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TEACHING, LEARNING, ACQUIRING RUSSIAN

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A SYLLABUS FOR THE AUDIO-VISUAL RUSSIAN CULTURE COURSE

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ABSTRACT

The content of Russian culture courses is best served by audio-visual methods of instruction. Such audio-visual courses fall into three main categories: those taught in Russian and emphasizing everyday culture, those taught in Russian and emphasizing high culture, and those taught in English and offering a comprehensive view of Russian culture for general education purposes.

This article suggests a syllabus for a comprehensive course in Russian culture with emphasis on the visual arts and the cultural assumptions underlying them. No attempt is made to provide a fully worked-out model. Instead, lecture subjects are suggested, along with recommendations for presentations of materials, selection of readings, and appropriate musical accompaniments. It is hoped that teachers of Russian culture will find these suggestions useful in designing both the more selective Russian major courses and the broad liberal arts offerings in English. While the syllabus is designed for semester or quarter courses, it can be expanded to a full-year format.

During the past decade, thanks largely to expanded and more sophisticated audio-visual facilities, culture courses have grown rapidly in various college-level programs. This is especially so in the field of Russian. On the negative side this growth has often been due to attempts to bolster sagging enrollments without integrating culture as an area into established curricula. Such courses have been viewed as temporary stopgaps, and some efforts have been grudging surrenders to the purely quantitative and, unhappily, inexorable demands of computer-controlled academic "management" programs. On the positive side, culture courses represent legitimate attempts to break the bonds of narrow disciplinary self-interest and to make foreign languages a more viable liberal arts phenomenon. Many courses in Russian culture now being taught in North America are inter-disciplinary offerings, team-taught by historians, philosophers, political scientists, and art historians, as well as teachers of language and literature. Russian culture courses are often cross-listed or integrated into general education programs in the humanities and social sciences. In the Slavic field, culture has joined literature, linguistics, and language pedagogy as an accepted area of teaching and scholarship. There has been a remark-
Such courses are best taught with lectures in Russian and
discussion in Russian required or encouraged. Each lecture has to be
prepared in advance—that is, vocabulary and syntax should be taught
by regular classroom methods prior to the audio-visual presentation. A
showing of color slides with lecture in Russian is far more effective
if students are prepared to comprehend what is shown on the screen.
Anticipation of an audio-visual presentation is a strong motivation for
students to master relevant language materials, and students are
pleased when they get to see the splendors of the Moscow Kremlin or
the vivid social commentary of the Itinerant painters and hear explana-
tions in a language they can suddenly understand. Again the impact
of audio-visual presentations is a remarkable teaching device: it is
not likely that students will retain words taught in a vacuum, but an
audio-visual lecture on the Moscow Kremlin is certain to make such
words as собор, стена, башня, and колокольня remain permanently in
active memory. The teacher should repeat what is said about what is
on the screen, saying the same thing in different ways, and students
should be expected to ask prepared questions. A valuable technique is
to require students to prepare their own brief presentations on
assigned topics.

Such high-culture courses taught in Russian should be selective
rather than comprehensive. It is not possible to teach the full his-
tory of Russian culture in the original language, not even in a one-
year course at the fourth-year level. Instead, subjects should be cho-
sen for their strongest import and interest: what is an icon and
what are the religious bases of iconography? what are Kievian, Novgo-
rodian, Muscovite, and Petrine culture? what are the formal compo-
nents of Russian church architecture and what Orthodox principles
underlie their symbolism? Such courses ought to be well-balanced
between language and content—students should be given the satisfac-
tion of learning a subject through the language—and audio-visual techniques
should be fully exploited for their impact on aesthetic and language
values equally.

To the third category belong those courses which are taught in
English as general education offerings. These courses are best per-
ceived not as a service we provide the university community, but as
necessary contributions to a basic liberal arts education (Leighton
1977:17). They should deal not only with what is unique about Russian
culture, but also with how Russian culture is related to Western civili-
ization as a whole. Essential here is the globality of culture—culture
as necessary human experience. Here students have to be made to
understand the limitations to any one teacher’s authority in dealing
with a comprehensive subject. Such courses ought to supplement, not
supplant, other disciplines. There are limitations even to team-taught
courses—each instructor can draw only on the perceptions of a
particular discipline. The basic assumption of such courses is that
they are specialized to the extent they deal with Russian culture in
particular, and general to the degree they successfully treat Russian
culture as one manifestation of universal human experience. Language
teachers should not hesitate to emphasize the language basis of cul-
ture.

