Information for new students of degrees with Russian

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Dear ,

This letter gives you information about the choice of courses in your first year of your degree at SSEES. Included also is some recommended reading for these courses. You do not need to choose particular courses now, since you will meet with tutors in the first week of term who will give you more advice. However here is some preliminary information about them and about choosing a ‘Track’, if your degree is Russian Studies.

Russian Language – beginners

1) Coursebook 1: for purchase (not available for download)

ISBN: 978-0415698269

2) Coursebook 2: available to download free or purchase.

*RUS`: A Comprehensive Course in Russian*, by [Sarah Smyth](#) and [Elena V. Crosbie](#), CUP, 2010

The CD audio materials that go with the book will be made available by SSEES so if you do purchase the book please make sure that you are buying just the book, and not the CD audio set, nor the combined book/audio set, as these look very similar in some listings.

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`: A Comprehensive Course in Russian`

First Method (to get access before you have your UCL login)

Second Method (once you get your UCL login details)

i. Follow the link: [http://libproxy.ucl.ac.uk/login?url=http://dx.doi.org/10.1017/CBO9780511613647](http://libproxy.ucl.ac.uk/login?url=http://dx.doi.org/10.1017/CBO9780511613647)

ii. You may be asked to enter your UCL login and password.

iii. Click the “Read PDF” link next to the chapter that you need.
3) Additional materials
The following books are not essential, but are given as additional reading. Copies are available from SSEES Library.

ISBN: 978-0486273754


**Russian Language - A level or equivalent**

1. For the Use of Russian grammar class
Your teacher will contact you before the beginning of term with some advice on materials, and with some revision exercises.

2. For the Use of Russian Oral and Writing Skills classes:
The Routledge Intermediate Russian Reader (Routledge Modern Language Readers),
http://www.taylorandfrancis.com/books/details/9780415678872/ (please change the region to United Kingdom if it shows US).

You can buy this book with a discount of 15% directly from the publisher by using the link above and the code IRR230: - please make sure you have your copy by the first teaching week (starting on the 5th of October).

3. General Grammar:
The Oxford Russian Grammar and Verbs
Terence Wade, ISBN: 9780198603801
https://wordery.com/the-oxford-russian-grammar-and-verbs-terence-wade-9780198603801 - (available from various retailers and very cheap)

This guide to Russian grammar and verbs is comprehensive and easy-to-use. It provides ultra-clear explanations and an easy-access design, and is an ideal support book for all beginner and intermediate learners.

4. The following book is recommended but not obligatory to buy:
English Grammar for Students of Russian

**Literature and Culture modules**

Please see section called **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 programmes and optional for others.
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 and looks at films that show the course of Russian history, often turbulent and traumatic, through the twentieth century.

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 courses in a specific discipline, i.e. in Literature for Track A, Politics for Track B, or 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.

Choice of Courses
- If your degree is Russian Studies Track A Literature you will be taking all, or most of the literature/culture modules listed above.
- If your degree is Russian Studies Track B Politics you will be taking ‘The Making of Modern Russian Culture’, two introductory courses in ‘Understanding Politics’ as well as some literature/culture modules.
- If your degree is 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.
- If your degree is 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.
- If your degree is Modern-Languages with Russian as one of the languages, you will be taking ‘Russian Short Fiction from Romanticism to Postmodernism’ and up to one of the literature/culture courses 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.
- If your degree is 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 some literature/culture courses.

In addition to these choices, some students of Russian Studies take a ‘floating’ optional module of 0.5 course units. This course can be from another programme area in SSEES, or from another department of UCL.

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 courses please do not hesitate to contact Ben Chatterley, the Programmes Administrator on 020 7679 8771 or on his email b.chatterley@ucl.ac.uk.

Seth Graham
Programmes Coordinator, Languages & Culture degrees

May 2017
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

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 - Pervaya liubov′ (First Love)
Ivan Turgenev, First Love, translation by Isaiah Berlin, Penguin Classics series
Russian Literature and Culture - recommended advance reading

**The Making of Modern Russian Culture**

We recommend that you should read some of these longer works studied on the course 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 by Penguin Modern Classics, translation by Bernard Guilbert Guerney.

**Mikhail Bulgakov, Собачье сердце - Heart of a Dog** – a surreal comedy of life in post-revolutionary Moscow with a warning against the dangers of uncontrolled scientific experimentation; published by Harvill, translation by Michael Glenny.

**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:


**Representations of Russia**

If you choose to take this course, you will be provided at the beginning of term with course booklets, which include a number of different texts. You are advised to read in advance the longest single work studied on the course (not included in the course booklets):

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

There are three good English translations currently in print:

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

If your local library has a copy of *The Russian Cinema Reader, Volume One: 1908 to the Stalin Era*, edited by Rimgaila Salys, Boston, 2013, you could usefully have a look at it before September. 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.

You might also 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. Among those I recommend are:


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

**General**

In addition, for all students, there is a wealth of background reading about Russia which you could sample (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 (of SSEES), and finally an introduction to Russian life and culture, with some Russian language too, by Stephen and Tatyana Webber:

- Colin Thubron, *Among the Russians and In Siberia*, Penguin
- Stephen and Tatyana Webber, *Russian Language, Life and Culture*, Teach Yourself Books