

Term Information

Effective Term Spring 2017

General Information

Course Bulletin Listing/Subject Area Russian
Fiscal Unit/Academic Org Slavic/East European Lang&Cul - D0593
College/Academic Group Arts and Sciences
Level/Career Undergraduate
Course Number/Catalog 2355
Course Title Russians and their Vodka: Deconstructing Myths
Transcript Abbreviation Rus Vodka Culture
Course Description Interdisciplinary study of vodka and its role in Russian history, culture and politics. Course focuses first on vodka production and its uses, then on its influence on Russian culture in present times and key historical periods. Readings alternate with film, documentaries and advertisements as class material.
Semester Credit Hours/Units Fixed: 1

Offering Information

Length Of Course 14 Week, 12 Week, 8 Week, 7 Week, 6 Week, 4 Week
Flexibly Scheduled Course Never
Does any section of this course have a distance education component? Yes
Is any section of the course offered 100% at a distance
Grading Basis Letter Grade
Repeatable No
Course Components Lecture
Grade Roster Component Lecture
Credit Available by Exam No
Admission Condition Course No
Off Campus Never
Campus of Offering Columbus

Prerequisites and Exclusions

Prerequisites/Corequisites
Exclusions

Cross-Listings

Cross-Listings

Subject/CIP Code

Subject/CIP Code 16.0402
Subsidy Level General Studies Course
Intended Rank Freshman, Sophomore, Junior, Senior

Requirement/Elective Designation

The course is an elective (for this or other units) or is a service course for other units

Course Details

Course goals or learning objectives/outcomes

- Students will develop an understanding of the importance of vodka (and other alcohols) to social customs and culture in Russia.
- Students will develop an understanding of the importance of vodka as a political tool in the history of Russia.
- Students will connect the specific topic of the course to more general questions about the role of social customs in social organization in Russia.

Content Topic List

- Why Vodka Matters?; What is Vodka?
- Cultural Aspects of Vodka
- Vodka in Russian History
- Health and demographic challenges in Soviet and Post-Soviet Russia

Attachments

- Russian 2355 ASC Tech Review.pdf: ASC Tech Review

(Other Supporting Documentation. Owner: Peterson,Derek)

- Curriculum Maps Russian Major May 5.docx: Curriculum Map

(Other Supporting Documentation. Owner: Peterson,Derek)

- R2355_Russians&vodka_syllabus_4-13-16.docx

(Syllabus. Owner: Peterson,Derek)

Comments

- Added curriculum map, opened course up to all undergraduate students, renamed ASC Tech Review file, and changed boilerplate language. *(by Peterson,Derek on 05/06/2016 11:29 AM)*
- returned at dept. request *(by Heysel,Garett Robert on 05/05/2016 06:52 PM)*

Workflow Information

Status	User(s)	Date/Time	Step
Submitted	Peterson,Derek	05/05/2016 10:31 AM	Submitted for Approval
Approved	Brintlinger,Angela Kay	05/05/2016 11:47 AM	Unit Approval
Revision Requested	Heysel,Garett Robert	05/05/2016 06:52 PM	College Approval
Submitted	Peterson,Derek	05/06/2016 11:29 AM	Submitted for Approval
Approved	Brintlinger,Angela Kay	05/06/2016 11:50 AM	Unit Approval
Approved	Heysel,Garett Robert	05/06/2016 11:59 AM	College Approval
Pending Approval	Nolen,Dawn Vankeerbergen,Bernadette Chantal Hanlin,Deborah Kay Jenkins,Mary Ellen Bigler Hogle,Danielle Nicole	05/06/2016 11:59 AM	ASCCAO Approval

Russian 2355: Russians and their Vodka

Syllabus

Instructor:

Email:

Phone:

Instructional format: Online

Office:

Office Hours:

Mailbox:

Credit Hours: 1 credit

Course Description

Course Description: Russia is famous for its vodka. Kievan Grand Prince Vladimir (ruled 980-1015) reportedly declared that “Drinking is the joy of Rus(sia) and we cannot live without it.” Yet vodka is more than simply a way to get drunk. Vodka in Russia is important to virtually all social functions, is used as a home remedy for ailments, and is a frequent theme of jokes, folk songs, films, and literature. It also has an important political history, having long been used by the Russian (and Soviet) state as a form of social control. This course explores Russian culture and history through its most famous drink.