The obvious danger of a course shaped in this way is that it
can become so comprehensive as to be formless, so loose in content
as to be random (Leighton, 1977). Language courses have an inherent
discipline—we begin at the beginning with the nominative case and end
at the end with particiles. Literature courses can be disciplined by
approach, period, genre. Culture, on the other hand, is not easily
defined, and courses in culture can be set loose among a variety of
different subjects and disciplines. Emphases can range from the visual
arts to intellectual concerns, from art to ideas. Audio-visual techni-
ques provide a certain focus—they shift the emphasis in the direction
of the arts—but even here it has to be kept in mind that it is not
possible to elucidate the visual arts without treating their intellectual
bases. These are not courses in art history or appreciation; culture
ranges over the broadest areas of different subjects. Organization of
materials is thus of utmost importance to audio-visual courses, and
this immediately demands a coherent, rational syllabus.

What follows in this article is a suggested syllabus for a com-
prehensive course in Russian culture from its earliest beginnings to
the present day, with emphasis on the visual arts and the cultural
assumptions underlying them. No attempt will be made to provide a
fully worked-out model. Instead, lecture subjects will be suggested,
along with recommendations for presentations of materials, selection of
readings, and appropriate musical accompaniments. It is hoped that
teachers of Russian culture will find these suggestions useful in
designing both the more selective Russian major courses and the broad
liberal arts offerings in English. The suggestions can be amended,
re-arranged, and augmented for individual needs. While the syllabus
is designed for semester or quarter courses, it can be expanded to a
full-year format.

**EQUIPMENT FOR A COMPREHENSIVE COURSE**

Ideally, an audio-visual lecture course in Russian culture should
use multi-projection color slide presentations. At least three screens
should be used. The first screen should present information—names,
dates, spelling of words. This screen relieves the instructor of the
necessity of stopping to spell out and repeat the Russian terms which
are the cross borne by every teacher of any Russian subject, and students are freed from the time-taking process of acquiring data that distracts from the subject of presentation. Information can be attractively drawn on so-called "blank" slides available in most photography stores. The second screen should be devoted to overall views, diagrams, maps, and other general materials. The third screen should be used for the main, detailed presentation. Thus, for a lecture-presentation on the Moscow Kremlin, the second screen can be used for panorama views of the entire ensemble and overall views of the individual palaces, cathedrals, churches, walls, towers, gates, and so on. A map or diagram of the Kremlin should be shown for orientation here. The third screen can then be used to provide detailed views of the various components of architectural structures, both interior and exterior, and even close-up views of specific designs, devices, ornaments. In this way the instructor can lecture from the third screen about the details of, say, the Cathedral of the Archangel Michael, its design, history, symbolism, its onion domes and drums, porch, apses, interior columns, floor, altar, iconostasis. In the meantime an overall view of the structure can be kept on the second screen for appropriate reference and orientation. For a presentation of the Savior Gate the second screen can provide an overall view while the third screen focuses on the main components of the structure—the entrance gate, the clock, the tiers, the spire, even the ornaments on the abutments. While discussing a particular detail on the third screen, the instructor can refer to the second screen for its location and its function as part of the whole.1

Multi-projection presentations like these do not require elaborate auditoriums. Such auditoriums, complete with computer-controlled visual and sound systems, separate projection rooms, full screens, and other technological delights, do commonly exist in modern universities and colleges. But a small classroom can be easily fitted with screens, projectors, and sound equipment, so long as two needs are met. First, the projectors have to be in a separate room or insulated for sound—there is nothing more debilitating to a lecture than the loud hum of projectors. And second, the room has to provide facilities for raising and lowering the lights. Too much light causes the images on the screen to fade, while an absence of light prevents students from taking notes. The lights have to be raised or lowered as appropriate to the presentation at any given moment. It is not at all difficult to build a single mobile unit containing projectors and sound equipment that can be rolled into a classroom, positioned, and connected to electrical outlets.

