

RUSS 303: Topics in Russian Culture (In English)

Exploring Russian Culture and Values

Hybrid Course

synchronous/asynchronous learning options

INSTRUCTOR

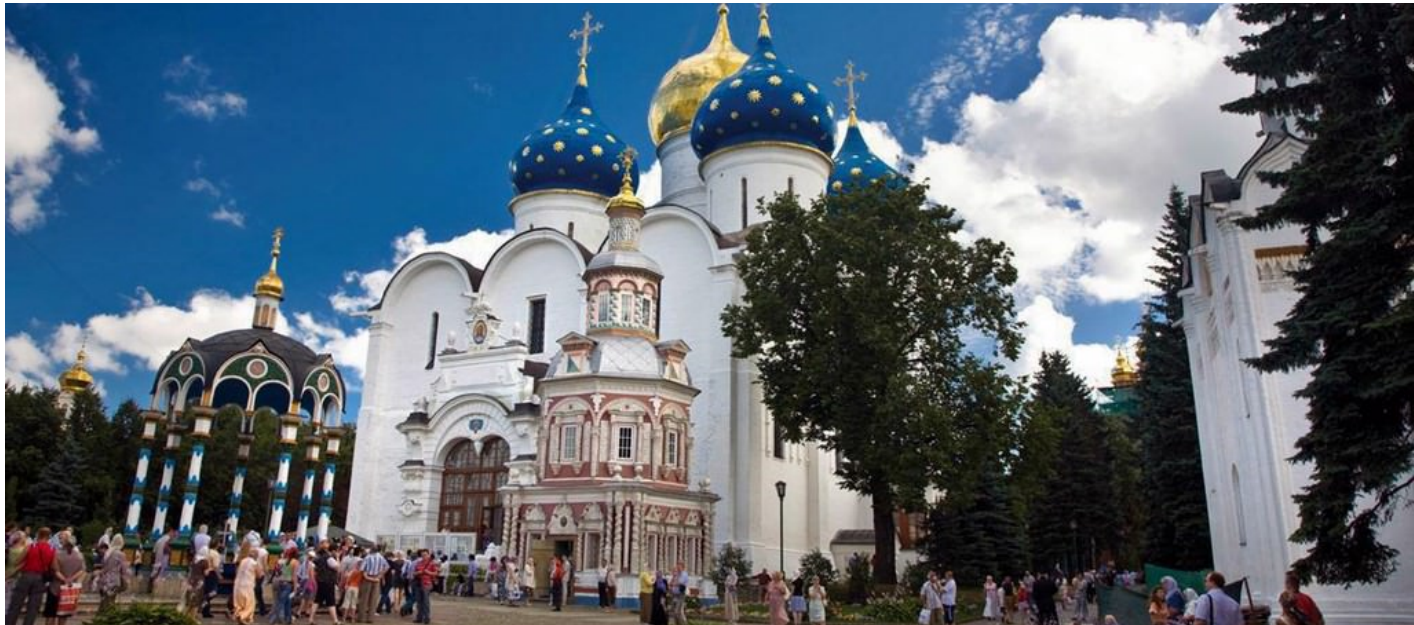
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COURSE DATES:

Term 1 (May 16, 2022 to Jun 22, 2022)

COURSE DESCRIPTION

Exploring Russian values and the assumptions that drive Russian cultures. What makes Russian culture unique? Why does it place such a high value on the homeland, on close personal relationships, and on

openness in expressing emotions? Does it de-emphasize the material world? What really are the core values of the Russian people? Are these values real, or just clichés? In this course, we will discuss some values that structure the Russian worldview, the historical events and societal pressures that went into forming it, and how some values are evident in the manifestations of Russian high culture we are all familiar with today.

The course includes recorded lectures, online discussions, assigned readings from classical Russian literature, films from celebrated Russian directors, and a research component. This is a blended-learning course, with 3 hours of in-person seminars and lectures, and 3 hours of pre-recorded lectures and online activities (discussion and tests) per week, for a total of 6 hours per week. The class format is flexible. Students who cannot attend the in-person seminars can participate on Canvas in the discussion section.

