

**Profile of
Ekaterina (Katia) Levintova**
Professor of Political Science and Global Studies, Department of Democracy and Justice Studies
University of Wisconsin–Green Bay
2021 Regents Teaching Excellence Individual Award Recipient

Highlights from nomination materials:

- Ph.D., Political Science, Western Michigan University; M.A., Political Science, Appalachian State University; B.A., Economic Geography, Moscow State University.
- Teaches a variety of courses, ranging from first-year seminar and “Gateways to Phoenix Success” (GPS) courses to upper-level political science courses; GPS courses target underrepresented, first-generation, and low-income students to give them a strong first-year experience, including a semester-long service learning experience, designed to realize UW-Green Bay’s access-based mission and meet the increasing diversity within the community.
- Encourages active learning, including simulations; for example, in her gateway introductory course, students engage in a mock global summit, similar to a Model United Nations simulation.
- Embrace three main beliefs about education – paying attention, recognizing inherent worth of every student, and collaboration – which shape her pedagogy and her emphasis on promoting the development of students as human beings and citizens.
- Fosters collaboration in multiple ways in all her classes – in group work, in team-centered learning, in helping incoming students feel a part of the Phoenix family, in connecting lower- and upper-level classes through a political campaign project (in which upper-level students run mock political campaigns and lower-level students decide the winner) and peer mentoring, in guiding students in independent studies, honors projects, and internships, and in sharing her love of teaching with teaching assistants.
- Co-editor of *Syllabus Journal*, a peer-reviewed publication showcasing course syllabi, syllabi best practices, and assignment design; co-edited a book, *Gender in the Political Science Classroom*, Indiana University Press, 2018.
- Faculty adviser for the university’s newly formed Model European Union student organization.
- Select awards: UW-Green Bay Founders Award for Excellence in Teaching (2019); WMU Political Science Department Alumni Achievement Award (2019); UW-Green Bay Student-Nominated Teaching Award/Experienced Teacher winner(2017); UW-Green Bay Student-Nominated Teaching Award/Early Career winner (2012).

In Ekaterina Levintova’s own words:

- “In all my classes, I try to show that UWGB can be that magical place where students find themselves and meaningful connections -- to course material, to other students, to life-long mentors. As humans, we pay attention better if somebody pays attention to us. This simple maxim changed my teaching for good. I want to always pay attention to my students, in multiple ways.”

In the words of colleagues:

- “As demonstrated in the tagline of one of her publications, ‘Global Citizens are Made, Not Born,’ Dr. Levintova centers her pedagogy around development—both intellectual and intercultural. She takes risks and believes in students when no one else has...and the results are apparent. She has transformed students’ lives by giving them the skills and confidence to pursue graduate programs, when they did not even believe that they would successfully complete a bachelor’s degree. Countless current and former students cite her as their mentor. Former students explain that her inspiration and support are the reasons for their career trajectory and love of learning.” —*Kate Burns, Interim Provost and Vice Chancellor of Academic Affairs, UW-Green Bay*