Module selection and advance reading for new students of degrees with Russian

2018-19 intake

Dear New Students,

This letter gives you information about the choice of modules in your first year of your degree at SSEES and some recommended reading for these modules. You do not need to choose your modules now, since you will meet with tutors in the first week of term who will give you more advice.

We have also included details of any language coursebooks which should be purchased before you start your programme.

We very much look forward to meeting you when you start your degree programme in September.

We hope that you have an enjoyable summer and very much look forward to seeing you in September. In the meantime, if you have any queries about your modules, please do not hesitate to contact Ben Chatterley, the Programmes Administrator on 020 7679 8771 or on his email b.chatterley@ucl.ac.uk.

Uilleam Blacker
Programmes Coordinator

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Russian Language modules – entering as a beginner

Compulsory. Please purchase this book before you start the course.

Compulsory. Please download for free or purchase the paper version. If purchasing the book, you do not need to purchase the CD audio set, since they will be made available to you by SSEES when you start the course.

Before the beginning of term please read the introductory unit of RUS´ and familiarise yourself with the Russian alphabet and sound system. It is important, at the earliest stage possible, to be able to recognise Russian letters and to have had some practice in reading and pronouncing some basis Russian words.

Accessing Rus´ online before you enrol
First please register for a Cambridge Core account using the link below:-
https://www.cambridge.org/core/register?ref=%2Fcore%2F

Then please log in to your Cambridge Core account using this link:
(https://www.cambridge.org/core) clicking the Blue Log-In Button in the top right of the screen and then the Blue Log-in button in the centre of the next screen (“with your Cambridge Core account”, not “via Shibboleth or Athens”.

You will then need to fill in a diagnostics report form using this link:
https://www.cambridge.org/core/help/diagnostics

After completing your Full Name and E-mail Address, please enter 319 as the ‘Reference number’ and write “Please activate my login for remote user access for UCL” in the Description box.
This will then be processed and you will receive a response when this has been activated. The next time you log into the system you will have access to Rus´.
This external access will expire soon after you enrol. From this point you can continue to access the book provided you are connected to the UCL system.

If you are unable to access the Introductory Unit of RUS' please use the following free on-line resources to aid with the alphabet and sound system recognition:

http://masterrussian.com/russian_alphabet.shtml
http://www.russianforeveryone.com/RufeA/Lessons/Introduction/Alphabet/Alphabet.htm
https://www.amazingrussian.com/russian-alphabet

**Additional materials**

The following books are not compulsory, but are given as additional reading. Copies are available from SSEES Library.

*Essential Russian Grammar*, By Brian Kemple, Dover Publications, 2000
ISBN: 978-0486273754

Russian Language modules – entering with A level or equivalent

http://amzn.eu/1ci8HVA

Compulsory. Please purchase this book for the Use of Russian classes, and bring it with you to your classes. This is an excellent grammar reference and exercise book (with an answer key) for post A-Level students of Russian – it is perfect for consolidating your existing knowledge of the system of the Russian language. It will be used as a supplementary resource in your grammar classes and your teacher will also assign sections of the book for self-study. You may wish to start reviewing certain aspects of Russian grammar already using this book (especially chapters covering the case system and the verbal conjugation system). Your teacher will contact you before the beginning of term with further advice and instructions to help you prepare for your first year of Russian at UCL.

The Routledge Intermediate Russian Reader (Routledge Modern Language Readers),
Compulsory. Please purchase this book for the Oral and Writing classes.
http://amzn.eu/0X6Eucu

English Grammar for Students of Russian
Recommended but not compulsory.
Literature and Culture modules – short description

Please also refer to the section Russian Literature and Culture - recommended advance reading later in this document for information on what to read for the modules listed below.

**Russian Short Fiction from Romanticism to Postmodernism** is compulsory for all students of Russian Studies Track A, Russian with an East European Language, and Modern Languages and optional for other programmes. This module provides an introduction to Russian literature and culture through the study of short stories from the nineteenth and twentieth centuries.

‘**The Making of Modern Russian Culture**’ is compulsory for all students of Russian Studies Track B, Russian Studies Track C, and Russian & History and optional for other programmes. It traces the more recent development of Russian culture from the start of the twentieth century to the contemporary situation;

‘**Representations of Russia**’ is an optional module and looks at ways in which the landscape, history and people of Russia have been represented (and often mythologised) over the centuries and up to the present;

‘**Russian Cinema: History, Ideology, Society**’ is an optional module. Covering 17 films made between 1913 and 2014, it examines the ways in which Russian, Soviet and post-Soviet Russian cinema has represented and responded to key historical events and ideological, cultural and social change. The module also considers the formal and technical evolution of Russian film during this period.
Choice of modules by degree programme

Russian Studies tracks
If you are taking the Russian Studies programme you will need to choose a ‘Track’ in the first week of term. Every year you will take modules in a specific discipline, i.e. in Literature for Track A, in Politics for Track B, or in History for Track C.
You can give the choice of track some thought now, but you don’t need to confirm until the first week of term, Induction Week.

- For Russian Studies Track A Literature you will be taking all, or most of the literature/culture modules listed above.

- For Russian Studies Track B Politics you will be taking ‘The Making of Modern Russian Culture’, two introductory modules in ‘Understanding Politics’ as well as some literature/culture modules.