LEARNING OBJECTIVES

After successfully completing RUSS 303, you will be able to:

1. **identify and analyze:**
a range of Russian people's beliefs, values, and conventions;
factors and events that influenced Russian values;
2. **describe** selections of Russian literature and film in order to **analyze** how Russian cultural values are depicted;
3. **question your own cultural preconceptions** by discussing the difference between how Russians view their values and Western perspectives of Russia;
4. **develop cultural sensitivity** by reflecting on some peculiarities of Russian culture;
5. **communicate perceptions** of unfamiliar cultural materials to peers;
6. **perform research skills** including formulating research questions, using library and Internet resources, and evaluating sources of information.

REQUIRED MATERIAL

All reading material is available online and via the UBC library system except Pushkin, A.S. *The Captain's Daughter*

All films are accessible via links or via the YouTube Mosfilm Collection

EVALUATION

Discussions	10%
Reflections	10%
Online Quizzes	20%
Research Proposal	10 %
Research Presentation	10%
Research Paper	40%

Discussions (10%)

Discussions promote preparation and provide the students feedback. You will participate in discussions in class or, if you cannot attend classes, by posting on Canvas. Both oral and written discussion participation is graded according to a Complete/Incomplete grading scheme. For example, students who participated in a discussion in class or submitted their responses online before the deadline will get 100% for this assignment.

Reflections (10%)

There will be weekly reflections in the forms of written assignments designed to facilitate your learning so that you can get insight into at least one of the learning objectives for the course listed above on the syllabus. Written assignments are graded according to a Complete/Incomplete grading scheme. Students who submitted written assignments and reflections before their deadlines will get 100% for these assignments.

Online quizzes (20%)

There will be open book online quizzes after each module on the material from both the reading assignments and the lectures. The quizzes will be 10-15-minute-long, and they will include questions in different formats, including multiple choice, fill-in-the-blank, and short answer. Details of each quiz will be announced the week before the quiz date. The lowest score will be excluded from the final grade.

Research Proposal (10 %)

You will have to submit a research proposal (minimum 750 words) on the topic of your interest related to Russian culture. You will examine this topic in your final paper and research presentation. You must propose a topic yourself following these guidelines:

1. The topic must be related to RUSS 303.
2. You must submit the topic by the date indicated in the course schedule for the instructor's approval.
3. Your proposal should include a description of the research topic and an annotated bibliography (minimum 5 sources, consistent with one style, e.g., APA, MLA, Chicago, etc.) In your description, you should introduce a problem or issue relevant to the topic and make a clear and creative argument for the importance of the topic.
4. Your annotations should be minimum 100 words each and they should include the following information:
 - a) A summary of the source;
 - b) The source's strengths and weaknesses;
 - c) Why the source is relevant in your field of study;
 - d) Information about the author's background;
 - e) Your personal conclusions about the source

