

Modern Russian Cultural History (A005506)

Course size *(nominal values; actual values may depend on programme)*

Credits 4.0

Study time 120 h

Course offerings and teaching methods in academic year 2025-2026

A (semester 2)	Dutch, Russian	Gent	independent work	0.0h
			lecture	0.0h
			seminar	0.0h

Lecturers in academic year 2025-2026

De Keyzer, Merel	LW21	staff member
Geerardyn, Tilde	LW21	staff member
Dhooge, Ben	LW21	lecturer-in-charge
Van Poucke, Piet	LW22	co-lecturer

Offered in the following programmes in 2025-2026

	crdts	offering
Bachelor of Arts in East European Languages and Cultures	4	A

Teaching languages

Russian, Dutch

Keywords

Russophone culture, 20th and 21st centuries, historical survey

Position of the course

This course provides a historical overview of Russophone culture in all its forms and in the broadest sense of the word since the prelude to the 20th century until today against the background of the developments in politics and society.

Contents

The course sheds light on the development of Russophone culture from 1880 on until today, through works of art, from popular literature to music, from photography to film. The course gives a political, socio-economic and cultural overview of the 20th and 21st centuries. The overview a) provides the student with a broad background knowledge on the society, institutions and culture of modern Russia and b) allows the student to create new knowledge by her/himself. The course consists of two parts. The first part (weeks 1-6) focuses on popular culture. Using a general framework and concretely developed cases, students actively work on Russian cultural history. This part is taught in Dutch, but uses primary material in Russian. In the second part of the course (weeks 7-12), students are introduced to aspects of 20th and 21st century high culture through a series of lectures. This part is taught in Russian.

Initial competences

To have successfully completed the courses Russian I, II, III and IV or to have acquired the necessary skills by other means.

Final competences

- 1 To have a global knowledge of the history of the Russian culture of the 20th and 21st century.
- 2 To situate well-known Russian works of art (in the broadest sense of the word) in the history of Russian culture and society.
- 3 Situating a recent, popular Russian-language cultural product within contemporary Russian cultural policy.

- 4 Demonstrate the interaction between a recent, popular Russian-language cultural product and cultural policy on the basis of a concretely developed case.
- 5 To situate a recent, popular Russian-language cultural product within modern Russian cultural history.
- 6 Making critical use of media in Russia to gain insight into current debates.
- 7 To make a thorough evaluation of current cultural developments with regard to Russia and Russian society.

Conditions for credit contract

Access to this course unit via a credit contract is unrestricted: the student takes into consideration the conditions mentioned in 'Starting Competences'

Conditions for exam contract

This course unit cannot be taken via an exam contract

Teaching methods

Seminar, Lecture, Independent work

Extra information on the teaching methods

Lectures

Seminars

Independent work: To situate a recent Russian-language popular culture product within cultural history and contemporary Russian cultural policy. Analyze the interaction between culture maker, product and policy on the basis of a concrete case.

Study material

Type: Slides

Name: PPTs

Indicative price: Free or paid by faculty

Optional: no

Available on Ufora : Yes

Online Available : No

Available in the Library : No

Available through Student Association : No

Type: Reader

Name: Articles

Indicative price: Free or paid by faculty

Optional: no

Available on Ufora : Yes

Online Available : No

Available in the Library : No

Available through Student Association : No

References

Course content-related study coaching

The lecturer is available before and after each lecture; contact hours: after appointment.

Assessment moments

end-of-term and continuous assessment

Examination methods in case of periodic assessment during the first examination period

Oral assessment

Examination methods in case of periodic assessment during the second examination period

Oral assessment

Examination methods in case of permanent assessment

Assignment

Possibilities of retake in case of permanent assessment

examination during the second examination period is possible in modified form

Extra information on the examination methods

Assessment Moment

Non-periodical (50%)

1 an analytical paper on a recent Russian-language cultural product (50%)

Periodical (50%)

Assessment Forms

Oral exam with written preparation: at the exam there will be questions on the discussed materials and artists (50%)

Calculation of the examination mark

Oral exam: 50%

Analytical paper: 50%

The student passes the course when a pass is obtained for the course as a whole (even if an unsatisfactory mark is obtained for one of the components).

If the student does not pass the course as a whole, the successful scores for nonperiodical or periodical evaluation will be transferred to the second examination period.

During the second examination period, the non-periodical evaluation can be compensated by means of a compensatory activity between the first and second examination period. The periodical evaluation can be compensated by an exam in the second examination period.

The deadlines must be respected. Failure to do so may lead to a loss of points.

Facilities for Working Students

Absence is allowed. No additional supporting teaching material is provided.

Lectures will not be recorded but sufficient online learning material will be provided.

It is possible to take the exam at a different time within the regular exam period.

Possibility to receive feedback at another time: by appointment.