



Back to the USSR – Cultural Legacy.

Start date	11 October 2019	End date	13 October 2019
Venue	Madingley Hall Madingley Cambridge		
Tutor	Dr Vera Tsareva-Brauner	Course code	1920NRX004

Director of Academic Centres Sarah Ormrod

For further information on this course, please contact Zara Kuckelhaus zara.kuckelhaus@ice.cam.ac.uk
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To book See: www.ice.cam.ac.uk or telephone 01223 746262

Tutor biography

Vera 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 Tsareva-Brauner 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.

Her research focuses on literary and cultural heritage of post-1917 Russian emigration in France. She is particularly interested in the aspect of memory in Russian and Soviet discourse. Vera is also an author, translator and editor.

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: let's talk about cultural nostalgia. Working with a short film 'Back to the USSR' followed by Q&A (in Russian).
22:00	Terrace bar open for informal discussion

Saturday

07:30	Breakfast
09:00 – 10:30	The beginnings: reflection on early Soviet literature, art, film, theatre, music (1920 – 1930). Part 1.
10:30	Coffee
11:00 – 12:30	The beginnings: reflection on early Soviet literature, art, film, theatre, music (1920 – 1930). Part 2. Working with set texts.
13:00	Lunch
14:00 – 16:00	Free
16:00	Tea
16:30 – 18:00	Stalinist era: 'Soviet means superior in every way'. Working with examples of Soviet propaganda – poems, songs, visual (posters and short films).
18:00 – 18:30	Free
18:30	Dinner
20:00 – 21:30	After Stalin: the Khrushchev Thaw and its cultural legacy (1950s to 1970s). Working with songs/poetry of the 'bards'.
21:30	Terrace bar open for informal discussion

Sunday

07:30	Breakfast
09:00 – 10:30	'The great cultural depression'? Post-USSR period (1991 onwards).
10:30	Coffee
11:00 – 12:30	Grammar workshop. Q&A.
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 find out new and interesting facts about USSR legacy and how it influences modern Russian society. Students will be given a number of presentations to reflect on historical and cultural aspects of this phenomenon, and participate in a number of language-based activities.
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 modern Russian culture and how it is influenced by its Soviet past.
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 Indirect Speech in Russian.

Content:

During the course of the weekend 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, short film(s), quizzes, work with Russian poetry (lyrics), some translation exercises and grammar workshop.

Outcomes:

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

1. Improve students' confidence and general comprehension of Russian language of various registers and contexts.
2. Use the language to learn more about cultural legacy of the Soviet period.
3. Get a better understanding of modern Russia's cultural diversity.
4. Communicate in Russian more confidently in a number of registers.
5. Improve the use of Russian grammar and syntax.

Reading and resources list

Listed below are texts that might be of interest should you wish to supplement your learning on the course. Any essential reading is marked with an asterisk *

Sheilla Fitzpatrik (ed) ‘, Everyday Life in Russia Past and Present’ 2015

Terence Wade Comprehensive Russian Grammar 2012, p. 217-225

Website addresses:

<https://nationalinterest.org/feature/the-real-reason-russians-still-have-soviet-nostalgia-18851>

<https://www.documentjournal.com/2019/01/exploring-the-rise-of-soviet-nostalgia-in-russia/>

This course is taught in Russian at the following CEFR levels:

Reading: B2: I can understand extended speech and lectures and follow even complex lines of argument, provided that the topic is reasonably familiar. I can understand most TV news and current affairs programmes. I can understand the majority of films in standard dialect.

Listening: B2: I can read articles and reports concerned with contemporary problems in which the writers adopt particular attitudes or viewpoints. I can understand contemporary literary prose.

Spoken Interaction: B1: I can deal with most situations likely to arise whilst travelling in an area where the language is spoken. I can enter unprepared into conversation on topics that are familiar, of personal interest, or pertinent to every day life (e.g. families, hobbies, work, travel and current events)

Writing: B1: I can write simple connected text on topics that are familiar or of personal interest. I can write personal letters describing experiences and impressions.

Additional information

Venue

Details of how to find Madingley Hall can be found on our website:
<http://www.ice.cam.ac.uk/who-we-are/how-to-find-the-institute>

Refreshments

Tea and coffee, lunch and dinner will be provided as outlined on the timetable. If you have any specific dietary requirements or allergies and have not already advised us, please inform our Admissions Team on ice.admissions@ice.cam.ac.uk or +44 (0)1223 746262.

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: 25 September 2019