Course title: (Beginning) Discovering Russia: Film, Music, and Current Press
Course code: RUSI 1002 RLPU
Programs offering course: Summer Russian Language
Language of instruction: Russian
U.S. semester credits: 3.00
Contact hours: 45.00
Term: Summer 2020

Course Description

This course is designed to introduce various aspects of Russian culture through films, music and media. The choice of specific film titles and musical compositions is based on their popularity in Russia as well as their coverage of different aspects of modern Russian life. Furthermore, selected films and songs let students explore typical language patterns and expand their knowledge of Russian culture, traditions, its festivals and rituals. Newspaper articles introduce specific language of the modern Russian media to students. All topics of this course correspond with themes in Russian Conversation class.

Learning Objectives

By completing this course, students will:

- advance their comprehension skills in Russian by listening to music, movies and TV sound tracks;
- examine and evaluate important patterns of Russian culture as expressed in visual, textual and musical media;
- develop their speaking and writing skills by participating in the discussion of movies, newspaper articles, song lyrics;
- produce more authentic Russian speech patterns.

Course Prerequisites

Students must possess a basic level of vocabulary, grammar material, in order to understand the fragments from films and newspaper articles. Students’ placement is contingent upon a placement test administered at the beginning of the program.

Methods of Instruction

Considering the multi-dimensional aspect of this course, the methods of instruction vary. Learning songs includes phonetic (training pronunciation), lexical, and grammatical (the introduction of new vocabulary and grammar analysis) and lingvokulturologicheskiy (linguistic explanation of Russian mentality and characteristics of spiritual culture) aspects.

For preparing the instructor introduces the vocabulary that familiarizes students with words and expressions from the film. In-class film viewing is preceded by an overview of the film’s scenes, as well as lexical work, a presentation of the film and director.

Songs will be introduced and learned through listening and analysis of the lyrics.

The films, if necessary, will be accompanied by subtitles in English.

Assessment and Final Grade

1. Homework 40%
2. Quizzes&Exams 30%
3. Attendance&Participation 30%
Course Requirements

Homework
Quizzes&Exams
Attendance&Participation

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+).

N.B. Course schedule is subject to change due to study tours, excursions, or local holidays. Final schedules will be included in the final syllabus provided to students on site.

Weekly Schedule

Week 1
Class: “There is more than winter” or “Ши́рока страна моя родная”

Film: “Circus” by G. Alexandrov (1936)

Videoclip from “Fur trees” by Bekmambetov (2010)

Music: Song from the film “Circus”

The Russia hymn (listening), folk songs (learning)


Find headlines on topic “Russia in the World”

Reading “Weather forecast”

Week 2
Class: The Great Patriotic War

Film: “Destiny of a man” by S. Bondarchuk (1959)

Videoclip from “Officers” by V. Rogovoj (1971)

Music: Famous Russian war songs (“Вставай, страна огромная”, “Землянка”, “Синий платочек”, “Этот день победы”)

Current press: talk about “Immortal regiment”

Quiz 1

Week 3
Class: Russian kitchen: “Щи да каша – пища наша”

Film: “Devchata” by Chylukin (сцена в столовой) “Иван Васильевич меняет профессию” by Gajdaj (сцена царского застолья)

Music: “Конфетки – бараночки” (автор неизвестный), “Kalinka” by I. Larionov (разучивание песни)

Folk song “Жили у бабуси 2 весёлых гуся”

Current press: talk about current life through Media
Week 4
Class: National sport in Russia “Хоккей – это наше всё!”

Film: “Legend № 17” by N. Lebedev (fragment)

Music: song «В хоккей играют настоящие мужчины, трус не играет в хоккей» by Pahmutova/Dobronravov. (Listening)

Current press: 1. famous Russian athletes, 2. Sport news (listening and reading)

Quiz 2

Week 5
Class: Russian cartoons friends or who are you Mr. Cheburashka?

Film: Cartoons «Cheburashka», «Masha and the Bear», «Winny the Rooh », «Three from Prostokvashino»

Music: Water spirit song from «The Flying ship » “Antoshka”


Week 6
Class: Space travels


Cartoon «Mystery of the third plane”» by R. Kachanov (videoclip)

Current press: Space system. Exploration Joint working

Quiz 3

Week 7
Class: National Russian traditions and fests, Russian nature.

Film: “Morozko” by A. Rou (1964)

Videoclips: «Moms» by (2012) and "Marriage” By П. Лунгин

Music: Russian folk and modern wedding song

Song «Свадьба» А.Бабаджаняна и Р.Рождественского

Current press: Topic “Russia – multinational state”

Falk fests

Week 8
Class: Rock songs (Russian underground)


Current press: Presentations of articles chosen by students on various topics

Final Exam

Course Materials
Readings

All class materials will be provided to the students as handouts