Course Objectives

1. Students will develop an understanding of the importance of vodka (and other alcohols) to social customs and culture in Russia.
2. Students will develop an understanding of the importance of vodka as a political tool in the history of Russia.
3. Students will connect the specific topic of the course to more general questions about the role of social customs in social organization [in Russia](#).
4. Students will analyze the social and cultural significance of vodka using both primary sources (films, posters, etc.) and secondary sources (academic research).
5. Students will improve their critical skills and their creative thinking through the course requirements and participation.

Prerequisites: None. The course is taught in English with readings/films/etc. in English (or English subtitles where relevant). No previous experience with Slavic languages or cultures is required.

Course Technologies and Support

There is no in-person component of this course. All course content will be delivered online, mostly through Carmen:

- Lectures will be delivered 40 minutes per week through CarmenConnect.
- You will actively participate in the course by posting to the Carmen Discussions tool.
- Quizzes will be administered through the Quizzes tool in Carmen.
- The instructor will be available during designated office hours via email and CarmenConnect.

The following information is designed to help you access, use, and troubleshoot the technologies that will be used in this course.

CarmenConnect is Adobe Connect for the Ohio State University. It is a browser-based internet tool that allows people to participate in a course or meeting without having to travel to a specific location. It allows students to submit questions in real time to the instructor, for an interactive experience. More information, including how to get started, is available here: <https://resourcecenter.odee.osu.edu/carmenconnect>

The **Carmen Discussions** tool is a collaboration area to post, read and reply to messages on different topics, share thoughts, ask questions, and work with your peers. Information about the discussion tool, including best practices suggestions for students, is available here: <https://resourcecenter.odee.osu.edu/carmen/discussions#best-practices>

Quizzes will be administered via the **Carmen Quizzes** tool. You will use Carmen to take quizzes, review results, view instructor feedback, and view class statistics. Information about the quizzes tool is available here: <https://resourcecenter.odee.osu.edu/carmen/quizzes> and here: <https://resourcecenter.odee.osu.edu/carmen/1462>

General information about accessing and using Carmen is available here: <https://resourcecenter.odee.osu.edu/carmen>, and help can be requested here: <http://resourcecenter.odee.osu.edu/form/556> (also linked from the ODEE main page). If you have general questions or problems using technology services at OSU, contact the **IT Service Desk** at **614-688-HELP** or by email at 8help@osu.edu.

See the Course Policies section of the syllabus for a link to the university's Accessibility Policy.

Necessary equipment and technology:

- Computer: current Mac or PC
- Internet Browser: Internet Explorer 6 or later, or Firefox (Chrome is not supported by

Carmen, or CarmenConnect. Further CarmenConnect recommendations are listed on this website <http://resourcecenter.odee.osu.edu/carmenconnect>)

- Robust high-speed internet connection
- Webcam: built-in or external webcam, fully installed
- Microphone: built-in laptop or tablet mic or external microphone
- It is assumed that all students have access to Adobe Reader (to view PDF files: <http://get.adobe.com/reader/>) and to the MS Office Suite (in order to use Word and Excel). You should also have Adobe Flash Player installed (<http://get.adobe.com/flashplayer/>).
- Some of the course materials are available through Youtube. Its privacy policy and technical support can be found under the following links: https://www.youtube.com/static?template=privacy_guidelines and <https://support.google.com/youtube/?hl=en#topic=4355266>

Arts and Sciences provides students with different types of academic services on the main Ohio State campus. You may want to visit this website to see how they can help you achieve your goals: <http://artsandsciences.osu.edu/academics/current-students>

The **Student Service Center** is the place to go if you need support with financial aid, tuition, registration and other matters: <http://ssc.osu.edu>

IMPORTANT NOTE: It is not required that you use CarmenConnect in this course, but we strongly encourage you to try to use CarmenConnect as a way of communicating with the instructor and/or teaching assistant. We will use this platform for online office hours, and we want you to feel comfortable using it as well. To help you, we are happy to arrange one-on-one CarmenConnect sessions with anyone who requests this, just so we can make sure this technology works for you. If you do not use CarmenConnect, it's not essential that you have a webcam or a microphone to complete this course.