Prior to each lecture all equipment should be checked to forestall malfunctions (which inevitably occur anyway). The collection of slides should be made ready in the projector cartridges, and the instructor should make sure they are in proper order. Five or ten minutes before the start of the lecture the lights should be dimmed and the selected musical accompaniment played while the slides are flashed by on the screens. Teachers will find that their students make an effort to come to class early for this "overture." The lecture should begin with remarks identifying the musical accompaniment, its composer, its relevance to the lecture subject. The lights should then be lowered (or raised) to a level appropriate to the presentation. Instructors will find that student attention will be drawn to the second screen during the early portion of the presentation—the general aspects of the subject—and then gradually to the third screen—the detailed presentation. It is advisable to provide a mixture of audiovisual presentations and regular lectures: the first or last portion of the class hour should be devoted to the intellectual bases or background, the other portion to the presentation. The hour should conclude with another "flash-by" with music as the students depart.

BASIC ORGANIZATION OF THE COURSE

As for the organization of the course as a whole, the Leninist method of dividing the question is useful. An obvious chronological dividing point for a course on Russian culture is the same used by history teachers—medieval should be divided from modern culture and the halfway point is somewhere close to the year 1700. A more ambitious full-year course should probably make a division among medieval, imperial, and Soviet Russian culture. These historical periods can be subdivided into cultural areas on a chronological-geographical basis: Kievan Rus', Vladimir-Suzdal, Novgorod, Muscovy, Volga River areas, the Great North, Petersburg, and in recent time Moscow, Leningrad, and other cities and areas of the Soviet Union. Fitted to these divisions are the subjects: literature, art, iconography, architecture, crafts, religion and philosophy, socio-political trends, language and ethnography. The instructor has to make a difficult decision very early on here: to what extent is the course to be a "culture" course and to what extent is it to be a "civilization" course? That is, does the instructor intend this to be primarily a course on literature, art, and architecture, or is it to be a "ideas" as well as with art? Team-taught courses will of course provide their own answer to this question. If teachers of language and literature combine their efforts with art historians in a course like this, then the decision will be toward art/culture; if the course is taught with specialists in the areas of Russian history and political science, then the orientation will be to the
social sciences/civilization. But the decision must be made long before
the course is actually taught--during the organization of the collection
of slides which is the basis of the course.

Medieval Russian culture invites attention to what is uniquely
Russian, but attention must be paid to the Byzantine origins of Kievan
culture, the traumatic effects of the Tatar Yoke, and the influence of
Europe (the not too strong influence of the Romanesque and the Ren-
aissance, the absence of the Gothic). Beginning in the seventeenth
century Russian culture begins to merge with European patterns:
Baroque and Rococo, Neoclassicism, Romanticism, Realism, Modernism.
Even those courses which are oriented to art have to deal with the
intellectual bases of culture—the religious symbolism underlying icon-
ography, the Renaissance principles that govern the design of the Mos-
cow Kremlin, the newly adapted cultural assumptions that went into
the building of Petersburg, the impulses toward Russian xenophobia
resulting from events in 1240, 1603, 1709, 1812, 1941. It should also
be kept in mind that not all subjects lend themselves to audio-visual
presentations—the socio-political character of Kievan Rus', the rise of
Muscovite autocracy and the development of the ideology of the Third
Rome, acceptance of and resistance to foreign influences, the aesthet-
ics of Neoclassicism or Romanticism, Marxist-Leninist theory. And there
are limitations to audio-visual presentations: they should be relieved
by regular lecture periods because constant visual effects overload
the capacity of any human being to absorb information.

SYLLABUS

The Origins of the Slavs: Language and Culture. Useful here
as a source of lecture materials, but too sophisticated to be used as
a reading for undergraduate students, is Roman Jakobson's survey of
the Slavic languages (1955). It provides data on population, migra-
tions, and the development of proto-Slavic into the three families
of thirteen languages. These data, which have to be brought up to date
with more recent population counts, can be drawn in visual arrange-
ments and photographed as color slides. Maps, both old and new,
can also be photographed as slides, and it is possible to design illus-
trations of migrations and contiguity with other peoples for demonstra-
tions of the origins of the Slavs. The development of the East Slavs
should be emphasized, with attention moving to the Great Russians and
their language. A Soviet collection of slides of the peoples of the
USSR is available through the Novosti series. Russian religious choral
music or Stravinsky's Rites of Spring are appropriate musical accompani-
ments.

