

Russian House

Prof. Kevin McKenna, Program Director

OVERVIEW

The primary goal of the "Russian House: An Introduction to Russian People, Culture and their Society" course will be to present our first-and second-year students with a broad overview of Russian cultural, social, political, and historical topics covering Russian, Soviet, and, now, Post-Soviet Russia at the beginning of the 21st century.

Members of the German and Russian Department, as well as faculty from the Russian and East European Studies Program, will give bi-weekly lectures and slide presentations covering a variety of historical and cultural topics pertaining to Kievan, Muscovite, Romanov, Soviet, and contemporary Russia. While the Program Director, Professor Kevin McKenna (German and Russian Department) will address a number of topics related to Russian literature, history, and politics, other REES faculty will speak on Russian history, film and society (Professor Denise Youngblood, History Dept.); Russian music, cuisine, Dostoevsky, Tolstoy (Professor Kenneth Nalibow, German/Russian Dept.); Russian/Slavic social and cultural anthropology as well as contemporary Russian popular music, tattoo culture, student political movements (Professor Jennifer Dickinson, Anthropology Dept.); post-Soviet Russian and Central Asian politics, economics, and business culture (Professor Michele Commercio, Political Science Dept.). On occasion, Russian visitors to UVM will hold personal meetings with "Russian House" students. In 2006, for example, Russia's greatest living poet, Yevgeny Yevtushenko gave a special poetry reading of his poetry.

The goal at all times will be to present students in the Russian House with a general introduction to a broad range of cultural, historical, social, and political topics related to a 1000-year history of Russia. Students will prepare oral presentations as well as a research paper on related topics of their choosing. As opportunities arise (e.g. the Flynn Theatre, the Fleming Museum), Program students will attend local music and cultural events in the Burlington area as well as a number of Russian films on campus. In the fall of 2007, "Russian House" students traveled to Montreal for an authentic Russian meal at the "Kalinka" restaurant. In the spring semester of 2008, "Russian House" students will organize a campus-wide Russian chess tournament.

In order to build upon Russian language skills acquired in the classroom, Professor McKenna will hold a "Russian conversation hour" each week of the semester to assist students with "everyday" aspects of the language (linguistic etiquette at the dinner-table; Russian pen-pal correspondence; Russian scrabble and monopoly; Russian jokes/anecdotes, etc). To assist Professor McKenna and to help Russian House students with their study of the language, a number of Russian exchange students from Irkutsk, Etaterinburg, Yaroslavl, Moscow, St.

Petersburg, etc. will participate in Russian House activities, including Russian cooking lessons (Katerina Simonova, Ekaterinburg), Russian chess playing (Kostya Afanasyev, Irkutsk).

Residential Component

As evident from the above Course Description, residence in the Russian House will afford students the greatest opportunity to avail themselves of the many cultural, linguistic, and educational activities planned for the 2008-2009 academic year. Student presentations, faculty guest speakers, slide shows, music, film, and Russian cooking evenings will all take place in the Russian House.

Global Village Affiliation

Our intention is to affiliate our Russian House with the Global Village program and to cross-list our various linguistic and cultural activities with them. One example would be the guest speakers we will invite to meet with Russian House and Global Village students. Similarly, we envision showing several Russian films for both the fall and spring semesters that would lend themselves nicely to a Global Village audience.

Spring Events

Essentially our plan for spring events will be comparable to the activities we will arrange in the fall semester: Russian films, guest speakers, cooking lessons, etc. We will plan, however, to provide in-hall advising sessions for students in the spring.

COURSE INFORMATION

Fall Semester

Russian 095

Spring Semester

Russian 096

A tentative outline of course Activities is available on the Web:

< <http://www.uvm.edu/llcenter/programs/0607/RussianTimeline.pdf> >



About the Global Village

This program is part of the Global Village Residential Learning Community (RLC). For UVM students interested in exploring other cultures, studying abroad, or pursuing lives and careers in an increasingly interconnected world, the Global Village may be just the place for you! Drawing on the resources of the Living/Learning Center and its dynamic network of student- and faculty-led programs, the community of learners that make up the Global Village will be engaged in coursework, lectures, concerts, exhibits, study sessions, faculty and peer mentoring, social connections with international students, group meals, and trips that:

- Explore the many connections among language, art and culture at regional, national, and international scales.
- Share disciplinary expertise within an environment that values a holistic approach to “living and learning.”
- Encourage formal and informal contacts among students, faculty, and staff within the Global Village, the Living/Learning Center, the other Residential Learning Communities, and the university as a whole.
- Aim to be a complement to existing international and cross-cultural programs at UVM.
- “Think globally and act locally” by outreach to the international community at UVM and within the greater Burlington area.

