

RUSSIA AND THE WEST: IN SEARCH OF NATIONAL IDENTITY

Start date 22 May 2020 **End date** 25 May 2020

Venue Virtual Classroom

Tutor Dr Vera Tsareva-Brauner **Course code** 1920NRR045

Director of ISP and Lifelong Learning Sarah Ormrod

For further information on this course, please contact Head of Academic Centre Administration, Zara Kuckelhaus
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To book See: www.ice.cam.ac.uk or telephone 01223 746262

Tutor biography

Vera Tsareva-Brauner is 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 and into Russian. Vera is Director of Studies for Russian at Queens' College, Cambridge.

Vera is also 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.

Her research focuses on translation studies – Vera edited a number of translations and wrote extensively on the subject. Her academic 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's book 'Autographs Don't Burn – Letters to the Bunins' is published by Academic Studies Press (Boston) in September 2020.

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

Course programme

FRIDAY:

17:00 Welcome and Introductions.

Students will be asked to prepare a short response to a set text in advance and express opinion on the given subject. Followed by a short presentation and Q&A Session.

SATURDAY:

11:00 'What's Wrong with Russia?' Complex relationship with the West.

15:00 Film

SUNDAY:

11:00 Discussion of the film with historical commentary

15:00 Translation Workshop

MONDAY:

11:00 In Search of National Identity: Легко ли быть русским?

15:00 Grammar Workshop

Course syllabus

Aims:

1. To increase the students' linguistic confidence. Students will take part in discussions, will be given a number of presentations and watch films. We will work with set texts, which will be sent to students in advance.
2. To encourage students to take part in group discussions and group work at the level they feel comfortable with;
3. To improve students' confidence in comprehension of spoken Russian through audio-visual material;
4. To clarify and practise some grammar points;
5. To learn more about long and complex relationship between Russia and the West.
6. To find out more about what Russian national identity means to Russians themselves.

Course syllabus (cont.)

Content:

Much has been made of the modern relationship between Russia and the West. Delve further back in time and, working in the language, focus on the history, politics and culture over several centuries, and explore this complex relationship once again.

Presentation of the course:

The course will combine the lecturer's presentations, films, discussions, translation and grammar workshops.

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

1. Improve confidence and general use and comprehension of Russian language of various registers.
2. Communicate in Russian more confidently in a number of registers.
3. Improve and practise grammar.
4. Improve and practise translation skills.
5. Get a better understanding of historical and cultural origins of Russia's relationship with the West.

Reading and resources list

Author	Title	Publisher
Smith, Mark	The Russia Anxiety and How History Can Resolve it	Penguin Random House, London 2019

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: 19 May 2020