



CIEE St. Petersburg

Course name:	Discovering Russia: Film, Music, and Current Press (Advanced)
Course number:	RUSI 3002 RLP
Programs offering course:	Summer Russian Language
Language of instruction:	Russian
U.S. semester credits:	3
Contact hours:	45
Term:	Summer 2019

Course Description

This course examines various aspects of Russian culture through a close analysis of its verbal and visual texts that represent Russian cinema, music, and mass media. While focusing on two or three Russian films, the students examine the films' transcripts and vocabulary lists, which are later used in class discussions and written home assignments. A similar approach is employed in the work with the articles from Russian newspapers and journals. It allows the students to broaden their knowledge of the specific language of the current press and the socio-political problems of today's Russia. The emphasis of the course's musical component falls on various types of Russian song, the study (and performance) of which leads to a better understanding of Russian culture.

Learning Objectives

The proposed course focuses both on passive (listening- movies, TV, music; reading- reviews, newspaper and magazine articles, song lyrics) and active (speaking- discussion of movies, TV shows, newspaper articles; writing- writing about movies viewed) speech acquisition. The use of material in its natural language helps students to understand and produce a more authentic Russian language. A large component of this course is gaining a fuller understanding of Russian culture. During this process, all material and lessons contribute significantly to the expansion of vocabulary and depth of students' knowledge of Russian language.

Course Prerequisites

Students must be at advanced level of Russian in order to understand the lectures and participate in the discussions. Students' placement is contingent upon a written and an oral test administered at the beginning of the program.

Methods of Instruction

Considering the multi-dimensional aspect of this course, the methods of instruction vary. Songs will be introduced and learned through listening, analysis of the lyrics, discussion, and memorization of the lyrics. In-class film viewing and discussion is preceded by an overview of the film's scenes, as well as lexical work, a presentation of the film and director. The films, if necessary, will be accompanied by subtitles in English or Russian (depending on the level of knowledge of Russian language students), and students will have complete access to communication in the form of an



organized discussion led by the teacher. The opportunity to reflect and express deeper impressions can be done through essay writing, which is the final stage of the film class.

Assessment and Final Grade

Students will be assessed according to the following criteria:

Attendance:	30%
Participation:	30%
Essays & Final Exam:	40%
 TOTAL:	 100%

Course Requirements

Attendance and active participation in class is a crucial component of this course. The final exam is a written exam. Movie reviews and short essays contribute to the final grade.

Feedback

Apart from the scores of the quizzes and the exams, students can discuss their progress in the course and get additional guidance from their teacher during office hours, through individual appointments and email, or after classes.

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. 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	Film	Topic: Introductory lesson on Film. Short film in Russia. (Film novella) Peter Buslov “ Srochniy remont ” (2009)
	Music	Russian folk songs (Learn songs) Classification (soldier, Burlatskii, wedding, genre).

	Current Press	General characteristics of various types of media in Russia. Introduction of vocabulary needed for the discussion of this topic. Structure of an article. How to retell an article you've read. How to agree with the writer, how to disagree, how to express your own opinion.
Week 2	Film	Topic: Soviet comedy Leonid Gaidai (director) "Operatsiya Y i druiye priklyucheniya Shurika" (1965) HW: <i>Essay on the topic "My impressions of the film."</i>
	Music	Russian folk songs (Learn songs) Classification (soldier, Burlatskii, wedding, genre).
	Current Press	Liberal-democratic, propaganda, and oppositional media in Russia Read headings and subheadings. Choose interesting articles on the basis of the headings and subheadings. News.
Week 3	Film	Topic: Social problems in Russian film Mikhail Segal (director) "Rasskazy" (2012) HW: <i>Essay on the topic "My impressions from the film" or "What social problems are raised in American film?"</i>
	Music	Russian folk songs (Learn songs) Classification (soldier, Burlatskii, wedding, genre).
	Current Press	Discussion of articles read. Analyze the specific language used. Analyze stylistic devices. Review and consolidation of vocabulary on the topics "Culture," and "State Social Policy."
Week 4	Film	Topic: Social problems in Russian film continued
	Music	Russian romance. (Practice songs) Classification (cue classical, gypsy, urban).
	Current Press	Discussion of articles read. "Russia – a multinational state." "Migrants." "National Policy of the State." Presentation of articles on this topic. Work with vocabulary on this topic.
Week 5	Film	Topic: Youth and problems of the generations Valery Todorovskiy (director) "Stilyagi" (2008) Karen Shakhnazarov (director) "Kuryer" (1986) HW: <i>Write a review of the film (or essay on the topic: "Problems of the generations in American film")</i>



	Music	Russian romance. (Practice songs) Classification (cue classical, gypsy, urban).
	Current Press	Discussion of articles on the topic "National Policy of the State." Presentations of articles on the topic, "Ecology and protection of the environment." Work with vocabulary on this topic.
Week 6	Film	Topic: Youth and problems of the generations continued.
	Music	Songs of the 20th century. (Learn songs) Ditty, tango, art song (B.Okudzhava, Yu.Vizbor, Vladimir Vysotsky).
	Current Press	Discussion of articles on the topic "Ecology." Presentation of articles on the topic "Economic Problems." Work with vocabulary on this topic.
Week 7	Film	Topic: Youth and problems of the generations continued
	Music	Songs of the 20th century. (Learn songs) Ditty, tango, art song (B.Okudzhava, Yu.Vizbor, Vladimir Vysotsky).
	Current Press	Presentations of articles chosen by students on various topics. Discussion of articles. Exchange of opinions. Characteristics of received information.
Week 8	Film	Topic: The image of St. Petersburg in Russian film Aleksy Balabanov (director) "Brat" (1997) Oksana Bychkova (director) "Piter FM" (2006) HW: Write a review of the film.
	Music	Final Exam
	Current Press	Final Exam

Course materials

Course materials include newspaper and magazine articles, films, music and lyrics. All the materials will be provided to students by the instructor