Kievan Rus': Medieval Culture, Modern City. A vexing problem
is that a course on Russian culture must begin with Kiev, but the
medieval architecture which is the very basis of an audio-visual pres-
entation is almost non-existent today. The foundations of the Cath-
dral of Hagia Sophia and the Great Gate, the caves and a few struc-
tures of the Catacombs Abbey, and several rebuilt monuments are all
that remain of this, the most important center of the origins of both
the Russians and the Ukrainians. Hagia Sophia must be shown in its
Baroque reconstruction and in models of its conjectured original form.
The only saving feature here is negative: Kiev serves as a stark
example that the history of culture is the story of destruction as well
as creation. It is therefore advisable to bring a presentation or
presentations of Kiev forward to the modern period, concentrating
meanwhile on the various attempts to restore it after periods of
decay or destruction. This can be done by reproducing old drawings,
maps, engravings, and designs on color slides and using them to aug-
ment slides of the city as it exists today. Howard Keller (1977) has
provided an excellent survey of art and architecture albums available
as materials useful here and in presentations of other cities and
areas of Russian culture. It is helpful to integrate the presentation
of Kiev with the presentation of Vladimir-Suzdal culture, which is bet-
ter preserved and culturally similar. The basics of church architecture,
which will be prominent throughout the course, should be introduced
here: cupola, onion, helmet, drum, neck, apse, tent steeples, cruciform
foundation, altar and iconostasis, along with formal resolutions (single,
multi, and four-and-one cupolas). Suggested reading: selections from
The Primary Chronicle. Serež Zenkovsky's anthology (1974) provides conve-
inient and well translated texts of this and the other medieval readings
suggested in this article. Suggested music: Mussorgsky's "Great Gate
at Kiev" from Pictures at an Exhibition. D. S. Merēžkovskij's historical
novel The Romance of Leonardo da Vinci (1910) offers sad meditations
on the destruction of culture which can be read as part of this lecture.

Kievan Rus': Russo-Byzantine Culture. This should be a regular
lecture on the Byzantine origins of Kievan culture—literature, religion,
social and political organization, law, and historiography. The Kievan
princes should be identified, the reasons for Kiev's dominance over the
other city-principalities should be discussed. The lack of a principle
of succession as a cause of internecine strife should be emphasized.
Literary genres—chronicles, vitae, sermons, testaments, apocrphla, mili-
tary tales, The Lay of Igor's Campaign—are a logical subject here. Zen-
kovsky's remarks on "The Literature of Medieval Russia" are a good

Iconography: Artistic Principles and Religious Bases. There are
two choices of presentation here. Either iconography should be pre-
sent as a single subject in three or four lectures, or it can be divided by schools among the different geographic-historical periods---Kievan, Vladimir-Suzdal, Novgorod, Kremlin, Stroganov, Rostov, Great North or folk. The choice will probably be made by the degree of the instructor's expertise or by the participation in the course of an art historian. Even a well-informed teacher of language and literature is advised not to adventure too far into art history, and the general humanities student needs to know the basics of this less familiar art form. The elements of an icon (smooth reinforced board, gesso, egg base, overlay) should be explained along with the formal principles of the art (prescribed form, two-dimensional representation with lack of proportion and perspective, color schemes, design elements, recognizability, anonymity). The types of icons (hagiographic, historiographic, Virgin Mother, festival) should be demonstrated along with prescribed forms (Annunciation, Nativity...). The iconostasis and its orders should be explained. Collections of slides of icons and iconostases are readily available through the "Novosi" series. The tenets of Russian Orthodox Christianity and the symbolism of the art should be discussed. Suggested music: Russian religious choral music and Rakhmaninoff's "Vespers." Suggested readings: "The Martyrdom of Boris and Gleb" and "The Coming of the Greek Iconographers from Constantinople to the Abbott Nikon." (Zenkovsky 1974:100-01,138-40.)

Vladimir-Suzdal. The cultural monuments of this areas have been well preserved or restored. The area provides fine examples of church architecture and models of later churches and cathedrals in other cities. The area has its own iconographic school. The Great Gate at Vladimir offers an occasion to discuss the relations between the men of Rus' and the steppe peoples, as well as the desperate need of the former for cultural permanence. Suggested music: the "Overture" from Borodin's "Prince Igor." Reading: The Lay of Igor's Campaign (Zenkovsky 1974:167-90; Nabokov 1960).

The Tatar Yoke: The Destruction of Culture. The fragility as well as the continuity, and the destruction as well as the creation of culture should be stressed in any course on culture. The disintegration of the Kievan state, the ruin of the Russian land, and the effects of the Tatar Yoke on Russian culture should be related to the problem of Russia and the West. Xenophobia and the process of adaptation of foreign values are important. The brutalization of women is a relevant subject here. Readings: "Orison on the Downfall of Russia" and "Zadonščina" (Zenkovsky 1974:196-97, 211-23).

