

**Potter College of Arts and Letters
Department of Modern Languages
Proposal to Create a Temporary Course
(Information Item for First Offering. Action Item for Second Offering)**

Contact Person: Alex Poole, alex.poole@wku.edu, 270-745-5780

1. Identification of proposed course:

- 1.1 Course prefix (subject area) and number: **Russian Literature in the Caucasus**
- 1.2 Course title: Russian 300
- 1.3 Abbreviated course title: Russian Literature in Caucasus
(maximum of 30 characters or spaces)
- 1.4 Credit hours: 3
- 1.5 Schedule type: Lecture
- 1.6 Prerequisites/corequisites: None
- 1.7 Grade type: Standard letter grade
- 1.8 Course description: Exploration of historical and contemporary perspectives on Russian literature (in translation to English). Students will engage in readings, excursions and discussions about issues such as national identity, literature, and history. Authors will include individuals living and working in the Russian Empire, in addition to the Soviet Union. The focus of readings will be Georgia, a country in which the Russian language has a long and rich history.

2. Rationale

- 2.1 Reason for offering this course on a temporary basis: Because the course is part of a study abroad program, we need to begin marketing it before approval would make its way through the normal curricular process.
- 2.2 Relationship of the proposed course to courses offered in other academic units: this course will be of interest to students in East -European and Russian minor.

3. Description of proposed course

3.1.Course content outline: Lesson 1: Alexander Griboedov (Mtatsminda pantheon, Tsinandali, Theater of Russian drama), Lesson 2:) Alexander Pushkin in Tbilisi (poem “The Hills of Georgia”), Lesson 3: Mikhail Lermontov and poem “Demon”, Lesson 4: Mikhail Lermontov’s poem “Mtsyri” in Mtskheta, Lesson 5: Andrey Voznesensky’s poem “Million of Scarlet Roses “ and Nikolio Pirosmani, Lesson 6: Leo Tolstoi is in Georgia, Lesson 7: Leo Tolstoi and Caucasian war, the story “The Prisoner of the Caucasus”, Lesson 8: Vladimir Maykovsky in Kutaisi and Baghdati, Lesson 9: Vladimir Maykovsky in Tbilisi (poem “A cloud in trousers”), Lesson 10: Boris Pasternak and the Georgian poets, Lesson 11: Boris Pasternak as a translator of Georgian poetry.

3.2.Tentative text(s): poems of Alexander Pushkin, Mikhail Lermontov, Leo Tolstoi, Vladimir Maykovsky, Boris Pasternak, Andrey Voznesensky.

4. Second offering of a temporary course (if applicable): No

5. Term of Implementation: Winter of 2022

6. Dates of review/approvals:

Department of _____

Dean, College of _____

Office of the Provost _____

Russian 300: Russian Literature in the Caucasus

Winter 2022

INSTRUCTOR

Ekaterina Myakshina
HCIC 2034, Western Kentucky University
ekaterina.myakshina@wku.edu

I have been an instructor of Russian 101, 102, 201, and 202 in the Modern Language Department since 2010. I am a native speaker of Russian from the city of Perm and have a graduate degree in Russian Literature and Language.

I have lived in the United States since 2000, and have always dreamed of taking my students to Russia. However, the current status for Russia issued by the State Department means that I cannot do so. A trip to Georgia is a good substitute, because Georgia was once part of the Russian Empire, and later was part of the Soviet Union. So its people and culture have always been closely connected to Russian people and culture. Georgians have their own language, but almost all Georgian people can speak, read, and write Russian as a second language.

The people and culture of Georgia have always had a special place in the hearts of Russians. Russian poetry is famous throughout the world; many poems were dedicated to Georgia, and celebrated the spirit of the Georgian people. Tbilisi, the capital city of Georgia, has many sites relevant to Russian poets and writers, places where they lived and worked, and where they wrote their poetry.

COURSE DESCRIPTION

Exploration of historical and contemporary perspectives on Russian literature. Students will engage in readings, excursions and discussions about issues such as national identity, literature, and history. Authors will include individuals living and working in the Russian Empire, in addition to the Soviet Union. The focus of readings will be Georgia, a country in which the Russian language has a long and rich history.

As part of their experience, students will visit key places where writers lived and worked. These include the following: (1) Tbilisi: The capital of the country contains the national museum, freedom square, the Old City's monuments and churches, and sites connected to Russian poets and writers (Pushkin, Lermontov, Griboedov, Tolstoi, and Pasternak); (2) Kakheti: An important historical region, partly because it is connected to the famous Georgian artist Nikolo Pirosmiani

(his life story became the basis for a poem by Andrey Voznesencky); (3) Kutaisi: Birthplace of Vladimir Mayakovsky (school, museum); (4) Mtskheta: A UNESCO world heritage site for its religious and cultural monuments (Lermontov).

