Dr. Ihor Bubniak, Associate Professor at Lviv Polytechnic National University

What do you teach?

I teach lectures and labs in the various subdisciplines of geology, including geomorphology, hydrogeology, engineering geology, and field courses.

How long have you been teaching?

I worked for 22 years at the Ukrainian National Academy of Sciences before transitioning to Ivan Franko National University in Lviv in 2004. Since 2017, I have been teaching at Lviv Polytechnic National University.

What challenges do you face while teaching?

I face the typical challenges, such as the reluctance of students to study and their general lack of motivation. What's more difficult, however, is resistance from my senior colleagues and the department to innovation in courses, which are often stuck using old Soviet approaches even now, 28 years after independence. Additionally, there are few textbooks in the Ukrainian language, although that situation is improving with e-textbooks.

What innovations have you brought to the classroom?

I have introduced digital approaches in several courses and have familiarized my students with geographic information systems (GIS) for geology and environmental studies. This has already helped my students perform better at the international level and become more competitive when applying for jobs. We also have a new drone, which I use to teach my students field operations and 3D mapping. Funding for the drone was very difficult to obtain, but it has expanded what I can teach and has been great for student recruitment.

What would you love to do in your classroom if you had the tools and resources?

I would like to understand and better implement modern classroom approaches, especially when it comes to online education and using digital tools in the classroom. Digital tools would help me build Ukrainian-language materials for my students.
Dr. Serhii Tsikhon, Associate Professor at Ivan Franko National University of Lviv

What do you teach?
I teach lectures and labs for economic geology, mineral deposits, ore fields, and engineering geology.

How long have you been teaching?
I have been teaching since 2002.

What challenges do you face while teaching?
Students are unmotivated to study and devote little time to independent work. Our teaching methods are also outdated, which has resulted in dropping enrollments. My senior colleagues shun computer technology and still have students do all their work by hand, which provides students with few skills for the modern geoscience workforce.

What innovations have you brought to the classroom?
I use a multimedia projector and have recently introduced my students to Moodle, a learning management software, so that they can obtain learning materials online.

What would you love to do in your classroom if you had the tools and resources?
I would love to work in an adaptive learning environment and develop interactive online courses for my students. Additionally, I want to be able to introduce them to modern databases and teach them how to work with them.
What do you teach?

I teach topics in geology, including mineralogy, lithology, and petrography.

How long have you been teaching?

I have been teaching since 2009.

What challenges do you face while teaching?

My students often lack motivation to study. Additional difficulties include lack of modern laboratory equipment for practical training and lack of access to modern databases.

What innovations have you brought to the classroom?

Several years ago, I created a "geotour" of Lviv. It is difficult to get our students out into the field to explore the geology of the region. Luckily, thousands of years of history and geopolitics have brought those rocks to us in the form of building materials. The regional geology is embedded in all our city buildings. I initially had to take my students on these geotours in secret, as my colleagues were not supportive of the approach. But now it's a very popular class with the students.

What would you love to do in your classroom if you had the tools and resources?

I would love to build a database of the stone materials and fossils that can be found around Lviv and the Western Ukraine region, so that I can use it in my classrooms and public outreach events. Being able to construct them into a type of virtual field trip would also be fantastic.