Required Texts

Schrad, Mark Lawrence. 2014. *Vodka politics: Alcohol, autocracy, and the secret history of the Russian state*. Oxford: Oxford University Press.

- This book is available from the OSU Bookstore (Long's; 1598 N. High Street in the Campus Gateway) and from online retailers.
- Approximate cost: \$22 for the paperback edition; \$24 for the kindle edition.

Other required readings, films, and materials will be available through the Carmen page for this course.

Course Requirements

Through this course you will learn about the relevance of vodka in Russia as well as about certain general aspects of Russian culture. The course requires attentive and consistent reading of the texts and visual materials, and active participation in the discussion board on Carmen. Our work is designed to improve your ability to reflect, to read critically, to think originally, and to write with clarity and certainty.

	Percentage of the final grade
Weekly Participation (Discussion Board)	50%
Two Quizzes	50% (25% each)

Participation (50%)

Participation in this course will be measured according to your engagement in the discussion board. The instructor will provide a response question for each class. You should post your response every week. Prepare the course materials (readings and visuals) in-depth in advance so that your postings show evidence of preparation, of critical reflection and even of creative thinking.

You will get an A in participation if your posts to the discussion board are well-thought, show that you reflected on the topic and the class materials critically, and are made regularly every week. You will get a B if you post to the discussion board regularly every week but your posts are sometimes superficial or allow the instructor to see that you may have not analyzed the class materials in depth. You will get a C if in addition to often showing lack of depth and reflection, your posts are irregular. You will get a D if most of your posts are superficial. You will get an E if you have posted your answers to less than 60% of the instructor's questions.

Quizzes (50%)

There will be two quizzes during the term, administered through Carmen. Each quiz will consist of multiple-choice questions and short-answer questions. Each quiz will count 25% towards your final grade.

Grading Scale

A	93-100	B+	87-89	C+	77-79	D+	67-69
A-	90-92	B	83-86	C	73-76	D	60-66
		B-	80-82	C-	70-72	E	0-59

Course Policies and Resources

Academic Integrity (Academic Misconduct): “It is the responsibility of the Committee on Academic Misconduct to investigate or establish procedures for the investigation of all reported cases of student academic misconduct. The term “academic misconduct” includes all forms of student academic misconduct wherever committed; illustrated by, but not limited to, cases of plagiarism and dishonest practices in connection with examinations. Instructors shall report all instances of alleged academic misconduct to the committee (Faculty Rule 3335-5-487). For additional information, see the Code of Student Conduct <http://studentlife.osu.edu/csc/>.

Students with Special Needs: Students with disabilities that have been certified by the Office for Disability Services will be appropriately accommodated and should inform the instructor as soon as possible of their needs. The Office for Disability Services is located in 150 Pomerene Hall, 1760 Neil Avenue; telephone 292-3307, TDD 292-0901; <http://www.ods.ohio-state.edu/>.

Web Accessibility Policy: As described in the university’s Web Accessibility Policy, all content interfaces (e.g. websites) at the Ohio State University are required to be compliant with the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA). A person with a disability must be able to acquire the same information, engage in the same interactions, and enjoy the same services as a person without a disability, and be able to do so in an equally effective manner, with substantially equivalent ease of use. Information and services must be made available at the same time to a person with a disability as to a person without a disability. The university’s full Web Accessibility Policy: <http://ada.osu.edu/resources/osu-web-accessibility-policy.pdf>. Information about services and resources dedicated to making classroom technologies at OSU available to

everyone: <https://carmenwiki.osu.edu/display/10292/Home> . (The site is aimed at instructors more than students, but it contains some information that is useful to everyone.)

