

Russian Society and Culture

Code	Course unit title			ECTS credits	Contact hours	Student's individual work	Assessment
RUVK 2113	Russian society and culture			5	64	66	Examination
Cycle	Level of course unit	Semester or period when it is delivered	Language of instruction	Prerequisites			
BA	1/1	Autumn semester	Russian	No pre-requisites			
Coordinating lecturer		Other lecturers		Faculty (institute)		Study field	
Assoc. Prof. Pavel Lavrinec				Faculty of Philology, Department of Russian Philology		Philology	

Purpose of the course unit: programme competences to be developed

To develop students' competence as Russian language and literature specialists:

- to introduce students to the specific features of Russian society and culture, the patterns of its development, the main achievements in Russian culture and its major names, to discuss the role of Russian culture in world culture;
- to develop the understanding of a different country's culture and customs, the ability to analyse and assess the phenomena of Russian language and literature in the wider context of Russian history as well as Russian public and cultural life; to develop the ability to compare the processes of Russian culture with the processes of other societies and other cultures.

The course also aims at developing the ability of critical thinking, independent work and learning.

Learning outcomes of the course unit	Teaching and learning methods	Assessment methods
<p>Having completed the course, students will:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - have the knowledge about the main periods of the Russian history and the trends in Russian cultural development in the context of European culture: they will be able to explain the key features of Russian culture, the specificity of Russian public and cultural life; - be able to analyse, interpret and critically assess Russian cultural phenomena, to compare Russian public and cultural phenomena with those of other cultures, to apply the context of public and historical affairs in analysing and interpreting Russian literary texts and the peculiarities of the Russian language; - be ready to develop their knowledge autonomously: to find, describe, organise materials on a given issue and to present it in writing as well as orally. 	<p>Lectures; problem-based learning, focus on history and culture, comparative analysis, demonstration; methods of active learning and teaching (brainstorming, group discussion); research methods (information search, preparing and delivering a presentation)</p>	<p>Cumulative assessment: participation in seminars (20 percent), preparing and giving a presentation (30 percent), examination (open-ended questions; 50 percent of the final grade).</p>

Course content: breakdown of the topics		Student's workload: hours and mode of study						Student's individual work: hours and assignments		
No	Topic	Lectures	Tutorials	Seminars	Laboratory work	Consultations	Internship/work placement	Total contact hours	Individual work	Assignments
1.	The phenomenon of Russian culture, its specificity and significance. Peculiarities of the Russian nationality and the formation of the Russian state. The heritage of the Old Rus, development of Moscow state, the Romanov Empire, the Soviet Union, post-communist Russia.	6	4					10	8	To prepare to participate in a discussion, read chapters: 1, 4 (respective chapters)
2.	State symbols, national mythology and ideology, traditional and national festivals.	2	2					4	4	To prepare to participate in a discussion, read chapters: 3, 4 (respective chapters)
3.	Specificities of the Christian Russian cultural foundation. Features of Russian Orthodox church history, church hierarchy, religious art (church structure, its significance and symbolism; an icon and icon schools; ecclesiastical chant). Development of writings. Orthodox tradition and Old Believers. Other traditional Russian religions.	4	6					10	8	To prepare to participate in a discussion, read chapters: 1, 2, 3 (respective chapters), presentation
4.	Development of secular culture. Changes in the social order and creation of European cultural institutions in 17–19 c.: reforms of Peter the Great, cultural politics of Catherine II, features of the era of Alexander I of Russia, war of 1812, reforms of Alexander II. Traditional societal	6	4					10	8	To prepare to participate in a discussion, read chapters: 3, 4 (respective chapters), presentation

