Course title: Mentality, Social Behavior, and the Representation of Russia
Course code: RUSI 3010 RLPR
Programs offering course: Russian Language
Language of instruction: Russian
U.S. semester credits: 3
Contact hours: 45
Term: Spring 2020

Course Description
This course analyzes issues of social behavior as they emerge in the representation of contemporary Russia. Topics covered include intellectual life, religion, gender, living conditions, Us/Them Mentality as well as some topical current events. The course focuses mainly on specific patterns that shape individual values and attitudes of the Russians, such as: Just, Family, Communal Survival and others.

Learning Objectives
By completing this course, students will:

- Discuss issues of social behavior in Russian;
- Demonstrate understanding of language of Russian newspapers and magazines as presented in class and in home reading texts.

Course Prerequisites
None.

Methods of Instruction
Class meetings consist of lectures, question-and-answer sessions, class discussions, and screenings.

Assessment and Final Grade
1. Quizzes 20%
2. Midterm Test 20%
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<table>
<thead>
<tr>
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<th></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>3.</td>
<td>Essay</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4.</td>
<td>Final Test</td>
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<td>5.</td>
<td>In-Class Participation</td>
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<td><strong>TOTAL</strong></td>
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**Course Requirements**

**Quizzes**

There will be two quizzes during the term. These quizzes will be a combination of multiple choice and short answer questions, and they will check the students’ knowledge of facts and data, presented at lectures and in the readings.

**Midterm Test**

The midterm test and the final test will gauge the students’ knowledge of the main concepts and ideas presented at the lectures and in the visual and verbal texts. Both tests will consist of short answer questions and one large essay question.

**Essay**

The goal of the essay is to provide an in-depth look at one of the topics covered in this course, i.e. intellectual life, religion, gender, everyday life in Russia. Please, discuss your choice of the topic with the instructor before the Midterm. Your essay should seek to explore the intersection between your individual, first-hand experience of living in Russia and larger patterns of Russian culture and mentality.

**Final Test**

The midterm test and the final test will gauge the students’ knowledge of the main concepts and ideas presented at the lectures and in the visual and verbal texts. Both tests will consist of short answer questions and one large essay question.

**In-Class Participation**

Taking part in class discussions is essential for learning. It is important that all students prepare course readings for the assigned date and come to class ready to analyze and debate issues raised by the readings.
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 1.1 Seminar: Syllabus

Practical matters.

Class 1.2 Lecture: “Russian Mindset Part1”

Geography and Culture

Screening: episodes from “Born in the USSR. Age 28”

Readings: Andrei Sinyavskiy “Holy Fools”, “Skomorokh”

Week 2
Class 2.1 Lecture: “Russian Mindset Part 2”

Politics, Philosophy and Religion

Class 2.2 Seminar: Cultural determinism of Russian Mindset

Screening: episodes from “Born in the USSR. Age 28”; “Island”
Week 3

Class 3.1 Lecture: “Anthropology of Russian Childhood”

Class 3.2 Seminar: Political, Philosophic and Religious Determinism of Russian Mindset

Film: episodes from TV Series: “Fizruk”, “School”


Week 4

Class 4.1 Lecture: “Radicalism and Hooliganism in Russia”

Part 1: Political Radicalism

Class 4.2 Seminar: Russian Childhood: Games, Toys, Habits

Screening: episodes from TV Series: “Fizruk”, “School”

Reading: from Yurchak Alexei "Everything Was Forever Until It Was No More," pp. 45-67

Week 5

Class 5.1 Lecture: Radicalism and Hooliganism in Russia

Part 2: Religious Radicalism, Street Art

Class 5.2 Seminar: Brain-drain, Emigration and “Image of the Future”

Screening: episodes from “Revolution that wasn’t”

Reading: articles from contemporary Russian press (to be distributed by the instructor)
Week 6
Class 6.1 Seminar: Radicalism in Russia

Reading: articles from contemporary Russian press (to be distributed by the instructor)

Class 6.2

Midterm test

Week 7
Class 7.1 Lecture: Us/Them Mentality: Russia and Former Soviet Republics

Class 7.2 Seminar: Russia after 2014

Screening: excerpts from the film Maidan

Reading: articles from contemporary Russian press (to be distributed by the instructor)

Week 8
Class 8.1 Lecture: Us/Them Mentality: Russia and “The West”

Class 8.2 Seminar: Inferiority Complex in Russian Society

Home assignment: watch film: Brother, Part 2 (dir. A. Balabanov)

Reading: articles from contemporary Russian press (to be distributed by the instructor)

Week 9
Class 9.1 Lecture: The Emergence of Civil Society in Russia

Class 9.2 Seminar: Patriots and Foreign Agents

Screening: episodes from the film Event (dir. Sergei Loznitsa)
Reading: Sinyavsky Andrei “Soviet Civilization”

Week 10
Class  10.1  Seminar: Russian Society: Trust and Confrontation

Reading: articles from contemporary Russian press (to be distributed by the instructor)

Class  10.2

Essay is due

Week 11
Class  11.1  Lecture: Problems of Civil Society in Contemporary Russia

Screening: excerpts from film Leviathan

Reading: Mitrokhin Nikolai Russkaia Pravoslavnaja tserkov: sovremennoje sostojanie i aktualnie problemi

Kaariainen Kimmo, Furman Dmitry (ed.) Novye tserkvi, starie veruyuschie: religia v postsovetskoi Rossi

Class  11.2  Seminar: Religion in Contemporary Russia

Film: "Pussy Riot: Punk Prayer"

Week 12
Class  12.1  Seminar: Religion in Contemporary Russia

Reading: from Mitrokhin Nikolai “Russkaia Pravoslavnaja Tserkov: sovremennoje sostojanie i aktualnie problemi

Seminar: Russian Orthodoxy and Human Rights (15.05.2017)

Class  12.2
Final Test

Course Materials

Readings


Mitrokhin Nikolai “Russkaia Pravoslavnaja Tserkov: sovremennoje sostojanie I aktualnie problemi M, 2006


Online Resources