- For Russian Studies Track C History you will be taking ‘The Making of Modern Russian Culture’, ‘Frontiers of History’, and ‘Modern Historiography’ as well as some literature/culture modules.

Russian & History
You will be taking ‘The Making of Modern Russian Culture’, ‘Frontiers of History’, ‘Modern Historiography’ and ‘Seminars in History’ as well as one literature/culture module.

Modern-Languages with Russian as one of the languages
You will be taking ‘Russian Short Fiction from Romanticism to Postmodernism’ and one of the literature/culture modules listed above. You will also take a more general “interdepartmental” module from a large list offered both in SSEES and SELCS and additional modules in the department of your other language. You will receive further information from SELCS about these modules.

- Russian with an East European Language (single honours) or Russian and an East European Language (modern languages), you will be taking Language Level 1 or 2 of your chosen East European Language as well as general literature/culture modules.
Literature and Culture modules – advance reading

Russian Short Fiction from Romanticism to Postmodernism

Both beginners and post-A-level students are asked to purchase the English translations of works studied in the Autumn term (listed below). To aid class discussion it is important that everyone purchases the same editions. If you are entering with A-level, please contact the Programmes Administrator, Ben Chatterley, (b.chatterley@ucl.ac.uk) for copies of the original works in Russian. Translations and originals of texts studied in the Spring Term will be provided for you later in the year. It is highly recommended that you read the texts below before the beginning of term.

Aleksandr Pushkin Пиковая дама - Pikovaia dama (The Queen of Spades)
Alexander Pushkin, "The Queen of Spades" and Other Stories, Oxford World Classics, translation by Alan Myers,

Nikolai Gogol’ Нос - Nos (The Nose)
Nikolai Gogol, The Diary of a Madman, And Other Stories, translation by Ronald Wilks, Penguin Classics series

Anton Chekhov Дама с собачкой - Dama s sobachkoi (The Lady and the Lapdog),
Anton Chekhov, Lady with Lapdog and Other Stories, translation by David Magarshack, Penguin Classics series

Иван Тургенев Анна на шее - Anna na shee (Anna Around the Neck)
Anton Chekhov, The Kiss and Other Stories, translation by Ronald Wilks, Penguin Classics series

Ivan Turgenev Первая любовь - Pervaia liubov’ (First Love)
Ivan Turgenev, First Love, translation by Isaiah Berlin, Penguin Classics series
The Making of Modern Russian Culture

We recommend that you should read some of these longer works studied on the module in advance. There is no need to choose a particular edition.

Evgenii Zamiatin (Evgeny Zamyatin), Мы - We – this is the Russian 1984 and was written long before Orwell’s novel; published in various editions (Penguin Classics, Vintage, Alma), by translators Clarence Brown, Natasha Randall or Hugh Aplin


Aleksandr (Alexander) Solzhenitsyn, Один день Ивана Денисовича - One Day in the Life of Ivan Denisovich – this is the classic account of life in Stalin’s labour camps; published in various editions (Harvill, Vintage), translation by H.T. Willets.

For context on the historical and political background to the period we also advise you to read one of the following books:


**Russian Cinema: History, Ideology, Society**

There is no single book required for this module, which draws on a wide range of books, chapters and journal articles over the year, all of which are held in the SSEES and UCL libraries, or available online.

There are a number of histories of Russian and Soviet cinema. If you would like to read one before the start of term, we recommend the following: Birgit Beumers, *A History of Russian Cinema*, London and New York, 2009.

You could also usefully have a look at *The Russian Cinema Reader, Volume One: 1908 to the Stalin Era*, edited by Rimgaila Salys, Boston, 2013. It contains concise but very useful surveys of the three periods covered during term one of this module (‘Early Russian Cinema 1908-1919’, ‘Soviet Silent Cinema 1918-1930’ and ‘Stalinist Cinema 1928-1953’), which provide historical context, outline genres, themes and emblematic aesthetic markers for each era, and give information about the periods' important films and directors. This book also contains brief introductions to some of the individual films you will study in term one of the module.

If you have never studied film before, you might find it helpful to look at a general introduction to approaches to the study of film. There are a very large number of such books, and they are all available in the UCL library. Some recommended works include:


Detailed recommendations about background reading will be provided at the beginning of the module. However, if you would like further suggestions for advance reading, or have any questions about this module, you are very welcome to contact the tutor, Dr Rachel Morley: rachel.morley@ucl.ac.uk
Representations of Russia

You are advised to read in advance the work below, which is the longest single work studied on the module. In addition you will be provided with a number of different texts at the beginning of term.

Lev Tolstoi (Leo Tolstoy), Хаджи Мурат - Hadji Murad – an account of Russia and the Caucasus.

There are three good English translations currently in print:
- Leo Tolstoy, The Cossacks and Other Stories, Penguin Classics, 2006, translated by Paul Foote and David McDuff

General

In addition, for all students, there is a wealth of background reading about Russia which you could look at (and may have done so already). We list here a book by Colin Thubron which students often find enjoyable and informative, the most recent all-encompassing history of Russia by Geoffrey Hosking (a SSEES emeritus professor), and finally an introduction to Russian life and culture, with some Russian language too, by Stephen and Tatyana Webber:

Geoffrey Hosking, Russia and the Russians. A History, Penguin
Colin Thubron, Among the Russians and In Siberia, Penguin
Stephen and Tatyana Webber, Russian Language, Life and Culture, Teach Yourself Books