Scoring Guideline for the Research Proposal

	Exceptional	Outstanding	Competent	Satisfactory	Adequate	Inadequate
	90-100%	80-89%	70-79%/	60-69%	50-59 %	0 -49%
Description of the research topic 20 pts.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The proposal introduces a problem or issue relevant to the topic. A clear and creative argument for the importance of the topic. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The proposal introduces a problem or issue relevant to the topic. A clear argument for the importance of the topic. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The proposal introduces a problem or issue relevant to the topic, but it explains its significance in simplistic terms. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The proposal introduces a problem or issue, explains its significance in simplistic terms. Reader is left confused on the problem/issue 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The proposal introduces a problem or issue, but fails to explain its significance. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The proposal does not introduce a problem/issue . Topic for the research paper is not provided.
Quantity of sources 10 pts.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The proposal cites 5 sources 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The proposal cites 4 sources 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The proposal cites 3 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The proposal cites 2 sources 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The proposal cites 1 source 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> No sources cited
Quality/Reliability & Variety of sources 20 pts.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> All sources are reliable. Excellent variety of sources that provides different perspectives. More than four types of sources. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> All sources are reliable. Good variety of sources. More than four types of sources. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Most sources are reliable. Good variety of sources. Three types of sources. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Some sources can be considered reliable. Adequate variety of sources. Three types of sources. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Few sources cited can be considered reliable. Poor variety of sources. Two types of sources. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Little or no reliable or trustworthy No variety of sources. Only one type of source.
Quality of annotations 30 pts.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> All annotations are complete and meet the requirements described in the syllabus. The annotations provide 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> All annotations are complete and meet the requirements described in the syllabus. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Most annotations are complete and meet the requirements described in the syllabus. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Some annotations are complete and meet the requirements described in the syllabus. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Most annotations are lacking in completeness. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> All annotations are lacking in completeness.

	evidence for importance and relevance of the sources.					
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Research Paper (40%)

Your final paper is a research essay on the topic of your research proposal described in the previous sections. In this paper, you should analyze both literary and non-literary works to address topics related to the beliefs and values of the Russian people. Your paper should follow the following requirements:

- The format is 10-12 pages (2500 words) not including bibliography, double-spaced, 12-point fonts
- Minimum 12 sources (primarily literary and scholarly)
- Its features should adhere to the criteria listed below

Scoring Rubric for the Research Paper

	Exceptional	Outstanding	Competent	Satisfactory	Adequate	Inadequate
	90-100%	80-89%	70-79%/	60-69%	50-59 %	0 -49%
Research question 10 pts.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Wrote clear question or questions which fit the topic and is worth publishing 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Wrote clear question or questions which fit the topic 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Wrote clear question or questions which is partially relevant to the topic 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Wrote some questions which did not fit the topic. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Wrote many questions which did not fit the topic. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Failed to include research questions.
Organization - Structural Development of the Idea 70 pts.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Compelling evidence to support your thesis. • Thorough analysis of evidence • Writer demonstrates logical and subtle 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Evidence to support your thesis. • Thorough analysis of evidence • Writer demonstrates logical and subtle sequencing of 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Paragraph development present but not perfected. • The conclusion restates the thesis. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Logical organization; organization of ideas not fully developed. • The conclusion does not adequately restate the thesis. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Logical organization and organization of ideas not fully developed. • The conclusion is incomplete 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No evidence of structure or organization. • No conclusion.

	sequencing of ideas through well-developed paragraphs; transitions are used to enhance the organization <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The conclusion is very engaging and restates the thesis 	ideas through well-developed paragraphs; transitions are used to enhance the organization <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The conclusion is engaging and restates the thesis 			and/or unfocused.	
Bibliography 15 pts.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Identified more than 12 useful sources in many formats (books, magazines, electronic, but no more than two internet sites). 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Identified many useful sources in many formats (books, magazines, electronic, but no more than two internet sites). 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Identified useful sources in many formats (books, magazines, electronic). 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Identified a few useful sources in one or two formats. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Identified a few useful sources in one format. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Identified no useful sources in any format
Format 5 pts.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Included all sources used and listed sources in an appropriate format. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Included all sources used and listed sources. A few mistakes in the chosen format are made. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Included most sources used. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Included most sources used, but some information was missing or incorrect. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Failed to include most of the sources used, and much information was missing or incorrect 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Failed to include the sources used, and a lot of the information was missing or incorrect

Research Presentation (10%)

Create a 10-minute video presentation that summarizes your research paper, including introducing the topic, summary of relevant research, your arguments and conclusion. When preparing your video, ensure it uses visual aids (e.g., PowerPoint, Prezi, paper handouts, flip charts, black board etc.) that help you convey ideas to the audience. When your video is complete, upload it or post a link to the appropriate page in Canvas. It will be evaluated by the instructor using the rubric below (for 5% of your grade).

