



# 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; Area and International Studies Program Director), will address a number of topics related to Russian literature, history, and politics, other REES faculty will speak on Russian film and society (Professor Denise Youngblood, History Dept.); Russian music, cuisine, Dostoevsky, Tolstoy (Professor Ken 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 politics, economics, and business culture (Professor Michele Commercio, Political Science Dept.).

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 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, Ekaterinburg, 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 2006-2007 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), which will be located in B-Building of the Living/Learning Center, starting in Fall 2006. 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 095/096: The Global Village**

AIS 095/096: 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. In addition to taking part in any courses that are required or recommended for your individual House, all Global Village residents must enroll in AIS 095 for one credit during the fall semester and AIS 096 for one credit during the spring semester. Each course will be graded on a “Satisfactory/Unsatisfactory” basis. As this is a self-paced course, there is no weekly class meeting time. Instead, you are expected to participate in an average of one cultural/educational event per week throughout the semester. 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.

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 at least fourteen events/activities, you will need to do reflective writing in the form of five journal entries on the cultural/educational events that you participated in, along with a 1000-word essay looking back on your most meaningful experience of the semester within the Global Village. Finally, you should attend at least two of the four designated Global Village community meetings that will be held throughout the semester.

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>