	caste structure.									
5.	Main trends of the development of art and architecture. Cultural achievements in the 19c. Russia (literature, art, music, theatre), famous artists, writers, composers; peculiarities of Russian philosophy; the emergence and role of the intelligentsia.	6	8					14	8	To prepare to participate in a discussion, read chapters: 5, 6, 7 (respective chapters), presentation
6.	20 c. Russian history and culture: "The Silver Age", the Bolshevik revolution, Stalinism, USSR in World War II; features of the Soviet society, culture and daily life; socialist realism; cult films; official and non-official culture; characters of jokes and anecdotes; Russian diaspora.	6	6					12	8	To prepare to participate in a discussion, read chapters: 1, 4, 5 (respective chapters), presentation
7.	Economy, culture, politics and media of the post-communist Russia. Peculiarities of the high and the popular culture. Russian culture outside Russia.	2	2					4	4	Preparation to participate in a discussion
8.	Preparation for and taking examination								18	
Total:		32	32					64	66	

Assessment strategy	Weight %	Deadline	Assessment criteria
Cumulative assessment:			
Participation in seminars and discussions	20	During the semester	2 points: student demonstrates good preparation, actively participates in discussions, answers questions, formulates problems and raises questions, comments on peers' answers, provides critical comments; 1 point: student participates in discussions, answers questions when asked; 0 points: student demonstrates practically no participation or has missed more than 1/3 of the seminars.
Presentation on a chosen phenomenon of the Russian culture, an author, an artistic trend.	30	During the semester	3 points: a phenomenon of the Russian culture, an author, an artistic trend is analysed in the context of Russian history and the relevant European or world literature and culture, the presentation reflects the latest research data, is presented in an audience-friendly form and effective manner; 2 points: a phenomenon of the Russian culture, an author, an artistic trend is presented correctly and clearly, in an audience-friendly form and effective manner; 1 point: a phenomenon of the Russian culture, an author, an artistic trend is presented correctly and clearly.
Written examination (2 open-ended questions).	50	Session time	5 points, if a student does not only answer the two examination questions in an exhaustive manner with no errors but also provides a critical account of the cultural and literary context; takes into consideration the general criteria of reasoning consistently, accurately and showing the ability to reflect the diversity of the approaches towards the issue under consideration; 4 points, if a student answers the two examination questions exhaustively and with no errors; 3 points, if a student answers both examination questions accurately with no major errors; 2 points, if a student answers the questions inexhaustively, with major errors; 1 point if a student answers only one question.

Required reading					
No	Author	Year of publishing	Title	Issue No or volume	Publishing house or internet site
1.	Michailova G., Šapovalova J., Brazauskienė J.	2005	Rusų civilizacija ir kultūra: istorija ir dabartis.		Vilnius: VPU
2.	Алдони́на Р.	2003	Святѣни Росси́и.		Москва: Белый город
3.		2004	История России 9 – 17 вв.: Иллюстрированная энциклопедия.		Москва: Олма Медиа Групп
4.		2003	История России: IX – XXI вв.: От Рюрика до Путина.		Ростов-на-Дону: ИЦ «Март»
5.		2001	Русское искусство: Иллюстрированный словарь.		Москва
6.	Сарабьянов Д.	1981	Русская живопись XIX в. среди европейских школ.		Москва: Советский художник
7.		2003	Очерки русской культуры XIX века.		Москва: Изд-во

					Московского университета
Recommended reading					
No	Author	Year of publishing	Title	Issue No or volume	Publishing house or internet site
1.	Лотман Ю. М.	1994	Беседы о русской культуре. Быт и традиции русского дворянства (XVIII-начало XIX века).		С.-Петербург: Искусство-СПб
2.	Лихачев Д. С.	2000.	Русская культура.		Москва: Искусство
3.		2000	Из истории русской культуры. Т. IV (XVIII – XIX века).		Москва: Языки русской культуры
4.	Заичкин И. А., Почкаев И. Н.	1992	Русская история. Популярный очерк IX – середина XVIII в.		Москва: Мысль

Description done by	Signature	Approved by the Committee of the study programme	Signature	Date
Pavel Lavrinec		Jelena Brazauskienė		2011-06-15