The Republic of Novgorod: The Kremlin-Citadel and City and Environ. Novgorod is one of the best preserved and restored cultural areas, and it provides materials for many presentations. Maps of the Merchant and Hagia Sophia sides of the Volkov River should be used to demonstrate the contrast between the merchant and boyar cultures. Novgorod's Cathedral of Hagia Sophia should be compared to Kiev's. Novgorodian democracy (the veche) should be compared to Muscovite autocracy. The Kremlin-Citadel should be compared to Moscow's Kremlin and generally to the kremlins of Rostov, Smolensk, and other cities. The monasteries---St. George's and St. Anthony's---provide an occasion to discuss Russian monasticism, and discussion can refer back to the Catacombs Abbey and ahead to the Monastery of the New Virgin in Moscow. An icon presentation here should treat Dionisij, Feofan Grek, and Andrej Rublev, and the early influence of the Renaissance. Russian folk music, selections from Prokofiev's "Concerto No. I," and readings from "Tales from the Novgorodian Chronicle" and "The Life of St. Michael, a Fool in Christ" (Zenkovsky 77-83, 300-10) are recommended.

The Rise of Muscovy. Audio-visual presentations of Moscow should be preceded by a regular lecture on autocracy and authority, empire and centralization, the ideology of the Third Rome, the Moscow princes and the Romanov dynasty, and the struggle between church and state. The causes of the ascendancy of one political power over others should be discussed: "The Tale of the White Cowl" (Zenkovsky 323-32) is an ideal reading.

Muscovite Culture: The Kremlin and Red Square. Russia's Renaissance masterpiece by Fioravanti requires at least two presentations. There is almost no limit to available graphic materials on Moscow. Old and new maps should be used to demonstrate the development of the city in concentric circles (the walls). Numerous excellent albums and slide collections of the Kremlin are available. A plan of the Kremlin is required to show the complexity of the ensemble. The influence of the Renaissance should be discussed, particularly in relation to the designs of the Kremlin cathedrals. This presentation requires both panorama and overall views of the ensemble and its individual monuments, and detailed views of each separate structure. St. Basil's is the only medieval structure of the Red Square ensemble, and it must be treated as a cultural and architectural anomaly. The Lenin Mausoleum, the graves, GUM, and the Historical Museum belong to modern culture, and so this part of Red Square should perhaps be treated later. The 1812 "Overture" and selections from the correspondence of Ivan IV and Prince Kurbskij are logical selections (Zenkovsky 366-76) to illustrate medieval Muscovite culture.

Muscovite Culture: Medieval Moscow. It is difficult to find and photograph the surviving medieval monuments of Moscow. They exist and they are many, but they have been swallowed by the now vast modern city. Slide collections and numerous albums are easily available (Keller 1977). The Monastery of the New Virgin makes for a fine presentation, and presentations of medieval Moscow should range into
the suburbs, local monasteries, and the churches along the river bluffs. Russian religious choral music or folk music are recommended. There are many descriptions of the tsars and their families, including Zenkovsky's selection (388-90), which can be used for readings and lecture materials.

Volga Russia. The cities of this area provide fine opportunities to discuss the "real," the "virgin" Russia. A suggested alternative presentation is the Golden Ring--the large circle from Moscow out to and down along the Volga and back--and a fine album is available (Kudrijavev 1974). Selections from The Life of Archpriest Avvakum, by Himself (Zenkovsky 399-448) and the Red Army Chorus rendition of "Far, far away" («Далеко») are appropriate.

Medieval Russian Letters. The genres and character of medieval Russian literature should be emphasized. Secular and religious works should be contrasted, and the process of secularization in the seventeenth century should be discussed. W. Brown's A History of 17th Century Russian Literature (1980a) provides excellent materials, as does Broman's translation-study (1979) of Avvakum's autobiography. Zenkovsky's "The Literature of Medieval Russia" (1-40) is a recommended reading, and D. S. Mirsky's A History of Russian Literature (1958) is still a good standby reading, here and later.

Medieval Russian Crafts. Many graphic materials are available for reproduction as slides, and both albums and slide collections of the treasures of the Kremlin Armory are available (Keller 1977). The extent to which this subject is covered depends on the instructor’s knowledge of Russian crafts, folklore, costumes, gems and jewels, military accoutrement. One of Pushkin's fairy tales is an ideal reading here, and Russian folk music is obligatory.