Support Services: The university offers a variety of academic and student support services to help you succeed in this course (and all of your courses!), including the **Dennis Learning Center** (academic skill building, learning strategies, time management), the **Younkin Success Center** (tutoring, academic skill building, career and personal counseling), the **Writing Center** (academic writing tutorials), and various **centers devoted to supporting a diverse range of students**. A full list of resources is available here: <http://undergrad.osu.edu/academics/support-services.html>. Information about centers and other resources designed to support a diverse student body is available here: <https://www.osu.edu/initiatives/diversity.html>.

Late Assignments: The instructor reserves the right not to accept late assignments. If a late assignment is accepted, it will be penalized 20% for each week that it is late. No assignment will be accepted if an answer sheet for the assignment has been distributed to the class. Without exception, extensions must be requested before the assignment is due. There is no guarantee that an extension will be approved.

Course Schedule

WEEK 1: Why vodka matters

Read:

- *Vodka Politics*, Chapter 1: “Introduction” [pp. 1-12]
- *Vodka Politics*, Chapter 2: “Vodka politics” [pp. 13-25]

Activity: Watch the following vodka ads and respond to discussion prompts about their portrayal of Russian culture.

- *World’s best vodka* -- Adnams Longshore Vodka:
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=uThNSnPpF18&annotation_id=543991a9-0000-2b66-9a44-001a113f4f26&feature=iv&src_vid=n0ow_9w0Yzo [1 min 42 sec]
- *Russian comrade* -- Kreskova Vodka: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=hmSw7_2jkg [1 min]
- *Born in the heart of Russia* -- Stolichnaya:
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=foOI162Lock> [1 min]
- *Real Russia* -- Russian Standard:
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=A8nbFguyUto&ebc=ANyPxKq8s5c4ZYanZO2xZ8-pVPZQhBp_DxpIHCLcmZvwm7K-Lh82j2liKQrtxN6fosDYG170NCOC7Uyheuh4MIZ7_RBUITg9ew [1 min]

- *V kazhdom est' chto-to russkoe (In everything there is something Russian)* -- Russkii Lëd: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=dKh8e-I-HOo> [1 min]

WEEK 2: What is vodka? How to make it and the history of production processes

Read:

- Pokhlebkina, William. 1991. *A history of vodka*. Translated by Renfrey Clarke. London: Verso. [pp. 36-42: “The earliest forms of technical equipment before the rise of vodka production” and “The rise of distillation”]
- *Vodka Politics*, Ch. 6: “Murder, intrigue, and the mysterious origins of vodka” [pp. 60-74]

Watch:

- *How to make vodka*: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=kuFQ3HgTCss> [7 min 15 sec]
- *Types of alcohol: How to make vodka from potatoes*: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=jkUbaFPCjFw> [2 min 55 sec]
- *Explore an ‘experimental’ craft vodka distillery in Brooklyn*: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=va0jHMKJEV4> [3 min 10 sec]
- *Adnams distilling process*: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=n0ow_9w0Yzo [4 min]

Optional activity: Take a tour of a vodka distillery in Columbus -- Watershed Distillery or Middle West Spirits

WEEK 3: Cultural aspects of vodka, part 1

Read:

- Pokhlebkina, William. 1991. *A history of vodka*. [pp. 189-196 -- “The gastronomic significance of vodka, and how it should be consumed”]

Watch:

- The excerpt in the *banya* (traditional Russian sauna) at the beginning of the film *Irony of Fate*. [20 min]
- Practical home uses of vodka: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=5nuyCtvNF0w> [5 min 18 sec]

WEEK 4: Cultural aspects of vodka, part 2

Watch:

- *Peculiarities of the National Hunt (Особенности национальной охоты, Aleksandr Rogozhkin, 1995)*. Film is in Russian with English subtitles. [1 hr 33 min]

WEEK 5: Introduction to vodka and the state

Read:

- *Vodka Politics*, Chapter 7: “Why vodka? Russian statecraft and the origins of addiction” [pp. 75-91]
- *Vodka Politics*, Chapter 8: “Vodka and the origins of corruption in Russia” [pp. 92-110]

WEEK 6: Overview of the history of Russia

Watch:

- *Russia: Land of the Tsars* [2 hrs]

Read:

- *Vodka Politics*, Chapter 3: “Cruel Liquor: Ivan the Terrible & Alcohol in the Muscovite Court” [pp. 26-35]

