PUBLIC LECTURE

‘Back to Russia? The Ukrainian Presidential Elections of 2010’

When: Tuesday, 9 March 2010 at 1.00pm
Where: Moot Court Room, Ligertwood Building, Law School

Speaker: David R. Marples is Distinguished University Professor in the Department of History & Classics and director of the Stasiuk Program on Contemporary Ukraine at the Canadian Institute of Ukrainian Studies, University of Alberta. He is author of thirteen single-authored books and two edited books on topics ranging from Chernobyl to Stalinism in Ukraine, contemporary Belarus and the collapse of the Soviet Union. His articles have appeared in Slavic Review, Europe-Asia Studies, Nationalities Papers, Eurasian Geography & Economics, Post-Soviet Affairs, and others. He is Vice-President of the North American Association of Belarusian Studies; and a board member of the Association for the Study of Nationalities and the Forum for Democracy in Belarus, German Marshall Fund of the United States. He is an editorial board member of several journals, including Canadian Slavonic Papers, Nationalities Papers, and the Journal of Ukrainian Studies. At the University of Alberta, he was awarded the Faculty Research Prize for Full Professors in 1999; the J. Gordin Kaplan Award for Excellence in Research (university research prize) in 2003, Killam Annual Professorship in 2005-06, and the University Cup (the highest award) in 2008.

Synopsis: The lecture examines the results of the Ukrainian presidential elections of 17 January and 7 February 2010 and offers an assessment of the likely consequences for Ukraine. Will Ukraine, as some media report, mend its relations with Russia to form a new, close partnership that will return it to the late Kuchma era? Will Ukraine abandon its pro-Western policy and aspirations to join NATO? What will the victory of Viktor Yanukovych mean for its relationship with the European Union? How will the new president deal with the parliament? How will Ukraine try to extricate itself from the economic crisis? Do regional voting and widely disparate attitudes mean that there are in reality ‘two Ukraines’?

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