Great Northern Russia. The preserve at Kizhi provides examples of both religious and domestic architecture and carpentry. Peasant family and commune should be discussed. Surviving Russian wood culture does not go further back than the eighteenth century, but it represents a far older culture. The preserve near Novgorod is less well known, but it is very fine. It is not difficult to compile a series of slides on "Russian Winter," for which there is a great deal of poetry available in translation as readings or lecture materials (Nekrasov, «Мороз, красная нос»). Many reproductions of paintings of Russian rural life are available, and they can be assembled from the various Novosti collections. The "Overture" from Glina's Ruslan and Liudmila is a good selection. Folk tales, perhaps one of Tolstoy's, are good readings, but Turgeneyev's "Bezhin Meadow" is very much liked by undergraduates. Proffer's anthology (1969) of Russian short stories provides convenient texts of this and other short stories recommended in this article.

The Secularization of Russia: Neoclassical Moscow. This presentation might be prefaced by a regular lecture on the process of secularization and Westernization of Russian culture—the problem of Russia and the West again. The Moscow Baroque can be included, and the presentation can be carried ahead to nineteenth-century architecture, but concentration should be on the post-1812 reconstruction of the city. Attention should be paid to the redesign of the city, particularly to the transformation of the medieval walls into boulevards and vistas (rings). The mansions of the famous Moscow families, and such monuments as the Bolshoi Theater are important. Urban planning and the aesthetic principles of Neoclassicism are logical subjects. The estates out in the countryside (now largely absorbed into the city itself) provide an opportunity to discuss the links between wealth and culture. Selections from Prokofiev's Classical Symphony are recommended, and W. Brown's A History of 18th Century Russian Literature (1980) provides lecture materials.

The Westernization of Russia. This regular lecture should summarize the entire problem of foreign influence, xenophobia, and adaptation of foreign values. The transition from medieval to modern culture should be emphasized, and Russian culture should be shown as joining the European stream. W. Brown again provides lecture materials. The will of Peter the Great and the relationship between war and culture should be emphasized.

Petersburg Russia. Suggested audio-visual and lecture subjects are "Nevsky Prospect"; "Central Squares"; "Academy, University, Fortress and Garden"; "Square of the Arts"; "Churches and Cathedrals"; "City on Water"; "City of Canals and Bridges"; "Suburbs of the Tsur." Any self-respecting fanatic of St. Petersburg ought to be able to go on forever. No other city in the world provides such a stark example of the difference between intent and realization in urban planning. No other Russian city provides so many graphic materials in the form of designs, maps, engravings, plans, sketches. While it is possible to treat this city in relation to its styles—Baroque, Rococo, Neoclassical, Constructivism, Socialist Construction—it is usually treated in terms of the ensembles specified in the suggested presentations. A ready-made organization and source of fine graphic materials is «ПАМЯТНИКИ АРХИТЕКТУРЫ ЛЕНИНГРАДА» (1972), which has maps of each ensemble and a detailed catalogue of each architectural structure. The city's symbolism should be stressed—martial city, naval city, empire city, Western showcase, phantasmagorical city, city of revolution. The presentations should range out to the suburbs of Lomonosov, Peterhof, Pushkin, and Pavlovsk. Senate Square provides an opportunity to discuss terror and revolution, as do the Temple on Blood, Winter Palace Square, and in fact any part of the city. Appropriate readings are Pushkin's "The
Here is a good place to emphasize that if Russian national culture has not yet joined the European community, Russian intellectuals are thinking about it. Perhaps Turgenev's essay on Hamlet and Don Quixote can sum up at least part of it in one reading. Berdjaev's The Russian idea (1962) and Weidie's Russia: Absent and Present (1961) provide excellent lecture materials.

Modernist Art. Many slide and album reproductions are available in all periods of Russian art. There is no lack of expertise on the Silver Age in the Slavic field today, and this is an ideal time to demonstrate that the Russian avant-garde movement is more extensive than has been appreciated. Ardis offers numerous anthologies and translations, and leading Slavic journals in North America and Europe have advanced scholarship very far in this area over the past ten years of so. Prokofiev, Stravinsky, and Shostakovich offer musical accompaniments.

The USSR. Only a few slides are needed here—reproductions of good maps of the Soviet Union. Emphasis should be on geography, ethnography, language, and political organization. Noblesse oblige, the "Soviet Hymn" is obligatory here.

