



CIEE Saint Petersburg, Russia

Course name:	Russian Traditional Visual and Performing Arts
Course number:	RUSI 3008 RLPR
Programs offering course:	St. Petersburg Russian Language Program
Language of instruction:	Russian
U.S. Semester Credits:	3
Contact Hours:	45
Term:	Fall 2019

Course Description

This is a survey course, which provides the students with a basic knowledge of the Russian culture, including musical culture, theater and cinema. It traces contemporary visual and performative art back to their roots in the traditional Russian culture and folklore.

Learning Objectives

After completing this course students will be able to:

- analyze ancient rites and traditions that underpin Russian visual and performative arts;
- discuss the main types of fairy tales and their main features, as a part of Russian folklore;
- identify the genres and the main historic periods of the Russian musical culture
- identify most prominent Russian composers of the eighteenth, nineteenth and twentieth centuries;
- discuss major stages in the development of Russian national cinema, revealing its social and artistic traits

Course Prerequisites

None

Methods of Instruction

Classes are held in seminar format including topics for discussion and the lecture material includes practice elements as well (reading and translating texts, question and answer, exchange of views, etc.).

Assessment and Final Grade

The final grade is composed of:

Class Participation	25%
Homework:	15%
Test #1	20%
Test #2	20%
Test #3	20%
TOTAL:	100%



Course requirements

Class participation. Active participation in class discussions is required. Students are expected to complete class readings for the assigned date and come to class ready to analyze and debate issues raised by the readings.

Homework assignments should be submitted on the day they are due. In order to receive credit, you must submit each written assignment in its entirety on a separate full-size sheet of paper identified by the date for which it was assigned

Midterm and final tests will be given in a written form and they will test your knowledge of course concepts, theories and facts. It is a combination of multiple choice questions, open questions and a short essay on a proposed topic.

Class Attendance

Attendance is crucial for successful completion of the class. Students are allowed to have two unexcused absences for each course for the whole semester program. These allowed unexcused absences should be used for situations such as minor illnesses without a doctor's note or personal situations that prevent the student from attending the class. Allowed unexcused absences should not be used in a planned way for travel or other activities.

Unexcused absences beyond the limit of two will lower a student's grade by 2 points on the 100-point scale each. For example, if your overall score in the class is 90 (an equivalent of A-) and you have had three unexcused absences, your final score will be 88 (B+).

Weekly Schedule

Week 1

Class 1. The transition from atheist Rus to Orthodox Rus. Paganism. The earliest Slavic deities. Choice of faith. Baptism of Rus. The main periods of development of Old Russian art.

Class 2. Old Russian cities: Architectural monuments of the 11th-17th century
Match Slavic pagan gods with their antiquities.

HW:

Prepare a presentation based on the "Ispytanie ver" legend from "Tale of Bygone Years". Be prepared to act out parts of the legend.

Week 2

Class 1. Kiev – capital of the first Old Russian State.

Class 2. Saint Sophia's Cathedral. Kiev Pechersk Lavra (The Kieve Monastery of the Caves).

HW: Write an essay on the topic: "Kiev, the mother of Russian cities"

Week 3

Class 1. Russian Medieval cathedrals and monasteries.

Class 2. Architecture of Vladimir, Suzdal, Bogolyubovo.

HW: Prepare a presentation based on readings from *The Golden Ring*



Week 4

Class 1. “Lord Great Novgorod” – feudal Veche Republic.

HW: Read “Novgorod” in *Soperniki Moskvyy*, p. 3-8

Answer questions (p. 20)

Class 2. Cathedral of St. Sophia and other temples of Novgorod

Week 5

Class 1. Pskov: the city-fortress.: Plans of Russian old cities

Class 2. Pskov Krom (Kremlin). The Trinity Cathedral.

Features of Pskov architecture.

HW: describe a typical Pskov cathedral (1-2 pages)

Week 6

Class 1. Old Moscow and the city plan

HW: Prepare presentations based on materials from *Your Kremlin* book, p. 26–32

Class 2. Cathedrals and towers of the Moscow Kremlin

Red Square. St. Basil’s Cathedral

❖ **Test #1**

Week 7

Class 1. Russian icons. Problems of representation.

Class 2. Iconography of Mother of God. Great Russian icon painters (Theophanes the Greek, Dionisius, etc.)

HW: Describe an icon from the Russian Museum collection (1-2 pages)

Week 8

Class 1. Life and creative works of Andrey Rublev

Class 2. Film screening: *Andrei Rublev* (1972, dir. Andrei Tarkovsky)

HW: write an essay on one of the following topics^

Write an essay on one of the topics:

1. How is Ancient Rus depicted in A. Tarkovsky’s “Andrey Rublev”?

2. What searched Andrey Rublev, and what he discovered?

3. What I took from watching the Tarkovsky’s film?

❖ **Test #2**

Week 9

Class 1. Traditional Russian rituals. Ceremonies and celebrations.

Class 2. Agrarian holidays. Wedding ceremonial complex.

HW: Prepare presentation about Russian customs and holidays.

Week 10

Class 1. Russian folk fairytales. Classification of Russian folk fairytales. Manifestation of Russian mentality in folk tales.

Read: Russian folk fairytale “Sister Alyonushka and Brother Ivanushka”..



Class 2. Narrative structure of a fairy tale, according to Vladimir Propp.
HW: Compose a fairytale using linguistic features of the fairytale genre.

Week 11

Class 1. Russian folk song. Classification of Russian folk songs: ceremonial (calendar holidays, wedding songs, lamentations) and non-ceremonial songs (working, historic, soldier/war songs, lyrical, and other).

Class 2. Features of folk-poetic speech. Stylization.

HW: Listen to Russian folk songs «Vdol' Da Po Rechke», «Ey, Ukhnem», «Luchinushka», «Vechernyy Zvon».

Indicate features of folk poetic speech in the lyrics. Memorize one song.

Week 12

Class 1. Review for the test

Class 2.

❖ **Test #3**

Course materials

Readings

Alpatov M.V. *Drevnerusskaia ikonopis'* Moscow, 1998

Golubeva, *Soperniki Moskvyy*. St. Petersburg, 2005

The Golden Ring. Moscow, 2011.

Ignatov V.I. *Russkie istoricheskiye pesni*. M.: 1970.

Propp, V. *Morphology of the folktale*. Austin, TX: 2003

Fenina, "Andrei Rublev." *Besedy o russkikh khudozhnikakh*. Moscow: 2003.