More information about the Global Village RLC can be found at: <http://www.uvm.edu/rlc>

AIS 095: The Global Village

AIS 095: The Global Village is a self-paced, one-credit course designed to help you get the most out of your experience as a citizen of the Global Village residential learning community. In addition to taking part in any courses that are required or recommended for your individual House, all new Global Village residents must enroll in AIS 095 for one credit during the fall semester (as must any returning Global Village student who has not yet satisfactorily completed the class). This course will be graded on a “Satisfactory/Unsatisfactory” basis. As this a self-paced course, there will be no weekly class meeting time. Instead, you are expected to participate in an average of one House activity or one non-House cultural/educational event per week throughout the semester. Each House will have the opportunity to craft a “community learning plan” that will involve a combination of House and non-House activities that will fulfill the requirements of one-credit course. We’ll provide you with a list of suggested events and activities, or you can identify other events/activities with a cultural theme; you choose which ones you wish to attend. Finally, you should plan to attend the Global Village community meetings, which are periodically throughout the year.

We’ll provide you with a Global Village Passport; use it to keep track of your activities and explorations. In addition to documenting participation in your weekly events/activities, you will need to do reflective writing in the form of five short journal entries on the cultural/educational events that you participated in, along with a lengthier essay looking back on your most meaningful experience of the semester within the Global Village.

Returning Global Village students are also invited (but not required) to enroll in AIS 095 during the fall semester. Enrollment in AIS 096 for one credit during the spring semester is optional and encouraged for all students.

If you anticipate a problem with fulfilling this course expectation (such as if you will already be enrolled in 18 credits), please contact your Program/House director.

For more details about this course, visit: <http://www.uvm.edu/rlc/ais095096.pdf>

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“RUSSIAN HOUSE” EVENTS CALENDAR FALL, 2008

7:00 p.m.--Monday, September 1st: LABOR DAY HOLIDAY. Enjoy your move into the “Russian House” and get acquainted with one-another.

7:00 p.m.--Monday, September 8th: Welcome to this year’s “Russian House” students. Solicitation of your ideas for activities, events. Discussion of campus-wide Russian Chess Tournament.

7:00 p.m.--Monday, Sept 15th: 7:00 p.m.--Monday, Sept. 8th: Russian conversation hour: oral practice for first- and second-year students with Prof. McKenna.

7:00 p.m.--Monday, Sept. 22nd: Lecture by Prof. McKenna “The Legacy of Alexander Solzhenitsyn: His Meaning for Russian Literature and People.”

7:00 p.m.--Monday, Sept. 29th: Russian conversation hour: oral practice for first- and second-year students with Prof. McKenna.

7:00 p.m.--Monday, Oct. 6th: Lecture by Prof. Michele Commercio, UVM Political Science Department, “Different Meanings of the Phrase: ‘Separation of Church and State’: The Kyrgyz and Tajik Cases.”

7:30 PM --FRIDAY, Oct. 10th: UVM Recital Hall Lane Series piano recital by Alexander Ghindin. The Director’s Office at the Living/Learning Center will provide free tickets to Russian House students. At fourteen, Russian pianist Alexander Ghindin became the youngest pianist ever to win the prestigious International Tchaikovsky Competition and was invited to join the Moscow State Philharmonic as principal soloist. Catapulted into the spotlight at such a young age, he has performed throughout Russia, Europe, and Japan with major ensembles such as the London Philharmonic, the Russian National Orchestra, and the Munich Philharmonic. Most recently, he is the winner of the 2007

Cleveland International Piano Competition. For us, he'll perform Schubert: Six Moments Musicaux; Chopin: Ballade No. 1; and Mussorgsky: Pictures at an Exhibition.

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4:30 p.m.--Monday, Oct. 13th: Viewing of Russian film "Брат/"Brother," with introduction and discussion by Prof. McKenna. Go to the Bailey-Howe Library Screening Room (basement of Bailey-Howe)

7:00 p.m.--Monday, Oct. 20th: Russian conversation hour: oral practice for first- and second-year students with Prof. McKenna.

7:00 p.m.—Monday, Oct. 27th: "Lecture by Prof. McKenna: "Whither Russia: An Analysis of the Russian-Georgian Conflict over South Ossetia."

4:30 p.m.--Monday, Nov. 3rd: Viewing of contemporary Russian film "Осенний марафон/Autumn Marathon" with introduction and commentary by Prof. McKenna. Go to the Bailey-Howe Library Screening Room (basement of Bailey-Howe).

7:00 p.m.—Monday, Nov. 10th: Lecture/slide presentation by current UVM students, recently returned from Study-Abroad in Russia (Chris Nyberg, Sam Mishcon, Taylor Nischan, Nordica Gill, Jon Mandel).

10:00 a.m.—**Saturday, Nov. 15th:** Departure to Montreal for day of sight-seeing followed by a Russian dinner at the "Kalinka" Restaurant.