The remaining 5% of your grade will come from providing high quality feedback to your peers. Please

review 5 peers' video presentations (to be assigned in class) using the feedback form to be provided in class. The instructor will evaluate the quality of the feedback you provide to others (1% x 5).

Scoring Rubric for Oral Presentations

ORGANIZATION	5	4	3	2	1	0
<i>clear objectives/logical structure</i>						
CONTENT	15	12	9	6	3	0
<i>concise summary of your research with the main arguments covered</i>						
VISUAL	5	4	3	2	1	0
<i>Attractive images/ legible text/ Slides enhance presentation</i>						
TIME MANAGEMENT	5	4	3	2	1	0
<i>effective use of time</i>						

TOTAL SCORE _____ / 30

COURSE SCHEDULE (Subject to Change)

Week	Topic	Assignments Texts / Video Materials available on Canvas and viewed outside of the class /
1	Introduction. Russia. Geography & Population, The language. The concepts of “culture” and “values.” Etiquette.	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. The Language (posted on Canvas) 2. 76(3/4), 103-3 . Beer, L. A (2012) What Is Culture, Where Does It Come From? In Beer, L. A., & Business Expert Press 2012 Digital Librar <i>Essential concepts of cross-cultural management:Building on what we all share</i> (p.p. 17-36) (optional).

2	<p>1. History of Russia from a Russian perspective</p> <p>2. Features of Russian history and worldview that affected its interaction with the West.</p>	<p>1. Comer, W.J. (2002) History of Russia (pp.3-78) In E.M. Boyle, & G., Gerhart (Eds). <i>The Russian context: The culture behind the language</i>. Bloomington, Ind: Slavic</p> <p>2. Trenin, D., (n.a) The World Through Moscow's Eyes: A Classic Russian Perspective, <i>The Foreign Service Journal</i> Retrieved from https://afsa.org/world-through-moscows-eyes-classic-russian-perspective (optional)</p>
3	<p>Russian values in A. S. Pushkin's <i>The Captain's Daughter</i></p>	<p>1. Alexander Pushkin: A Biography. https://www.britannica.com/biography/Aleksandr-Sergeyevich-Pushkin</p> <p>2. Pushkin, A.S., <i>The Captain's Daughter</i>.</p>
4	<p>1. Russian values in music and arts. Guest lecturer, Dr. Donald Gislason on Russian classical music.</p> <p>2. Religious values</p> <p>3. Russia's folk culture. Fairytale as a construction and reflection of cultural values.</p> <p>*** One paragraph description of your Research Paper is due ***</p>	<p>1. 2. Dostoevsky, F.M. McDuff D. The Brothers Karamazov. "The Grand Inquisitor."</p> <p>2. Ralston, W. R. <i>Russian fairytales: A choice collection of muscovite folk-lore</i>. (selected pp. TBA)</p> <p>3. Tarkovsky A. <i>Andrey Rublyov</i>. (optional)</p>
5	<p>Existential beliefs and values</p> <p>***Research proposal is due ***</p>	<p>1. Dostoevsky, F.M. <i>Notes from Underground</i>. Part 1</p> <p>2. Dovlatov, S. (1989). My First Cousin</p> <p>3. Tolstoy, Leo, graf, 1828-1910. (1904). <i>My confession; critique of dogmatic theology</i> (optional)</p>
6	<p>1. War in Russian culture.</p> <p>2. The Great Patriotic War. From the narrative of power and suffering to the intended to legitimise great-power ambitions</p>	<p>1. Sholokhov, M. A., & Waddington, P. <i>Sud'ba cheloveka: Destiny of a man</i>.</p> <p>2. Suny, R. G. (1998). <i>The soviet experiment: Russia, the USSR, and the successor states</i>. New York: Oxford University Press. (pp. 309-336)</p> <p>3. Tarkovsky, A. <i>My Name Is Ivan</i> (optional)</p>