Soviet Ideology: Marxism-Leninism. At least the basics of the ideology should be offered to students who live in the least ideological of all cultures. What a shame that Americans receive an undergraduate education without ever learning what is meant by dialectic and materialism, or even that there is a difference between Socialism and Communism. But more important, an effort should be made to show that one revolution does not a radical change make, nor one ideology a culture. Soviet Russian culture really did begin in Kievan Rus' and has its roots in all that has been heretofore treated in this course. Berdjaev's The Origin of Russian Communism (1960) helps the lecturer make this point. Logical readings might be the Communist Manifesto or selections from Lenin's What is to be Done? but, thank goodness for small cultural favors, John Reed's The Ten Days that Shook the World is au courant again (1981).

Soviet Ideology: Agitation and Propaganda. The subjects of this lecture—presentation are poster art, the ubiquitous Lenin figure, the Red Square demonstrations, and theory of agitation and propaganda. Prokofiev's "Marche" from The Love for Three Oranges is perfect here except for those who are old enough to associate it with the old radio program "Your FBI in Peace and War."

Modern Moscow. This lecture—presentation can legitimately range to every city in the Union in order to demonstrate the homogeneity of Soviet architecture from the heyday of Stalinist Proletarianism to the Socialist Construction of the Seven-Year Plan and after. Urban planning is an ideal subject here, and it is useful to provide slides

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Queen of Spades," Gogol's "The Overcoat," and the poetry of Mandel'stam, Axtatova, Blok, Annenskij, and Brodskij. Selections from the introduction to Puškin's The Bronze Horseman, Belyj's Petersburg, Blok's The Twelve, and Nabokov's The Luhzín Defense enrich the lectures, as do the opening and closing of Gogol's "Nevsky Prospect." Appropriate musical accompaniments are selections from Chaikovsky's Swan Lake, The Queen of Spades, and Eugene Onegin, Mussorgsky's "Promenade" and "Gnomus" from Pictures at an Exhibition, and Prokofiev's Classical Symphony.

Russian Romantic Literature. The aesthetics and theory of Romanticism are essential for this regular lecture, with concentration on Puškin, Gogol, and Lermontov. Mirsky (1958) is recommended for background reading.

The Petersburg Myth: Russian Phantasmagoria. This regular lecture can be accompanied by a presentation of the Dostoievskij region (the setting of Crime and Punishment, or a presentation of literary Petersburg using slide reproductions of book illustrations, or a presentation of the White Nights and Dark Winters. The city should be treated as an infinitely tiny locus in time and space expanding in ever-widening concentric circles into the green mists of the nth dimension.

Russian Romantic Art. Excellent slides and albums are available. Chaikovsky's Fifth Symphony goes well here.

Russian Realist Literature. It is of course impossible to cover the subject, but at least the character of Russian Realism ought to be discussed, with emphasis on Tolstoj, Dostoievskij, Turgenev, Gončarov, Saltykov-Schedrin, Leskov, and Mirsky (1958).

Russian Realist Art. At least three lectures are possible here. Realist paintings are ideal for presentations of history, folklore, social protest, rural life, and so on—culture as opposed to art history. The paintings of the Itinerants and other social-conscious artists tell a great deal about the socio-political realities of nineteenth-century Russia. A digression on the revolutionary movement is not out of place here. The squalor and cruelty of Russian life is dramatized by the great Realist artists with more power than could ever be mustered by a lecture on the subject.

Russian Ideas. This regular lecture could be sub-titled "Talking all night," and American teachers could not do better than to try to imitate the Russian art of talking about everything as, somehow, a single whole. Russian culture is, after all, a political phenomenon. The marvelous isms: Slavophilism and Westernism, civicism, utilitarianism, nihilism, populism, socialism, Parnassianism. Čadaev, Belinskij, Herzen, Černyševskij, Dobroliubov, Pisarev, Tkačev, Něčav, Leont'ev, the Kireevskij and Aksakov families, Samarin, Xomjakov, Stankevič, Grigor'ev.
of similar American and European projects for comparison. Soviet art is oriented to urban life and thus provides excellent audio-visual materials. "Moscow Evenings" or its American variant "Midnight in Moscow" are not inappropriate here, and the adventurous instructor might try the Beatles' "Back in the USSR." A contemporary work of urban fiction such as Trifonov's story "The Exchange" can be tried (Proffer 1980).

