



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

September 2023 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.

If you have any queries about your modules or other aspects of your course, please do not hesitate to contact Ben Chatterley, the Programmes Administrator on 020 7679 8771 or on his email ssees-lc@ucl.ac.uk.

Sarah Young
Programmes Coordinator

July 2023

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Russian Language modules – entering as a beginner

Basic Russian: A Grammar and Workbook, Sarah Smyth and John Murray, Routledge, 2013, ISBN: 978-0415698269

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

RUS': A Comprehensive Module in Russian, by [Sarah Smyth](#) and [Elena V. Crosbie](#), CUP, 2010, online ISBN: 9780511613647

Compulsory. You don't have to buy this book since it will be available for downloading for free after you enrol. We will only be using certain materials from this book, and you can decide after you enrol whether you will find it more convenient to purchase a paper copy or continue with the downloaded 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.

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 basic Russian words.

You may take advantage of 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>

Accessing the coursebook Rus' online

After you enrol you will be able to access the coursebook with your UCL login details.

- i. Follow the link:
<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.

Additional materials

All additional reading will be listed on the course Moodle pages (the online learning portal) which you will have access to by the beginning of the first week of teaching.

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Russian Language modules – entering with A level Russian or equivalent knowledge

Schaum's Outline of Russian Grammar, Third Edition (Schaum's Outlines) - 30 Oct 2017, Paperback, ISBN-13: 978-1260011517

<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), Lydia Buravova, 16 Jul 2015, Paperback, ISBN: 9780415678872

Compulsory. Please purchase this book for the Oral and Writing classes.

<http://amzn.eu/0X6Eucu>

English Grammar for Students of Russian

Edwina J. Cruise, ISBN: 9780934034210

<https://wordery.com/english-grammar-for-students-of-russian-edwina-j-cruise-9780934034210>

Not compulsory, but recommended if you can find a copy. Second-hand and new copies are currently available on Amazon.

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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. Comparisons are drawn between a wide range of texts, including literary works (novels, plays, poems), folk tradition, philosophy, film, paintings, music.

‘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.

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Which modules should you choose?

BA Russian Studies

If you are taking the **BA Russian Studies** programme you will need to choose a 'Track'. 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 on page 5.
- For **Russian Studies Track B Politics** you will be taking '**The Making of Modern Russian Culture**', and at least two other modules from the list on page 5. Additionally you will take two introductory modules in '**Understanding Politics**', for which you will receive a reading list in the first week of term.
- For **Russian Studies Track C History** you will be taking '**The Making of Modern Russian Culture**' and at least two other modules from the list on page 5. Additionally you will take an introductory module in '**Frontiers of History**' for which you will receive a reading list in the first week of term.

Russian & History

You will be taking '**The Making of Modern Russian Culture**' and one other module from the list on page 5. For History you will take '**Frontiers of History**', and either '**History of Russia 1598-1856**' or '**History of the Habsburg Monarchy 1700-1918**' for which you will receive a reading list in the first week of term.

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 on page 5. 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)

You will be taking all of the literature and culture modules listed on page 5. You will also take 30 credits of East European language modules.

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Literature and Culture modules – advance reading

Russian Short Fiction from Romanticism to Postmodernism

Original versions and English translations of the texts below will be supplied in the first week of term. 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 some or all of the texts below before the beginning of term. Full texts can be found on many sites, for example <https://ilibrary.ru>

Aleksandr Pushkin	Пиковая дама - <i>Pikovaia dama</i> (The Queen of Spades) Alexander Pushkin, <i>"The Queen of Spades" and Other Stories</i> , Oxford World Classics, translation by Alan Myers,
Nikolai Gogol'	Нос - <i>Nos</i> (The Nose) <i>The Collected Tales of Nikolai Gogol</i> , translated by Richard Pevear and Larissa Volkhonsky. Vintage, 2003.
Anton Chekhov	Дама с собачкой - <i>Dama s sobachkoi</i> (The Lady and the Lapdog), Anton Chekhov, <i>Lady with Lapdog and Other Stories</i> , translation by David Magarshack, Penguin Classics series Анна на шее - <i>Anna na shee</i> (Anna Around the Neck) Anton Chekhov, <i>The Kiss and Other Stories</i> , translation by Ronald Wilks, Penguin Classics series
Ivan Turgenev	Первая любовь - <i>Pervaia liubov'</i> (First Love) Ivan Turgenev, <i>First Love</i> , translation by Isaiah Berlin, Penguin Classics series

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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

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 in various editions (Vintage, Harvill, Penguin Classics, Alma), translations by Michael Glenny, Andrew Bromfield, Antonina Bouis.

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:

Robert Service, *A History of Twentieth-Century Russia*, London: Penguin, 1998

Robert Service, *A History of Modern Russia: from Nicholas II to Putin*, London: Penguin, 2003

Ronald Grigor Suny, *The Soviet Experiment: Russia, the USSR, and the Successor States*, New York and Oxford: Oxford University Press, 1998

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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 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.

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:

- Bordwell, David and Thompson, Kristin, *Film Art: An introduction*, 11th edition, New York and London, 2017
- Corrigan, Timothy, *A Short Guide to Writing about Film*, 9th edition, London, 2014
- Monaco, James, *How to Read a Film: The World of Movies, Media, and Multimedia, Language, History, Theory*, 4th edition, New York and Oxford, 2009

Detailed recommendations about background reading will be provided on Moodle (UCL's virtual learning environment) 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 Philip Cavendish: p.cavendish@ucl.ac.uk

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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), *Хаджу Мурат - Hadji Murad* – an account of Russia and the Caucasus.

There are three good English translations currently in print:

- Lev Tolstoy, *Hadji Murat*, Hesperus Press, 2003, translated by Hugh Aplin
- Leo Tolstoy, *The Cossacks and Other Stories*, Penguin Classics, 2006, translated by Paul Foote and David McDuff
- Leo Tolstoy, *Master and Man and Other Stories*, Penguin Classics, 1977, translated by Paul Foote [NB: the one you need is ISBN: 0140443312].

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:

Sheila Fitzpatrick, *The Russian Revolution*. Oxford: University Press, 2008.

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