1. Land acknowledgement – Sue Fraser

2. Dr. Ivan (John) Jaworsky, Professor Emeritus, Department of Political Science, speaking on "What is Happening in Ukraine?" with a focus on the impact of the current war on the domestic situation in Ukraine, and Canada’s role in facilitating Ukraine’s eventual recovery from the war.

Dr. Jaworsky’s research interests include dissent and its legacies in the post-Soviet region, regional issues and inter-ethnic relations in Ukraine (with a focus on Crimea and the Crimean Tatars), and civil military relations in Ukraine.

Dr. Jaworsky refers to the situation in Ukraine as a war, not a conflict and discussed:
- Historical and political factors related to why Russia invaded Ukraine in February 2022
- Military, sociocultural, and economic factors related to why the resistance by Ukraine
- Waterloo region support for Ukraine and displaced Ukrainians, including the ‘University for Ukraine (U4U)’ initiative

Q: Why do you think Russia miscalculated Ukraine’s resistance?
A:
- When Crimea was taken over by Russian, it was done quite easily and Putin likely expected a similar situation and that Russian would be welcomed by Ukrainians.
- In the 1970s and 1980s, quite a few Ukrainians moved to Russia and assimilated and assumed the people of Ukraine would want to do the same.
- Ukraine changed radically after 2014 and Putin wasn’t aware of the extent of the change
- Massive corruption in Russia which affected the military, including soldiers not being properly equipped and supplied and where soldiers didn’t really know why there are fighting in Ukraine.
- Ukraine’s military and people quite motivated

Q: When will the war end?
A: Hopefully fairly soon as in a few months but it could/likely to go longer into 2023. Dependent on the nature and extent of continued aid and support to Ukraine and Putin being able to mobilize support and
troops. Winter will make the war difficult. The only prospect for a quick end is if Russian withdrawals but this doesn’t see very likely.

Q: Similar to the situation in Iran, I feel the demise of Putin’s dictatorship has to come from within Russia.
A: Very dangerous to protest in Russia. Many, instead of protesting, have been leaving Russia.

Q: What will be the long-term impact on Ukraine after this war ends?
A: Massive effort of reconstruction needed and most displaced people will return. There’s an opportunity for things to be built better than they were before. Western aid and assistance would be needed to support this. Ukraine will probably always face a certain threat from Russian and it’s up in the air if they will before a member of NATO.

Q: What can individuals do for Ukraine?
A: Can and have been helpful via hosting, particularly with the influx of displaced Ukrainians to the Region of Waterloo. Less of a need for goods and clothing donations now, some local churches accepting still but more focused on securing medical supplies, equipment and vehicles to be sent to Ukraine. Best to contact the local churches and organization in advance to see what is in need. There is a risk of ‘Ukraine fatigue’ the longer the war goes on.

3. Annual election of Area Rep Leadership (review committee guidelines)
   • Chair – Shannon Taylor
   • Vice Chair – Maris Weiss
   • Programming Coordinators – Steve Bradley & Angela Rooke
   • Recording Secretary – Jennifer Morgan

4. UWSA President’s Report – Agata Jagielska
   - Want to ensure a continuation of info-sharing so will be sending out a survey to gauge what members are looking for and wanting to learn about. Please fill out the survey or you can also email Agata directly.

5. Approval of October 6, 2022 minutes
   Approved.

Next meeting: Thursday, December 8, 2022

Chair: Shannon Taylor
Minutes: Jennifer Morgan