6:00 p.m.—Sunday, November 16th: Meeting with UVM grad (1985), Dr. Douglas Smith, who will share his experiences of finding work as a Russian grad in Russia and Eastern Europe following his UVM graduation. Doug has been invited to UVM to speak about his latest book. That lecture will take place tomorrow.

***4:00 p.m.—Monday, Nov. 17th:** Lecture by Dr. Douglas Smith, University of Washington, Department of History on the topic of his recently published (April, 2008, Yale University Press) book: "The Pearl: A True Tale of Forbidden Love in Catherine the Great's Russia." This lecture will be held in the Memorial Lounge (3rd floor) of the Waterman Building.

Week of November 24th—“День Благодарения”

7:00 p.m.--Monday, Dec. 1st: Russian conversation hour: oral practice for first- and second-year students with Prof. McKenna

A TENTATIVE LIST OF “RUSSIAN HOUSE” EVENTS THIS SPRING ‘09 SEMESTER

7:00 p.m.--Tuesday, Jan. 16th: Welcome by Prof. McKenna and solicitation for student ideas for spring semester events/activities. Listen to first student reports on their readings/research.

7:00 p.m.--Monday, Jan. 22nd: Russian conversation hour: oral practice for first- and second-year students with Prof. McKenna and Kostya or Katya. More student presentations.

7:00 p.m.--Monday, Jan. 29th: Lecture by Prof. Kenneth Nalibow: “The Masters of 19th. Century Russian Music.” More student presentations.

7:00 p.m.--Monday, Feb. 5th: Viewing of Cannes Film Festival Award-Winning film (1958), “Летят журавли/The Cranes Are Flying.” Introduction/ commentary by Prof. McKenna or Prof. Youngblood.

7:00 p.m.—Monday Feb. 12: Lecture by Prof. Jennifer Dickinson, Anthropology Dept.: “Russian Youth Culture and Contemporary Popular Music.” Room to be announced.

7:00 p.m.--Monday, Feb. 26th: Lecture by Prof. Youngblood: “Twen-tieth-Century War Films in Russia.”

7:00 p.m.--Monday, March 5th: Russian conversation hour: oral practice for first- and second-year students with Prof. McKenna and Kostya or Katya. More student presentations.

7:00 p.m.--Monday, March 12th-16th: Весенний отпуск

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7:00 p.m.--Monday, March 19th: Viewing of Cannes Film Festival Award-Winning Film, «Баллада о солдате/Ballad of A Soldier»

7:00 p.m.--Monday, March. 26th: Russian conversation hour: oral practice for first- and second-year students with Prof. McKenna and Kostya or Katya. More student presentations.

7:00 p.m.--Monday, April 2nd: Lecture and demonstration by Prof. Jennifer Dickinson: «Русская Пасха and the Tradition of Painting Easter Eggs.»

7:00 p.m.--Monday, April 9th: Russian conversation hour: oral practice for first- and second-year students with Prof. McKenna and Kostya or Katya. Student Presentation by John Mandel and Colleen Conboy.

7:00 p.m.—Monday, April 16th: Lecture by Prof. Michelle Commercio: «Central Asian Politics and Society in the Post-Soviet Era.» Student Presentations by Christine Hogan and Laina Lomina.

7:00 p.m.--Monday, April 23rd: Russian conversation hour: oral practice for first- and second-year students with Prof. McKenna and Kostya or Katya. Student Presentation by Chris Nyberg and Nordica Gill.

7:00 p.m.--Monday, April 30th: Russian conversation hour: oral practice for first- and second-year students with Prof. McKenna and Kostya or Katya. Student Presentation by Marion Goodsell and Megan Luttrell.

“RUSSIAN HOUSE” EVENTS CALENDAR SPRING, 2010

7:00 p.m.--Monday, Jan. 25th: Our first RH meeting to discuss your ideas for fall semester activities, events as well as to discuss plans for Elena Gorokhova’s reading from her memoir, “A Mountain of Crumbs,” which you all read over the semester break.

7:00 p.m.—Tuesday, Jan. 26th—May 23rd: The UVM Fleming Museum will be running an exciting exhibit of Soviet Political Posters and Car-toons in the Eastern Gallery of the Museum. Nearly twenty years after the demise of the Soviet Union, Views and Re-Views invites a post-Cold War assessment of Soviet graphic arts and presents a stunning array of images spanning more than six decades from the time of the Russian Civil War (1918-1921) - during which period the Bolsheviks and their western-backed opponents struggled for control of the new state - to the late Soviet period. Professors Kevin McKenna (UVM German and Russian Department) and Denise Youngblood (UVM History Department), noted authorities on Soviet political art of this era, will deliver lectures as part of the Soviet Political Posters and Cartoons exhibit.

