

# **Ekaterina Myakshina, WKU Professor of Russian**

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Ekaterina Myakshina (often known as Ekaterina Pavlovna to her students or Katya to her colleagues) is the Russian instructor at Western Kentucky University. Originally from Russia, Myakshina enjoys teaching her own language and culture to American students. Much of her passions lie in Russian literature and dance and is evidenced in her teaching. Her students would call her knowledgeable, passionate, funny, and inspiring.

Currently, WKU offers a two-year sequence of Russian (101, 102, 201, and 202) and Myakshina teaches these courses every academic year. Moreover, WKU offers the Russian and East European Studies minor comprised of courses in Russian, political science, and history, and further prepares students who wish to use their Russian language skills in their future career. An education in Russian language and culture can be very valuable to students, as it is also a critical language as defined by the U.S. Department of State. According to Ekaterina, “Russian is very important for students to know in the 21<sup>st</sup> century because of current events happening in the world.”

In addition to teaching, Myakshina remains involved in the extracurricular events on campus and tries to tie in her knowledge of Russian culture throughout the campus community. Often, she hosts conversation or reading clubs for students to augment their understanding of the Russian language, along with other cultural activities including painting nesting dolls. Currently, she is looking forward to preparing her students for the WKU International Dance Day which will occur in the Honors College and International Center (HCIC) in April 2022. “That is a current event,” she said, “I am most excited about preparing students for.” Myakshina also takes students to Georgia



(Sakartvelo) each year where she prompts them to apply their knowledge and instructs them on Russian culture. Also, she administers the [National Russian Essay Contest \(NREC\)](#) event administered by the [American Council of Teachers of Russian \(ACTR\)](#).

Myakshina strengthens students' knowledge of Russian inside and outside of the classroom. Through her current program, she has taught many students and continues to inspire students to obtain proficiency and understanding of Russian language and culture.