WEEK 7: The “greats” of Imperial Russia

Read:

- *Vodka Politics*, Chapter 4: “Peter the Great: Modernization and Intoxication” [pp. 36-48]
- *Vodka Politics*, Chapter 5: “Russia’s empresses: Power, conspiracy, and vodka” [pp. 49-59]

WEEK 8: Pre-revolutionary and Revolutionary Russia

Read:

- *Vodka Politics*, Chapter 13: “Did prohibition cause the Russian Revolution?” [pp. 185-197]
- *Vodka Politics*, Chapter 14: “Vodka Communism” [pp. 198-215]

WEEK 9: Early Soviet period and Stalinism

Read:

- *Vodka Politics*, Chapter 15: “Industrialization, Collectivization, Alcoholization” [pp. 216-235]

Activity:

- Look at Soviet anti-drink posters (available on Carmen) and respond to discussion prompts

WEEK 10: Thaw and stagnation

Read:

- *Vodka Politics*, Chapter 16: “Vodka and Dissent in the Soviet Union” [pp. 236-255]
- Erofeev, Venedikt. 1992[1973]. *Moscow to the end of the line*. Translated by H. William Tjalsma. Northwestern University Press. [Excerpts -- 10 pp.]

WEEK 11: Gorbachev and the challenges of reform

Read:

- *Vodka Politics*, Chapter 17: “Gorbachev and the (vodka) politics of reform” [pp. 256-273]
- *Vodka Politics*, Chapter 18: “Did alcohol make the Soviets collapse?” [pp. 274-286]

WEEK 12: Economic transition

Read:

- *Vodka Politics*, Chapter 20: “Alcohol and the demodernization of Russia” [pp. 308-325]

WEEK 13: Putin’s Russia

Read:

- *Vodka Politics*, Chapter 22: “The rise and fall of Putin’s champion” [pp. 338-359]

WEEK 14: Health and demographic challenges in Soviet and Post-Soviet Russia

Read:

- White, Stephen. 1996. *Russia goes dry: Alcohol, state and society*. Cambridge University Press. [Chapter 2: “A drunken society,” pp. 29-58]

WEEK 15: Comparison to alcohol in the history of the United States

Read:

- Douglass, Frederick. 2001[1845]. *Narrative of the life of Frederick Douglass, an American slave*. Yale University Press. [Excerpts -- 17 pp.]
 - Respond to discussion prompts comparing political/social history of vodka in Russia to U.S. slave ‘holidays’ in the history of the U.S.

Arts and Sciences Distance Learning Course Component Technical Review Checklist

Course: Russian 2355

Instructor: TBA

Summary: Online Course

Standard - Course Technology	Yes	Yes with Revisions	No	Feedback/recommendations
6.1 The tools used in the course support the learning objectives and competencies.	✓			This course will be delivered online using weekly live lectures. All tools used in the course support the overall learning objectives and competencies.
6.2 Course tools promote learner engagement and active learning.	✓			Students will engage with the course materials and instructor on a weekly basis in the following ways. Links to all materials will be on Carmen. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Weekly live lectures (40 min total) • Weekly participation, discussion board posts • View topic related short videos, visual material and films • Synchronous online office hours with the Instructor for the course
6.3 Technologies required in the course are readily obtainable.	✓			The majority of this course will be delivered entirely through OSU's core common tool set (Carmen, Carmen Connect). Youtube is also a readily available technology.
6.4 The course technologies are current.	✓			All course technologies listed in the syllabus are current and offered by OSU or are freely accessible on the world wide web. See below for examples. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Carmen • Carmen Connect • Youtube
6.5 Links are provided to privacy policies for all external tools required in the course.	✓			Recommend that a link to the privacy statement for Youtube be listed in the course technology section of the syllabus.
Standard - Learner Support				