LEARNING OUTCOMES

Upon completion of the course, students should be able to:

1. Demonstrate an understanding of how cultural objects establish a sense of self and identify in literature.
2. Demonstrate how connections among concepts, experiences, and place manifest in literary works.
3. Use linguistic knowledge and cultural awareness to engage with diverse peoples in the local culture.
4. Demonstrate understanding of how culture manifests in literature abroad and in their native setting .

TEXTBOOK

No textbook is required for this course. All reading materials, literary works of Russian and Georgian poets and writers, will be provided (distributed as handouts).

ATTENDANCE

Attendance is mandatory for all classes and excursions. For one unexcused absence, a student's final grade will be lowered by one letter grade. For two unexcused absences, the student will fail the course. Absences for legitimate reasons can potentially be excused, but students must contact the instructor of the program ahead of time.

PHYSICAL REQUIREMENTS

This class is taught as part of a study-abroad program; extracurricular activities can include walking up to 3-5 miles per day. Some guided tours involve buildings that have narrow staircases; many locations are not wheelchair accessible.

COURSE CONTENT

Lesson 1: Alexander Griboedov (Mtatsminda pantheon, Tsinandali, Theater of Russian drama)

Lesson 2:) Alexander Pushkin in Tbilisi (poem "The Hills of Georgia")

Lesson 3: Mikhail Lermontov and poem “Demon”

Lesson 4: Mikhail Lermontov’s poem “Mtsyri” in Mtskheta

Lesson 5: Andrey Voznesensky’s poem “Million of Scarlet Roses “ and Nikolio Pirosmani

Lesson 6: Leo Tolstoi is in Georgia

Lesson 7: Leo Tolstoi and Caucasian war, the story “The Prisoner of the Caucasus”

Lesson 8: Vladimir Maykovsky in Kutaisi and Baghdati

Lesson 9: Vladimir Maykovsky in Tbilisi (poem “A cloud in trousers”)

Lesson 10: Boris Pasternak and the Georgian poets

Lesson 11: Boris Pasternak as a translator of Georgian poetry

GRADING

The grade for this three-credit hour class will be based on an exam, students’ daily journal entries, attendance (see above for attendance policy), and a group presentation. The test (60 points) will be given before departure to Georgia and based on comprehension and analysis of literature. Each student is expected to submit a total of 16 journal entries, one for each day of lessons and/or excursions. These entries will be graded as PASS (10 points) or FAIL (zero points).

A - 220 - 198

B - 197 - 175

C - 174 - 152

D - 151 - 129

Each journal entry should consist of 1-2 sides of a loose-leaf sheet of paper (blank paper will be distributed after arrival). Entries should discuss not only what the student experienced, but how the experience connects with that day’s lesson and with the expected course learning outcomes listed above. Entries should also discuss what preconceptions the student had going into the experience, and how the experience compares with those preconceptions.

Furthermore, what did you learn that you did not expect to learn? What differences and/or similarities surprised you?

GROUP PRESENTATION

All students will be expected to participate in a group presentation involving analysis and application of the literature they read and their experiences.

ACADEMIC INTEGRITY

Honesty, trust, and personal responsibility are fundamental attributes of the university community. Plagiarism and other forms of cheating will not be tolerated. Academic dishonesty will result in a grade of zero for the assignment and other penalties deemed appropriate by the instructor and the program director.

UNIVERSITY POLICIES

In compliance with university policy, students with disabilities who require accommodations (academic adjustments and/or auxiliary aids or services) for this course must contact the Office for Student Disability Services in DUC A-200 of the Student Success Center in Downing University Center. Please DO NOT request accommodations directly from the professor or instructor without a letter of accommodation from the Office for Student Disability Services.

Western Kentucky University (WKU) is committed to supporting faculty, staff and students by upholding WKU's Title IX Sexual Misconduct/Assault Policy (#0.2070) (<https://wku.edu/eoo/documents/titleix/wkutitleixpolicyandgrievanceprocedure.pdf>) and Discrimination and Harassment Policy (#0.2040) at (https://wku.edu/policies/hr_policies/2040_discrimination_harassment_policy.pdf). Under these policies, discrimination, harassment and/or sexual misconduct based on sex/gender are prohibited. If you experience an incident of sex/gender-based discrimination, harassment and/or sexual misconduct, you are encouraged to report it to the Title IX Coordinator, Andrea Anderson, 270-745-5398 or Title IX Investigators, Michael Crowe, 270-745-5429 or Joshua Hayes, 270-745-5121.

Please note that while you may report an incident of sex/gender based discrimination, harassment and/or sexual misconduct to a faculty member, WKU faculty are "Responsible Employees" of the University and MUST report what you share to WKU's Title IX Coordinator or Title IX Investigator. If you would like to speak with someone who may be able to afford you confidentiality, you may contact WKU's Counseling and Testing Center at 270-745-3159.