An interdisciplinary exploration of Russian cultural history through its literature, art and architecture, religion, social and political thought, and performing arts. All the important elements of Russian culture will be presented through the prism of the city of St. Petersburg, its history, its urban and cultural landscapes. The course will be taught in St. Petersburg and will include regular field trips to museums, theater, and city tours focused on specific themes. This course seeks to encourage thinking in more integrative and interdisciplinary ways about history, literature, art, society, and politics. We examine a wide range of cultural expressions: religion, civic rituals, values and practices, social customs and popular entertainment. Elements of Russian culture will be presented through the prism of the city of St. Petersburg, its history, and its urban and cultural landscapes. The courses major topics will be treated as interrelated and connected to social and political life of Russia.

REQUIRED READINGS (RU1060)

(Books are available at Brown Bookstore; course packets at Allegra Copy)

Bely, Andrei. Petersburg. Indiana University Press
Gray, Camilla. The Russian Experiment in Arts. Thames & Hudson.
Course packet.

SYLLABUS

Classes will be held normally on Tuesday and Thursday (1:30-2:50) and on Friday (11-11:50 – class lecture; 2-4:30 – lecture in a museum). Note, however, that sometimes the schedule will be slightly different.

RUSSIAN 1060  ST.PETERSBURG: A WINDOW ON RUSSIA

WEEK ONE

Tuesday, June 10, 1:30-2:20  What is Russia: National Identity and Its Contradictions; What is Russian Culture?

2:30-7:00 City Tour Around St. Petersburg

Thursday, June 12, 1:30-2:50  What is Russian Orthodoxy?

Friday, June 13, 2:00-4:20  Russian Icons (Russian Museum)

WEEK TWO

Tuesday, June 17, 1:30-2:50  Peter the Great
Reading: Acton, Ch. 2

Night Boat Trip

Thursday, June 19, 1:30-2:50  St. Petersburg Myths: Pushkin, The Bronze Horseman; Mickiewicz, Dziady (Excerpts)

Friday, June 20, 2:00:00-3:20  Eighteenth-Century Russian Art (Russian Museum)
Reading: Acton, ch. 3

Saturday, June 21      Trip to Pushkin
Lecture: Symbols of Russian Imperial Power: Russian Palaces and Suburbs
WEEK THREE

Tuesday, June 24, 1:30-2:50  Sculptured City (from the Bronze Horseman to Shemiakin)

Thursday, June 26, 1:30-2:50  Literary Myths –Gogol
Reading: Gogol, The Petersburg Tales (“Overcoat,” “The Nose,” “The Nevsky Prospect”)

Friday, June 27, 2:00-4:20  Russian Romanticism (Russian Museum)

Saturday, June 28  Trip to Petrodvorets

WEEK FOUR

Tuesday, July 1, 1:30-2:50  Dostoevsky, Crime and Punishment (Parts 1-3)
4:00-6:20  St. Petersburg of Dostoevsky (Belov)

Thursday, July 3  1:30-2:50  Dostoevsky, Crime and Punishment (to the end)

Friday, July 4, 11:00-11:50  Nineteenth-Century Russian Art
2:00-4:20  Nineteenth-Century Russian Art (Russian Museum)

Reading: Acton, Ch. 4

Saturday July 5  Trip to Novgorod

WEEK FIVE

Tuesday, July 8, 1:30-2:50  Andrei Bely’s Petersburg (Ch. 1-4)
Reading: Acton, Ch. 6

Thursday, July 10  1:30-2:50  Andrei Bely (Ch. 5—to the end)
4:00-5:20  Russian Realism (Russian Museum)
Friday, July 11, 11:00-11:50 Mir Iskusstva
Reading: Acton, Ch. 5

2:00-4:20 Mir Iskusstva (Russian Museum)

WEEK SIX

Tuesday, July 15, 1:30-2:50 The City of Revolution: Blok’s “Twelve”
Reading: Blok, “The Intelligentsia and the Revolution.”
Acton, ch.6, 7.

Thursday, July 17, 1:30-2:50 Leningrad through World War II and Stalin.
Reading: Acton, Ch. 8-10

Friday, July 18, 2:00-4:20 Russian Avant-Guard (Russian Museum)

Saturday, Sunday, Monday (July 19, 20, 21): Trip to Moscow (departure time: Friday night, July 18)

WEEK SEVEN

Tuesday, July 22, 1:30-2:50 Russian Ballet

Reading Period, Final (July 23-26)

Course Requirements:
1. Regular attendance and participation. You are expected to keep up with the reading and actively participate in discussions. You are also expected to attend all the field trips and to write short essays (1-2 pages) on each trip.

2. Term paper (15 pages) on approved or suggested topic.

Your work will be evaluated in the following manner:
Class participation ....................... 20%
Response papers.......................... 30%
Final paper.................................. 50%