HUM 330 RUSSIAN CULTURE sched. # 21840

Location: 2-3:15 pm Tue Thu PSFA-300
Professor: Dr. Maria Rybakova
Office: AL-634
Office hours: Tue Thu 1-2pm (you have to make an appointment a day in advance)
E-mail: mrybakov@mail.sdsu.edu

Description:
Religion, literature, philosophy, music, and art of Russia. From the patriarchs of the past to the people of the present. Russia's influence on European humanities and world culture.

Prerequisites:
Completion of the General Education requirement in Foundations of Learning II.C., Humanities required for nonmajors.

Courses that fulfill the 9-unit requirement for Explorations in General Education take the goals and skills of GE Foundations courses to a more advanced level. Your three upper division courses in Explorations will provide greater interdisciplinary, more complex and in-depth theory, deeper investigation of local problems, and wider awareness of global challenges. More extensive reading, written analysis involving complex comparisons, well-developed arguments, considerable bibliography, and use of technology are appropriate in many Explorations courses.

This is an Explorations course in the Humanities and Fine Arts. Completing this course will help you to do the following in greater depth:

1) analyze written, visual, or performed texts in the humanities and fine arts with sensitivity to their diverse cultural contexts and historical moments;
2) describe various aesthetic and other value systems and the ways they are communicated across time and cultures;
3) identify issues in the humanities that have personal and global relevance;
4) demonstrate the ability to approach complex problems and ask complex questions drawing upon knowledge of the humanities.

Course goals:
To help the student understand the general historical and philosophical framework in which Russian culture is set;
To promote better understanding of the Russian mind and the unique contribution of Russian culture to world culture;
To make students aware of the various disciplines whose scope of inquiry includes Russian culture.

Course materials:
Great Russian Short Stories, ed. Paul Negri, Dover 2003 (available from Aztec bookshop and amazon.com)
Gnedich by Maria Rybakova, Glagoslav 2015 (available from Aztec bookshop and amazon.com)

**Language:**
The course is conducted in English and assumes no previous knowledge of Russian language, literature or history.

**Structure of the course and grading:**
At each class you will be responsible for that day’s reading, for asking good questions, answering questions, and participating in the discussions.
You will have to write one paper on Russian culture (5 full pages, 12point Times New Roman, double-spaced). The topic is open. Please discuss your topic with me before you start writing. The paper is due on the final day of classes. (If you submit the paper between the end of classes and the final exam day, you will get one grade lower).
Components of the final grade will be weighted as follows:
First midterm 20%
Second midterm 30%
Final exam 30%
PAPER 20%

**Tentative Schedule**

Aug 25-27  Lecture: Russian folklore
Sept 1-3  Lecture: Icons and Churches
Sept 8-10  Lecture: History and Peter the Great Reading: The Queen of Spades.
Sept 15-17  Russian duels. Pushkin and Lermontov
Sept 22-24  The myth of St Petersburg  Reading: The Overcoat.
Se 29  First Midterm exam
Oc 1  Russian painting.
Oct 6-8  Tolstoy and non-violence  Reading: How Much Land…
Oct 13-15  Terrorists and revolutionaries Reading: The Lady with the Dog
Oct 20-22  The Silver Age Revolution and its aftermath
Oct 27  Second Midterm Exam
Oct 29  Stalin’s era. Years of terror
Nov 3-5  60s and 70s: official and underground art  Read: Gnedich
Nov 10-12  *Perestroika: politics, art, literature*  Read: Gnedich

Nov 17-19  Soviet cinema

Nov 24  Office hours by appointment only

Nov 26  Thanksgiving day (holiday)

Dec 1-3  Discussion of final papers

Dec 8-10  **Final paper due.** Final review before the Final Exam

Final exam

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