Drawn from an extensive private collection of Soviet propaganda, this exhibition includes posters, cartoons, and photomontages. It suggests that artistic merit may be found in the service of political belief and subject to state regulation, and demonstrates stylistic diversity within works that are often characterized as Socialist Realism. It also exposes uncomfortable truths in Soviet views of the U.S. that can be evaluated anew, due to historical distance. In short, the exhibition asks viewers to view and re-view the relationship between the art of the high Soviet Union and that of the West, and perhaps to re-assimilate the art of the twentieth-century Soviet world into the mainstream of European and Western modernism.

This exhibition was organized by the Davi Winton Bell Gallery, Brown University.

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4:00 p.m.--Monday, Feb. 1st: Lecture/Book reading by Elena Gorokhova from her recently published memoir titled “A Mountain of Crumbs” (Simon & Schuster Publishers). Memorial Lounge of the Waterman Building (3rd floor). Following her book reading, all “Russian House” students are invited to a reception for Ms. Gorokhova to be held at Prof. McKenna’s home.

6:00 p.m.--Monday, Feb. 8th: Viewing of Russian film, *The Inner Circle* award winning film about Ivan Sanchin, the KGB officer who was Stalin’s private film projectionist from 1939 to the dictator’s death. Stars Tom Hulce, Lolita Davidovich, Bob Hoskins (as Beria) and Fyodor Chaliapin; written and directed by Andrei Konchalovsky. Living/Learning #315. Introduction by Prof. McKenna.

12:00 p.m.—Wednesday, Feb. 10th: Prof. McKenna will give a noon-time lecture at the *Soviet Political Posters and Cartoons Exhibit* at the UVM Fleming Museum: “All the Views Fit to Print: Changing Images of the United States in ‘Pravda’ Political Cartoons, 1917-1991.”

7:00 p.m.--Monday, Feb. 15th: President’s Holiday—No Classes, no “Russian House” meeting.

7:00 p.m.--Monday, Feb. 22nd: Russian Conversation hour with Prof. McKenna (first-year students); Valeriya Shestyak (second-year students); Charley and Tanya (advanced-level students). Living/Learning #216.

1:00 p.m.—Saturday, February 27th: Workshop on Russian Matryosh-ka Dolls, led by “Russian House” student director, Katie Boynton. L/L Fireplace Lounge.

7:00 p.m.--Monday, March 1st: “Russian House” lecture by Prof. McKenna: “The Role of Russian Proverbs in Sergei Eisenstein’s Film Classic, *Alexander Nevsky*.” Living/Learning #315.

7:00 p.m.--Monday, March 8-12: Spring Break.

7:00 p.m.--Monday, March 15th: “Fun with Russian Songs” as presented by Megan Luttrell, Russian major, former “Russian House” resident and recently returned from St. Petersburg University. L/L Room 216.

5:30 p.m.—Tuesday, March 16th: A Concert of Russian Songs, performed by famous Russia Choral group. L/L Fireplace Lounge.

7:00 p.m.--Monday, March 22nd: “Russian House” lecture (по-русски) by Professor Emeritus Roger Cooke, UVM Mathematics Department: “Stal-in’s ‘Show Trials’: The 1936 Trial of USSR Academy of Sciences Mathematician, N. N. Luzin.” Professor Cooke previously gave this lecture in English to the New York Academy of Sciences (December 3, 2009). Living/ Learning #216.

6:00 p.m.—Wednesday March 24th: Global Village/Living Learning Wednesday Night Gathering for “Russian House.” Fireplace Lounge.

6:00 p.m.—Saturday March 27th: Russian Dinner at *Café St. Petersburg*, located in Newton Center, MA. We will meet at the L/L Director’s Circle for departure to Harvard Square area for daytime activities before having dinner (по-русски) at *Café St. Petersburg*.

7:00 p.m.--Monday, March 29th: Learn Russian folk dances! Led by local artist/impresario Ben Bergstein. L/L Room 216.

1:00 p.m.--Saturday, April 3rd: Fun with Eggs: The Art of Ukrainian/Russian Easter Egg painting. Introduced and led by Prof. Jennifer Dickinson, Anthropology Department (limited to 20 participants). L/L Room 216.

7:00 p.m.--Monday, April 5th: Russian Conversation hour with Prof. McKenna (first-year students); Valeriya Shestyak (second-year students); Charley and Tanya (advanced-level students). Living/Learning #216.

6:00 p.m.--Monday, April 12th: Viewing of Russian film, *Burnt By The Sun* 1995 Academy Award Best Foreign Film about the onset of Stalin’s purges in 1936 Russia. Directed and starring Nikita Mikhalkov. Living/Learning #315. Introduction by Prof. McKenna.

7:00 p.m.--Monday, April 19th: Prof. Denise Youngblood, UVM History Department will give a lecture titled “Russian Artists in American Culture.” Living/Learning #216.

7:00 p.m.--Monday, April 26th: Russian film?

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