7	***Research paper is due ***	June 27 th for students registered in Term 2 July 4 th for all students
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Bibliography

Required reading

- Blagoy, D.D. Alexander Pushkin, Britannica. Retrieved from <https://www.britannica.com/biography/Aleksandr-Sergeyevich-Pushkin>
- Comer, W.J. (2002) History of Russia (pp.3-78) In E.M. Boyle, & G., Gerhart (Eds). *The Russian context: The culture behind the language*. Bloomington, Ind: Slavica.
- Dostoevsky, F.M. *Notes from Underground*. Part 1 (available at <https://www.planetebook.com/free-ebooks/notes-from-the-underground.pdf>)
- Dostoevsky, F.M. McDuff D. The Brothers Karamazov. "The Grand Inquisitor." Part II Book 5
- Dovlatov, S. (1989). My First Cousin. In *Ours: A Russian family album* (1st ed.). New York: Weidenfeld & Nicolson.
- Pushkin, A.S. The Captain's Daughter. Any of the following translations:**
- Pushkin, A. S., & Keane., T. (2011). *The captain's daughter*. CreateSpace Independent Publishing Platform
- Pushkin, A.S. & Pevear, R. & Volokhonsky, L. (2016) *Novels, Tales, Journeys: The Complete Prose of Alexander Pushkin*. Knopf. Nov.
- Pushkin, A. S., & Debreczeny, P. (2012). *The captain's daughter: And, A history of Pugachov*. Richmond, Surrey: Alma Classics
- Pushkin, A. S., & Chandler, R., Chanlder E.(2014). *The captain's daughter*: NYRB Classics.
- Ralston, W. R. *Russian fairytales: A choice collection of muscovite folk-lore*. (selected pp. TBA)
- Tolstoy, Leo, graf, 1828-1910. (1904). *My confession; critique of dogmatic theology*. Available at UBC library online <https://commons.ptsem.edu/id/myconfessioncrit00tols>
- Suny, R. G. (1998). *The soviet experiment: Russia, the USSR, and the successor states*. New York: Oxford University Press. (pp. 309-336)

Films

- Tarkovsky, A. (Director) (1966) *Andrey Rublyov*, Mosfilm. (optional)
- Tarkovsky, A. (Director) (1962) *My Name Is Ivan*, Mosfilm (optional)

Recommended reading

- Beer, L. A (2012) What Is Culture, Where Does It Come From? In Beer, L. A., & Business Expert Press 2012 Digital Librar *Essential concepts of cross-cultural management: Building on what we all share* (p.p. 17-36) (1st ed.). [New York, N.Y.] (New York, NY 10017): Business Expert Press.

Berry, R., & MyiLibrary. (2004;2013;2002;). *The research project: How to write it* (5th;6; ed.). London: Routledge. doi:10.4324/9780203130506 (available at UBC library online)

Trenin, D., (n.a) *The World Through Moscow's Eyes: A Classic Russian Perspective, The Foreign Service Journal* Retrieved from <https://afsa.org/world-through-moscows-eyes-classic-russian-perspective>

Course Policies

Classroom conduct

In our classroom, we seek to create and maintain an encouraging and a productive learning and working environment, that is, an environment in which there is:

- respect for the dignity of all persons
- fair and equitable treatment of individuals in our diverse community
- personal integrity and trustworthiness
- respect for academic freedom
- respect for personal and University property

Releasing and Adjusting Final Grades

Before the final grades are submitted, the instructor will publish the breakdown of your final grade on Canvas. You are responsible for reporting any conflict in the calculation within three days of the publication. After that, no changes in grades will be made.

Penalties

Assignments are due on the day originally announced. Penalties for late assignments will be as follows (waived with a valid medical or equivalent excuse):

- Assignments submitted after the due date will receive 80% of the grade. No assignment or online quiz will be accepted after the end of classes.
- Research Paper (40%) will be subject to a 2 % reduction for each day after due date.