Socialist Realism in Art and Socialist Realism in Literature. Representational art and political literature are logical subjects here. E. Brown (1973), Slinim (1967), Struve (1971), and Svirski (1981) all provide excellent lecture and reading materials here. Two suggested readings are Zdanov's address to the First Congress of the Union of Soviet Writers (1934) and Abram Tertz' On Socialist Realism (1960). (One makes a choice here, doesn't one?)

Soviet Education. There are two choices to make here. Those who have participated in the US-USSR academic exchange might wish to offer their personal views and experiences. Those who are knowledgeable about theory and practice of Soviet education will want to offer a more authoritative lecture. Soviet science and technology are appropriate subjects here, as important ends of Soviet education.

The Human Rights Movement. Stalinism, Gulag, those "other" Red Square demonstrations, the Moscow trials ca. both thirties and sixties, the dissident movement, and the Third Emigration. A good idea is to invite a new arrival of the Third Emigration to deliver a guest lecture. A good reading is Solzhenitsyn's "Letter to the Leaders."

Achievements of Soviet Russian Culture. Soviet Russian culture invites criticism, but it would be wrong to conclude a course on Russian culture without alleviating a totally negative impression. As important Soviet-era contributors to world culture, one could list Babčč, Tvardovskij, Akmatova, Mandelštam, Blok, Majakovskij, Brodskij; Shostakovich in music; Malevič in art. Ballet. Science. Cinema. The high Soviet art of translation, which is far above Western standards, provides an excellent subject for a concluding comment on language and culture, both national and international. Kornej Cukovskij's Всесоюзное искусство (1968) provides excellent lecture materials here.

The difficulties of organizing and teaching a course on Russian culture cannot be emphasized too strongly. This applies to all three categories of course types mentioned in this article. Color slides and other photographic materials are costly. The handling of slides in preparation for each lecture is a time-consuming and tedious process. Presentations require practice of both manual and technical skills to coordinate multi-projection courses. This teaching method is effective, however, and its difficulties are not insurmountable. The key to the method is the syllabus. The syllabus depends in its turn on the organization of the slide collection. Unless each presentation is carefully prepared, with all slides and other audio-visual materials in proper order, the accompanying lecture is certain to disintegrate into a bewildering chaos of screen images. The lecturer must be in control at all times, able to draw attention to the correct image in the correct context. It is hoped that the syllabus offered here will be useful to teachers who wish to introduce courses in Russian culture into their curricula.

NOTES

It is also possible to duplicate art and photography albums, as well as guides, maps, directories, and so forth. All Soviet publications are protected by international copyright after May 1973. It is possible to redraw maps, designs, plans, and other graphic materials in a different format. This should be done on attractive color boards which can then be photographed as color slides. North American and European publishers sometimes grant permission for one slide to be made of selected and specified items provided that they are not used for commercial purposes and proper credit is given. Teachers should consult with their library staffs as to what materials can be legally duplicated for pedagogical purposes, and under what conditions.

REFERENCES


GAMES FOR THE LANGUAGE CLASSROOM
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ABSTRACT

A variety of activities in the language classroom can help maintain student interest and reinforce classroom work. Games can be an effective device to help students gain confidence in using the target language. Three levels of communicative involvement in gaming activities are delineated: review of numbers or the alphabet, review of grammatical constructions or vocabulary, and utilization of the language to communicate information. Games in each group are explained and suggestions for incorporating them into the classroom situation are given.

Foreign language instructors can facilitate the learning process for their students by providing a variety of classroom activities which are designed to help students internalize the grammatical structures and vocabulary of the target language. If carefully chosen to complement other work, games can be an effective means of stimulating student interest. They can help students activize grammatical structures and vocabulary, and during game playing, students learn from each other in a non-threatening situation.

Game activities can be divided into three main categories: (1) games reinforcing the alphabet or numbers, (2) games reviewing vocabulary or grammar, and (3) games using the language as a means of seeking or transmitting information. Even in the initial stages of instruction, games which do not require a high level of language proficiency can be introduced.

Two games which are useful to help students memorize the alphabet are "Hangman" and Scrabble.1 Scrabble can be played by beginning students using Russian letters to spell out transliterated versions of English words. "Hangman," or the Russian equivalent "Бродяга," reviews the names of the letters and can be used with limited vocabulary. "Бродяга," "the vagabond," is played the same way as "Hangman," although the stick figure is not hung, but merely drawn. In addition, the instructor can subtly introduce the names of the parts of the body as the students draw the figure of a person on the board. In this way the students can acquire a passive command of this material, so that when that point in the textbook is reached the material is already familiar.