

WHO STOLE RUSSIAN CHRISTMAS?

Start date	30 November 2018	End date	2 December 2018
Venue	Madingley Hall Madingley Cambridge		
Tutor	Vera Tsareva-Brauner	Course code	1819NRX062

Director of Programmes:

For further information on this course, please contact:

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 tripos, including Translation from English into Russian and Russian through Audio-Visual. She is also an external examiner for Russian at UCL, City University London, University of Westminster and Eton.

Vera's research focuses on literary and cultural heritage of post-1917 Russian emigration in France. She is also a translator and editor for a number of publishing projects.

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	Introductory session: What's Wrong with Russian Christmas? (And Who Stole It?)
22:00	Terrace bar open for informal discussion

Saturday

07:30	Breakfast
09:00 – 10:30	Russian Christmas vs Soviet Christmas. Background to 'The Irony of Fate' and language preparation for watching the film.
10:30	Coffee
11:00 – 12:30	Film: 'The Irony of Fate'.
13:00	Lunch
14:00 – 16:00	Free
16:00	Tea
16:30 – 18:00	Finish watching the film (about 20 minutes). Discuss the film: its plot, historical and cultural context, characters, language, humour, other themes*.
18:00 – 18:30	Free
18:30	Dinner
20:00 – 21:30	Music and lyrics from 'The Irony of Fate': working with poetry from the film.
21:30	Terrace bar open for informal discussion

Sunday

07:30	Breakfast
09:00 – 10:30	Grammar workshop: Russian verbs of motion.
10:30	Coffee
11:00 – 12:30	Discussion of the text for translation (sent to students before the course).

** Students will be sent a set of language materials to prepare them for working with the film, as well as some translation work and topics for discussion.*

12:45

Lunch

The course will disperse after lunch

Aims:

1. To increase the students' linguistic confidence by giving them an opportunity to find out new and interesting facts about Russian Christmas and traditions associated with it over the last 100 years, and how it has evolved during the Soviet times. Students will be given a number of presentations to reflect on historical and cultural background of Russian Christmas and its traditions and watch a famous Russian 'Christmas' film, 'The Irony of Fate'. Students will be sent all language materials to support this viewing before the course.
2. To encourage students to take part in group discussions and group work at the level they feel comfortable with;
3. To enhance their understanding of Russian traditions;
4. To improve students' confidence in comprehension of spoken Russian through audio-visual material;
5. To clarify and practise some difficult grammar points: this time we will address verbs of motion in Russian.

Content:

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 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 Russian of various registers.

Presentation of the course:

Activities will include presentations by the tutor, video recordings, a full-length feature film, as well as work with Russian poetry that was used in the film's songs.

Outcomes:

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

1. Improve confidence and general comprehension of Russian language of various registers.
2. Learn more about Russian history and traditions.
3. Get a better understanding of Russian cultural diversity.
4. Communicate in Russian more confidently in a number of registers.
5. Improve the use of Russian grammar and syntax.
6. Translate some Russian poetry.

Reading and resources list

Listed below are a number of texts that might be of interest for future reference, but do not need to be bought (or consulted) for the course.

Students will be sent all the necessary materials before the course. No additional reading is required.

Website addresses

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.

Information correct as of: 27 November 2018