7.1 The course instructions articulate or link to a clear description of the technical support offered and how to access it.	✓			Recommend that a link to technical support resources for Youtube be listed in the course technology section of the syllabus.
7.2 Course instructions articulate or link to the institution's accessibility policies and services.	✓			The below link should be included in the syllabus. The text for the accessibility statement should be in BOLD 18pt font. http://www.ods.ohio-state.edu
7.3 Course instructions articulate or link to an explanation of how the institution's academic support services and resources can help learners succeed in the course and how learners can obtain them.	✓			The faculty member should add to the syllabus an overview and contact information for the student academic services offered on the OSU main campus. http://artsandsciences.osu.edu/academics/current-students
7.4 Course instructions articulate or link to an explanation of how the institution's student services and resources can help learners succeed and how learners can obtain them.	✓			The faculty member should add to the syllabus an overview and contact information for student services offered on the OSU main campus. http://ssc.osu.edu
Standard – Accessibility and Usability				
8.1 Course navigation facilitates ease of use.	✓			Recommend using the Carmen Distance Learning Course Shell to provide a consistent student-user experience in terms of navigation and access to content.
8.2 Information is provided about the accessibility of all technologies required in the course.	✓			The OSU core common tool set used in this course meets the universities policies for accessibility. Recommend that information be provided on the syllabus in the "Course Assistance" section of the syllabus for any accessibility information available for the Youtube website.
8.3 The course provides alternative means of access to course materials in formats that meet the needs of diverse learners.	✓			Recommend that resources be developed to address any requests for alternative means of access to course materials. These resources should be in formats that meet the needs of diverse learners.

8.4 The course design facilitates readability	✓			Recommend using the Carmen Distance Learning Course Shell to provide a consistent student-user experience in terms of navigation and access to content.
8.5 Course multimedia facilitate ease of use.	✓			All assignments and activities that use the OSU core common tool set at Ohio State facilitate ease of use with embedded multimedia.

Reviewer Information

- Date Reviewed: 4/11/16
- Reviewed By: Mike Kaylor

Curriculum Map for Russian Major

		Program Goals		
		Goal 1	Goal 2	Goal 3
		Lang. Proficiency	Analytic Skills	Cult. Appreciation
Prerequisites				
Russian 1101	Novice Low/Mid		NA	Novice Low
Russian 1102	Novice Mid/High		NA	Novice Mid
Russian 1103	Novice High		NA	Novice High
Required Courses				
Russian 2104	Novice High/ Intermediate Low		NA	Novice High/Intermediate Low
Russian 3101	Intermediate Low		NA	Intermediate Low
Russian 3102	Intermediate Mid		NA	Intermediate Med
Russian 4575	Intermediate High		Advanced	Advanced
Language Elective Courses				
Russian 3121/3122	Intermediate Low		NA	Intermediate High
Russian 4101/4102	Intermediate Low/Mid		NA	Advanced
Russian 4135	Novice/Intermediate		Intermediate	Novice
Russian 4136	Intermediate/Advanced		Advanced	Intermediate/Advanced
Russian 5101/5102	Intermediate High/Advanced Low		Advanced	Advanced
Literature, Culture, Linguistics Elective Courses				
Medren 2513	NA		Novice	Novice
Russian 2250	NA		Novice	Novice
Russian 2335	NA		Novice	Novice
Russian 2355	NA		Novice	Novice
Russian 3460	NA		Intermediate	Intermediate
Russian 3350	NA		Intermediate	Intermediate
Russian 2345	NA		Intermediate	Intermediate
Russian 4220/4221	NA		Advanced	Advanced
Russian 4600	Novice		Advanced	Advanced
Russian 5225	NA		Advanced	Advanced
Russian 5250	NA		Advanced	Advanced
-(including all decimal suffixes)				
Russian 5530	Intermediate		Advanced	Advanced

Russian 5601	Advanced	Advanced	Advanced
Russian 5701	Advanced	Advanced	Advanced
Slavic 2330	NA	Novice	Novice
Slavic 3360	NA	Intermediate	Intermediate
Slavic 3310	NA	Intermediate	Intermediate
Slavic 3760	Novice	Intermediate	Intermediate
Slavic 4520H	NA	Advanced	Advanced
Slavic 4560H	NA	Advanced	Advanced
Slavic 4260H	NA	Advanced	Advanced
Slavic 4597	NA	Advanced	Advanced
Slavic 5450	NA	Advanced	Advanced