

## REPRESENTATIONS OF RUSSIA

The course provides an introduction to key aspects of Russian society and culture through the study of how Russia is conceptualized, represented, mythologized etc. in a range of modes and genres, including intellectual history, literature, film, theatre, art. The texts will be read in English, but with the introduction of some Russian language materials as appropriate; students with A Level Russian will be required to undertake more reading in Russian. The films will be watched at scheduled times outside the teaching hours.

The course will take a broad historical perspective, from Kievan Russia to the present, and will be organised under four main headings:

Russia in space  
Russia between East and West

Russia in time: Utopia and *byt*  
Russia and its people

## PRELIMINARY READING

### **TEXTS:**

Leo Tolstoi , Hadji Murad

### **BACKGROUND:**

Hosking, G., Russia and the Russians. A History, Penguin, 2002

Billington, James, The Icon and the Axe: An Interpretive History of Russian Culture, New York, 1966

Figes, O., Natasha's Dance: A Cultural History of Russia, Penguin Press, 2002

Milner-Gulland, R. R., The Russians, Oxford, 1997

Rzhevsky, Nicholas, ed., The Cambridge Companion to Modern Russian Culture, Cambridge, 1998

**Title:** Representations of Russia  
**Course Code:** SERS 1012  
**Course-unit value:** 0.5 cu

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**Availability:** First and second semesters  
**Open to:** Core or option for students of degrees with Russian in Year 1;  
Option for students of other SSEES/UCL degrees in Year 1 or 2 (subject to syllabus requirements);  
Affiliate students

**Course leaders:** Professor Pamela Davidson  
**Other participants:**

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**Aims:**

1. To provide a survey of aspects of Russian culture and society through the ages as a background for further study.
2. To analyse a number of key concepts and themes in Russian culture through the study of a wide range of material (intellectual history, literature, film, art).

**Objectives:**

**By the end of the course, you will have acquired:**

1. A knowledge and understanding of the cultural history of Russia.
  2. Skills in the analysis of a range of concepts, themes and texts.
  3. A deeper knowledge of the particular aspects of the course which you have researched for your coursework essays.
  4. Skills of research, analysis, essay writing, presentation and the articulation of ideas in class discussion.
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**Teaching & Learning Methods:**

**Number of Hours:**

<i>Classes</i> – seminars with some lecture input	20
<i>Private Study</i>	100

**Assessment:**

***Coursework:***

Two non-assessed coursework essays are required, one each term.

Submission of the coursework is a necessary condition of being allowed to proceed to the written examination, but it does not itself count towards the final mark for the course.

***Examination:***

One essay in the form of a take-away examination, written at the beginning of the summer term.

**Affiliate Students:**

Open to affiliate students