



CIEE St. Petersburg, Russia

Course name:	Russian Culture Lectures and Excursions
Course number:	AREA 3001 RLPU
Programs offering course:	Summer Russian Language Program
Language of instruction:	Russian
U.S. semester credits:	1
Contact hours:	15
Term:	Summer 2019

Course Description

This weekly lecture series explores Russian culture understood as a complex of iconic images and ideas which currently still have a hand in shaping the Russian mindset. Topics include the role of Russian literature in the 19th and 20th centuries, a survey of major 19th and 20th century Russian writers, Russian women writers, major events in Russian history, as well as Russian art and architecture. Lectures are complemented by weekly excursions in and around St. Petersburg.

Learning Objectives

This course aims to improve students' mastery of the Russian language through an in-depth exploration of Russia and its most notable attractions, writers, architecture, and art. By the end of this course, students' should have gained a deeper understanding of the components that compose the Russian mindset and culture.

Course Prerequisites

Students must possess a high enough level of vocabulary and basic grammatical material, in order to understand the lectures at a cultural level. Most students will have completed 2 semesters of U.S. college Russian instruction. However, students' placement is also contingent upon a written and an oral test administered at the beginning of the program, as well as a mandatory ACTFL oral proficiency interview.

Methods of Instruction

This course combines field trips, in-class lectures, and discussion.

Assessment and Final Grade

Students will be assessed according to the following criteria:

In-class participation:	40%
Quizzes:	30%
Essay:	30%
TOTAL:	100%



Course Requirements

Students are required (1) to participate actively, intelligently and regularly in class discussions; (2) to read 5-7 pages of assigned text for each class meeting; (3) to take 2 quizzes; (4) submit one two-page essay

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 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	Administrivia	Introduction: Russian cultural discourse. Syllabus, practical matters.
Week 2-3	Russian Grands (2 classes)	Russian Hope and Russian Sorrow: Fortresses, praying houses and jails as a framework of Russian life. Field trip: Peter and Paul Fortress
		Russian Empire in stones and images. Russian Baroque and Russian Neoclassicism. Field trips: Pavlovsk , Peterhof Film: Russian Ark
Week 4	Russian Dance	The Castle of Beauty: Russian ballet Film: White Nights (Mikhail Baryshnikov)
Week 5	Russian Poetry	Poetry as Message and Mission: Pushkin, Akhmatova, Brodsky and Ryzhi Film: Boris Ryzhi Field trip: Anna Akhmatova Museum
Week 6	Russian Prophet	Dostoevsky: odyssey of a convict Field Trip: Crime and Punishment Walk Film: Journey with Dostoevsky



Week 7	Russian Paradise Lost and Found	Russian Revolution and Russian Culture. Russian Avant-garde and Stalinist Era Art. Field trips: St. Petersburg of Vladimir Nabokov Kirov Memorial Apartment
Week 8	Russian Survival	The Culture of the Siege Film: Blokada (documentary, Sergei Loznitsa) ❖ Your essay is due

Course materials:

Hellberg-Hirn, Elena. *Imperial Imprints: Post-Soviet St. Petersburg*. Helsinki: Literature Society, 2003.

Nabokov, Vladimir. *Drugie Berega: Roman, Rasskazy*. Moskva, AST, 2004

Massie, Suzanne. *Land of the Firebird: The Beauty of Old Russia*. Blue Hill, Maine: Hearttree, 1980.