

Intermediate Russian: The 1917 Revolution - Facts, Fiction, Arts

Start date 18 March 2016

End date 20 March 2016

Venue Madingley Hall
Madingley
Cambridge

Tutor Dr Vera Tsareva-Brauner

Course code 1516NRX077

Director of Programmes

Emma Jennings

**For further information on this
course, please contact**

Public Programme Co-ordinator, Clare Kerr
clare.kerr@ice.cam.ac.uk or 01223 746237

To book See: www.ice.cam.ac.uk or telephone 01223 746262

Tutor biography:

Vera Tsareva-Brauner is a Coordinator of Cambridge University Russian Language Programmes (CULP) where she teaches a variety of Russian language courses from Ab Initio to Advanced and Russian Through Film and Culture to Cambridge undergraduates, post-graduates and post-doctoral students.

Vera is also an Affiliated Lecturer at the Department of Slavonic Studies, Faculty of Modern and Medieval Languages where she teaches and examines a number of language papers. She is also an external examiner for Russian at Keele University and Eton.

Vera graduated from St Petersburg University with BA (Hons) and MA, and later did her post-graduate degree at Manchester University.

Course programme

Friday

Please plan to arrive between 16:30 and 18:30. You can meet other course members in the bar which opens at 18:15. Tea and coffee making facilities are available in the study bedrooms.

19:00	Dinner
20:30 – 22:00	Informal Quiz ' <i>Of All Things Russian (and Soviet)</i> '
22:00	Terrace bar open for informal discussion

Saturday

07:30	Breakfast
09:00 – 10:30	<i>The Russian Revolution: 100 Years On</i> Presentation, Q&A Session, discussion.
10:30	Coffee
11:00 – 12:30	<i>Film 'Agonia'</i>
13:00	Lunch
14:00 – 16:00	Free
16:00	Tea
16:30 – 18:00	Commentary to the film and its discussion. <i>Facts and fiction about the revolution: the Romanovs, Grigory Rasputin, Lenin, Trotsky and other key figures of the time.</i>
18:00 – 18:30	Free
18:30	Dinner
20:00 – 21:30	<i>The Arts of the Russian Revolution.</i> Presentation followed by a short documentary.
21:30	Terrace bar open for informal discussion

Sunday

07:30	Breakfast
09:00 – 10:30	Working with the set text ' <i>The 1917 Revolution: almost 100 years on</i> ' with the emphasis on grammar, vocabulary and contemporary idioms. Followed by a debate.
10:30	Coffee
11:00 – 12:30	<i>Interactive Language Activity</i>
12:45	Lunch

The course will disperse after lunch

Course syllabus

Aims:

1. To increase the students' linguistic confidence by giving them an opportunity to talk on a variety of subjects;
2. To encourage students to take part in group discussions at the level they feel comfortable with;
3. To improve their knowledge and use of grammar through emphasis on the most common problems;
4. To enhance their understanding of the Russian language through film related to historic events of 1917.
5. To provide an insight into how the dramatic events that followed the 1917 Revolution are perceived and interpreted in contemporary Russia.

Content:

Language workshops will concentrate on improving the students' use of contemporary Russian and on current vocabulary usage. During the course of the weekend, which will, depending on participants' proficiency, be conducted mostly in Russian, students will be expected to read and understand spoken Russian, to listen to and comprehend original audio-visual material, to take part in the discussions and to participate, individually or in small groups, in the language workshop part of the sessions, where they will be presented with tasks and engage in language activities at different levels of difficulty.

For the reading session, the students will be asked to study a text (with glossary) in advance. The session will involve language analysis, translation of some difficult passages and a general discussion of the content.

The students will be encouraged to take part in some interactive language activities that are aimed at increasing their confidence in spoken everyday Russian.

Presentation of the course:

Activities will include presentations by the tutor, Q&A sessions, a quiz, discussions and interactive language activities as well as working with some texts and video materials.

Outcomes:

As a result of the course, within the constraints of the time available, students should be able to:

1. Improve the use of contemporary Russian language, including listening/viewing and comprehension;
2. Get a better understanding of the historic events of the 1917 revolution and the effect it had on society, culture and arts.
3. Communicate in Russian more confidently in a number of registers.
4. Have a better understanding of how contemporary Russian society views the events of 1917.

Reading and resources list

Reed, J.	<i>Ten Days That Shook The World.</i>
Figes, O.	<i>A People's Tragedy: The Russian Revolution (1892-1924).</i> <i>Three Whys of the Russian Revolution.</i>
Pipes, R.	<i>The Russian Revolution (1900-1927).</i>
Service, R.	<i>The October Revolution.</i>
Trotsky, L.	<i>The History of the Russian Revolution (translated in 1932).</i>
Radzinsky, E	<i>The Rasputin File.</i>

* More detailed list of resources, including websites, can be found in the course hand-outs.

Note Students of the Institute of Continuing Education are entitled to 20% discount on books published by Cambridge University Press (CUP) which are purchased at the Press bookshop, 1 Trinity Street, Cambridge (Mon-Sat 9am – 5:30pm, Sun 11am – 5pm). A letter or email confirming acceptance on to a current Institute course should be taken as evidence of enrolment.