



RUSSIAN STUDIES PROGRAM [RSP]

RECOMMENDED CREDITS

Russian Language	6
History and Sociology of Religion in Russia	3
Russian Literature & History	4
Russia in Transition	3
TOTAL CREDITS	16

The program recommends to home institutions that students be granted the equivalent of 16 semester hours of credit.

Russian Language [6 credits]

Students are placed in a course of study that corresponds to their level of proficiency for approximately 120 hours of in-class instruction. While the primary focus is on conversational Russian, other goals include enabling students to be comfortable with basic reading and writing skills. The course includes times of total immersion in the language and aims to equip students to converse in Russian both in and out of the classroom. Contacts with Russian students and living with Russian host families further facilitate language acquisition. The initial requirement is familiarity with the Cyrillic alphabet upon arrival in Russia (through study materials provided in advance). For students with previous Russian language capability, small group instruction builds on their current knowledge. Students advanced in Russian are placed in a program which makes use of regular university lectures, written assignments and tutorials with their language instructors.

History and Sociology of Religion in Russia [3 credits]

This seminar delves into the history of religion in Russia dating from the beginnings of Christianity in the 10th century to the present day, with emphasis on Orthodoxy and Protestantism, including study of the persecution during the Soviet era and the flourishing of religious activity in post-Soviet years. The course also looks at current government regulations from various points of view. Included

are visits to numerous churches and cathedrals in Moscow, St. Petersburg and Nizhnii Novgorod and guest lecturers giving Russian Orthodox, Protestant and other religious perspectives.

Possible Credit: History, Sociology, Religion/Theology.

Russian Literature and History [4 credits]

Participants are introduced to Russian history and literature using the rich resources of Moscow, St. Petersburg and Nizhnii Novgorod. Students continue the study of Russian people and culture throughout history using well-known works of Russian literature to examine changes in Russia and their impact on her citizens from ancient times, through the czarist and Soviet eras, and in Russia today. Students read works by Pushkin, Tolstoy, Dostoevsky, Gorky and Bulgakov. This seminar also includes visits to appropriate sites, including homes of literary figures, museums and historic cities and villages.

Possible credit: Literature, History, Cross-cultural studies.

Russia in Transition [3 credits]

This seminar takes an in-depth look at Russia since 1991, as revolutions have encompassed political, economic, social and religious areas—a phenomenon unique in world history. A compendium of background and current journal, magazine and newspaper articles is used, as well as knowledgeable guest lecturers and public policy representatives. Students are introduced to the complexities of transition from a centrally-planned economy to a free market system and establishment of democratic institutions. They discuss the changes and their impact on Russia's economy, political institutions and the life of the Russian people. The seminar includes service projects in selected educational institutions, orphanages, business and other organizations in Nizhnii Novgorod, as well as travel throughout western Russia.

Possible Credit: History, Political Science, Economics.

ADDITIONAL LEARNING RESOURCES

Service Project

Each week, students volunteer with local community projects, church organizations, business enterprises,

schools and orphanages in Nizhnii Novgorod. Students seeking additional credit for the service project component may arrange up to two additional credits with their home institution through an independent study project, by keeping a journal or doing a separate report based on their service project experience. This must be arranged and graded by the home campus.

Travel

The RSP curriculum incorporates travel and visits to local sites as well as the cities of Moscow, Vladimir/Suzdal, St. Petersburg and the Republic of Kazan. The extraordinary landmarks, historical resources,

churches, museums, art galleries and government institutions of Moscow and surrounding regions are the classroom for 10 days of the semester. Students also visit St. Petersburg, which because of its many rivers and canals is often called the “Venice of the north.” The city’s rich historical and cultural resources provide a venue for additional study of Russian society. Additional weekend trips are made to the ancient capital of Russia, Vladimir, and the predominantly Muslim republic of Kazan to study more of the history of religion in Russian society.