view/366/337>
2. Карпчук Н., Юськів Б. Інформаційні приводи й інформаційний супровід гібридної війни РФ проти України. *Історико-політичні проблеми сучасного світу*. Чернівці, № 45, 2022, с. 71-85, <https://mhpi.chnu.edu.ua/mhpi/article/view/178/173>
3. Юськів Б., Карпчук Н. Зовнішнє інформаційне маніпулювання та втручання: вплив РФ на громадську думку напередодні повномасштабного вторгнення. *Історико-політичні проблеми сучасного світу*. 2025. № 51. С. 59-76. <https://mhpi.chnu.edu.ua/mhpi/article/view/372>
4. Юськів Б., Карпчук Н., Пелех О. Зміни стратегічних комунікацій України в час російсько-української війни (2022-2024 рр.). *Міжнародні відносини, суспільні комунікації та регіональні студії*, 2024. № 3 (20). С. 99-112. <https://doi.org/10.29038/2524-2679-2024-03-99-112>

5. Юськів Б., Карпчук Н., Пелех О. Структура стратегічних комунікацій як основа ефективного комунікаційного менеджменту України в умовах війни. *Міжнародні відносини, суспільні комунікації та регіональні студії*, 2023, № 2 (16). С. 92-118. <https://relint.vnu.edu.ua/index.php/relint/article/view/318/293>
6. Karpchuk N., Fedoniuk S. Response of Media to the War: the Case of Ukraine's United News Telethon. *Codrul Cosminului*, Vol. 30/1, 2024. P. 143-170. <https://codrulcosminului.usv.ro/wp-content/uploads/2024/10/Article.7.Vol.30-1.pdf>
7. Yuskiv B., Karpchuk N., Khomych S. Media Reports as a Tool of Hybrid and Information Warfare (the Case of RT – Russia Today). *Codrul Cosminului*, Issue 1, Vol. 27, 2021, p. 235-258. <https://doi.org/10.4316/CC.2021.01.012>
<http://codrulcosminului.usv.ro/CC27/1/12.html>
8. Yuskiv B., Karpchuk N. Dominating Concepts of Russian Federation Propaganda Against Ukraine (Content and Collocation Analyses of Russia Today). *Politologija*, 2021, № 102, Issue 2, p. 116-152. <https://www.journals.vu.lt/politologija/article/view/24506>
9. Yuskiv B., Karpchuk N. Russian Federation's FIMI prior to its Intervention in Ukraine. *State-Sponsored Disinformation Around the Globe: How Politicians Deceive Their Citizens* edited by Martin Rodrigo Echeverria, Sara García Santamaría and Daniel C. Hallin, 2024, Routledge, p. 250-269 (350 p.), <https://www.taylorfrancis.com/chapters/oa-edit/10.4324/9781032632940-19/russian-federation-fimi-prior-intervention-ukraine-1-bohdan-yuskiv-nataliia-karpchuk>.
10. Yuskiv B., Karpchuk N., Fedoniuk S., Shturkhensky S., Krechetov M. The Russian Federation's "Fake News" Intentions in the War against Ukraine. *Slovak Journal of Political Sciences*, 2024, № 2. P. 180-217. <https://doi.org/10.34135/sjps.240203>
11. Yuskiv B., Karpchuk N., Fedoniuk S. Model of Strategic Disinformation Reconstruction Based on Analysis of Intentions. *Politologija*. 2024, Vol. 116, № 4. P. 198-237. <https://www.journals.vu.lt/politologija/article/view/34457>
12. Cybersecurity Law Casebook. Czech CyberCrime Centre of Excellence. Masaryk University, Institute of Law and Technology, 2021.
13. EU DisinfoLab, URL: <https://www.disinfo.eu/>
14. EU East Stratcom Task Force, URL: <http://www.tepsa.eu/wp-content/uploads/2015/12/Kimber.pdf>
15. Карпчук Н., Юськів Б. Контент- й колокаційний аналіз аналітичних повідомлень RT про Україну. *Міжнародні відносини, суспільні комунікації та регіональні студії*, № 3(14), 2022, с. 73-87.
16. Fedoniuk S., Karpchuk N., Yuskiv B. Ukraine's Information Security Policy: on the Crossroads between the West and Russia. *Czech Journal of Political Science/Politologický časopis*, № 3, 2023. P. 184-205.
17. Karpchuk N. Information and Communication policy in a Wartime: the Case of Ukraine. *Historia i Polityka*, № 40 (47), 2022, p. 125-140.
18. Мороз О. Як не стати овочем. Інструкція з виживання в інфопросторі. Х.: Віват, 2021, 208 с.
19. Піпченко Н. Європейські комунікації. Навчальний посібник. К.: Вадекс, 2021, 136 с.
20. Mapping and Analysis of Efforts to Counter Information Pollution in Europe and Central Asia Region. UNDP Report. December 22, 2022. [HTTPS://WWW.UNDP.ORG/EURASIA/PUBLICATIONS/INFORMATION-POLLUTION](https://www.undp.org/eurasia/publications/information-pollution)