In special, documented circumstances, assignments may be submitted after the initial due date, subject to explicit arrangements with the instructor. A valid note form Arts Advising is required.

Departmental policy

The Department of Central, Eastern and Northern European Studies may, in exceptional cases, adjust the final course marks in order to conform to Departmental policy.

UBC Policies

Academic Integrity

The academic enterprise is founded on honesty, civility, and integrity. As members of this enterprise, all students are expected to know, understand, and follow the codes of conduct regarding academic integrity. At the most basic level, this means submitting only original work done by you and acknowledging all sources of information or ideas and attributing them to others as required. This also means you should not cheat, copy, or mislead others about what is your work. Violations of academic integrity (i.e., academic misconduct) lead to the breakdown of the academic enterprise, and therefore serious consequences arise, and harsh sanctions are imposed. For example, incidences of plagiarism or cheating may result in a mark of zero on the assignment or exam, and more serious consequences may apply WHEN the matter is referred forwards to the Office of the Dean. Careful records are kept in order to monitor and prevent recurrences. Please refer to the UBC Calendar, under [Student Conduct and Discipline](#), for the full policy.

Access and Diversity

Students registered with [UBC Access and Diversity](#) must submit their information within the first two weeks of class to ensure they can be accommodated within the format of this course. Students are encouraged to visit the offices of Access and Diversity if they believe they should be registered to receive academic accommodations. Only students who are registered/approved through UBC Access and Diversity may receive academic accommodations per [UBC Policy](#).

Religious Accommodation

Students must give two weeks' notice of their intention to absent themselves under the terms of the University policy on religious holidays. You must either inform the instructor of each course or, where this can't be done, the head or director of the unit concerned. Check out additional resources here:

- [UBC Student Services on Religious Accommodations](#)
- [UBC Policy on Religious Observances](#)

anded in electronically needs to be sent on the due date before class time.

Turnitin.com, Citation format, and Plagiarism

You are required to submit you Final Research Project via Turnitin.com. UBC has provided instructions for students how to use Turnitin.com: see <http://elearning.ubc.ca/toolkit/turnitin/>. Note that Turnitin.com's information is stored on servers in the United States. To protect your privacy, follow all the steps on the instruction sheet. If you choose to create an alias to upload your assignments, you must let the instructor know what your alias is. The class ID and Password will be distributed before Assignment N 3 is due.

Students are expected to follow a standard style and citation format and to remain consistent throughout their work and in all their assignments. Please consult a UBC librarian, the UBC Library Research

Guide (<http://help.library.ubc.ca/evaluating-and-citing-sources/how-to-cite/>) or an online writing lab (<http://owl.english.purdue.edu/owl/search.php>) if you have any questions. Students are expected to know the University policies on plagiarism and academic misconduct. Therefore, please review UBC's policies on cheating, plagiarism, and other forms of academic dishonesty and misconduct in the UBC Calendar under "Academic Regulations." In this seminar, as per University regulations, students must write, correct and/or revise all their assignments independently (unless the assignment or parts thereof were meant to be a pair or group activities); that is, with no assistance of any kind from another person. The use of electronic aids and devices is strictly prohibited; students are encouraged to consult scholarly publications (scholarly articles, books, book chapters), but must acknowledge all sources and clearly mark all quotations as such. For further information, see Plagiarism Avoided: (<http://learningcommons.ubc.ca/resource-guides/avoiding-plagiarism/>). Cheating, plagiarism and other forms of academic misconduct are serious offenses. They are subject to disciplinary action and will not be tolerated.

Early Alert

The instructors will do their best to reach out and offer support if they are concerned about students' academic performance or wellbeing. They will identify their concerns using Early Alert, a program that allows academic, financial, or mental health concerns to be identified sooner and responded to in a coordinated way and respectful manner. This provides students with the earliest possible connection to resources like academic advising, financial advising, counseling or other resources and support to help students get back on track. The information is treated confidentially and is meant to help students not hurt them. For more information, please visit earlyalert.ubc.ca.