



CIEE St. Petersburg, Russia

Course name:	St. Petersburg and the “New” in Russian Culture
Course number:	RUSI 3009 RLPR
Programs offering course:	Russian Language Program
Language of instruction:	Russian
U.S. semester credits:	3
Contact hours:	45
Term:	Spring 2020

Course Description

This class explores the pattern of “The New” in Russian Culture. Being focused on the impact of St. Petersburg on the Russian cultural progress, the course provides the students an opportunity to explore the achievements of Russian art as displayed in St. Petersburg. The city itself, as an inspiration and reflection at the same time, is an “actor” of the course. Field trips to the local museums and art galleries are the integral part of the course.

Course Prerequisites

None

Methods of Instruction

The course will consist of lectures and seminar discussions on material read at home and included in the lecture. Students are expected to do the readings in a timely manner and to participate actively in classroom discussions

Assessment and Final Grade

Students will be assessed according to the following criteria:

- in-class participation 20%
- in-class tests 60% (15% each)
- written home assignments 20% (5% each)

TOTAL: 100%

Course Requirements

In class participation. Students are expected to participate actively, intelligently and regularly in class discussions. They are expected to come to the class meetings prepared, i.e. having read the assigned texts and ready to discuss the issues brought up by the readings.

In-class test will be given at the end of each larger topic (Architecture of St. Petersburg, Paintings in the collection of the State Russian Museum, etc.) Each tests will have two types of tasks: 1) questions to check your knowledge of facts and data and 2) creative writing task, in which you will render your own impressions of artistic and cultural objects in the city.

There will be two written home assignments throughout the semester. You will be asked to find information on a particular topic and then discuss your findings in writing. You will be asked to write short essays, from 0.5 to 1 page in length.



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. St. Petersburg – paradise of the north. Historical and cultural survey
Home assignment: Watch a documentary about St. Petersburg

Class 2. Architecture of St. Petersburg: baroque, classicism

Readings:

Potapurchenko, Z.N. St. Petersburg, pp. 17-22

Obraztsova M. *St. Petersburg*, pp. 17-18, 33-34

Week 2.

Class 1. Architecture of St. Petersburg: big Imperial style.

Home assignment: Watch documentary *Architecture of Russian Empire*

Reading: Antsiferova N. *Dusha Sankt-Peterburga*, pp. 18-24.

Class 2. The image of Peter the Great in architecture of St. Petersburg

Readings:

Malysheva, G. *St. Petersburg – Cultural Capital of Russia*, 2011.

Week 3.

Class 1. Suburbs of St. Petersburg: Kronstadt.

Readings:

Class 2. The art nouveau style in St. Petersburg

Readings:

Week 4.

Class 1. St. Petersburg in the early twentieth century: “culture one” and “culture two”

Readings: Vladimir Paperny, *Culture Two*, pp. 3 - 30

Class 2.

❖ **Test #1**

Week 5.

Class 1. The “New” in St. Petersburg visual art

Readings: Vartaniants A.D. *My chitaem I govorim o russkikh khudozhnikakh*, pp. 10-16

Class 2. Peredvizhniki and Ilya Repin.

Home assignment: prepare a presentation about a painting (early twentieth century)

Week 6.

Class 1. *Mir Iskusstva*: the city and the people.

Readings: Vartaniants A.D. *My chitaem I govorim o russkikh khudozhnikakh*, pp.100-105, 113-118, 131-135, 146-149, 160-165.

Class 2. Kazimir Malevich and Russian avant-garde art.

Week 7.

Class 1. Mit'ki and other St.-Petersburg art groups of the 1960s-1980s

Class 2. Review for the test

❖ **Test #2**

Week 8.

Class 1. Church music of the eighteenth century. Mikhail Glinka: the founder of Russian national opera

Home assignment: prepare a presentation about the history of Russian opera

Class 2. Mysteries of St. Petersburg. Peter Tchaikovsky, *Dame of Spades*
Igor Stravinsky

Home assignment: Watch: *Stravinsky: Once at a Border...* (1982, dir. Tony Palmer)

Week 9.

Class 1. The war of symphonies: Shostakovich against Stalin

Readings: Malyshev M., Svidinskaia N., "Shostakovich", pp. 68-69

Class 2. Soviet mass song of the 1920s-1950s

Home assignment: listen to the following Soviet songs: Varshavianka, March of Buddenny, Wide is My Motherland, Dark Night

Week 10.

Class 1. Leningrad Rock Club: the culture of protest. Boris Grebenshikov: *The Long Way Home*
Home assignment: watch a documentary *Rock* (1987, dir. A. Uchitel)

Class 2.

❖ **Test #3**

Week 11.

Class 1. St. Petersburg as a movie. *Oblomok Imperii*: a dream or a nightmare?

Home assignment: Watch *Oblomok imperii* (1929, dir. Ermler)

Class 2. St. Petersburg as a criminal capital of the 1990s.

Russian criminal TV series of the 1990s

Readings: Glebova N. Orekhova I.A. *O Russkikh Filmakh po-russki*. M.: 2012, pp. 54-67

Week 12.

Class 1. St. Petersburg as a stroll: *Autumn Marathon, Piter FM*



Home assignment: Watch *Autumn Marathon* (dir. G. Danelia)

Class 2.

❖ **Test #4**

Course materials:

Readings

Glebova N. Orekhova I.A. *O Russkikh Filmakh po-russki*. M.: 2012

Malyshev M., Svidinskaia N., *Sankt-Peterburg – kulturnaia stolitsa Rossii*. SPb, 2011.

Vartaniants A.D., Kashina N. *My chitaem I govorem o russkikh khudozhnikakh*. M., 1999

Vlasova, Egorova, *My chitaem I govorem o russkikh kompozitorakh*. M., 1989

Paperny, Vladimir. *Kultura-Dva*. M.: NLO, 2006.

Potapurchenko Z., *Muzei Sankt-Peterburga*. M., 2015.