The Institute for European, Russian and Eurasian Studies (IERES) at the Elliott School of International Affairs is pleased to invite you to:

200 Days Under Yanukovych and After Local Elections: Implications for Ukraine's Democracy and Foreign Policy

Part of IERES' Petrych Program on Ukraine

with

Dr. Taras Kuzio
Visiting Fellow, Center for Transatlantic Relations, SAIS, Johns Hopkins University

Viktor Yanukovych was elected Ukraine’s fourth president on February 4 with only a 3% margin and with less than 50% of the vote, both of which were the first occasion the presidency had been won in this way. Despite this narrow mandate, Yanukovych’s first 200 days in office have been a controversial ‘blitzkreig’ in domestic and foreign policies that undermined three myths which dominated the election campaign: that Yanukovych would become a ‘Kuchma-2’; that there was no difference between the two main contenders, incumbent Prime Minister Yulia Tymoshenko and Yanukovych; and that Yanukovych would be better placed to unite Ukrainians. Yanukovych’s policies were given a honeymoon period by Western governments and international organizations who welcomed greater political stability. Since the fall, however, Yanukovych’s domestic policies have come under greater scrutiny and criticism. The October 31 local elections, following hugely unpopular 50% utility price increases mandated by the July 2010 new IMF program, were the first major test of Yanukovych’s claim that he supports Ukraine’s democratic principles.

Dr. Taras Kuzio has analyzed Soviet, post-Soviet and Ukrainian affairs for the last two decades in various positions and edits the monthly Ukraine Analyst. He is currently an inaugural Austrian Marshall Plan Foundation Fellow at the Center for Transatlantic Relations, School of Advanced International Studies, John Hopkins University, where he is researching Ukrainian foreign and energy policies and writing a Contemporary History of Ukraine. Dr. Kuzio has been a Visiting Professor at the IERES and a Senior Research Fellow in the Centre for Russian and East European Studies at the University of Birmingham. He has also served as Head of Mission of the NATO Information and Documentation Centre in Kyiv, Ukraine. Dr. Kuzio is the author and editor of 14 books, 25 book chapters and over 60 scholarly articles on post-communist politics, Ukraine, and nationalism. Taras Kuzio received a BA in Economics from the University of Sussex, an MA in Soviet Studies from the University of London and a PhD in Political Science from the University of Birmingham, England.

Wednesday, November 17, 2010
4:00 - 5:30 p.m.
Voesar Conference Room
1957 E Street, NW, Suite 412
Please RSVP to ieresgwu@gwu.edu.
This event is on the record.