

## Intermediate Russian: Ghosts and demons in Russian literature, opera and film: from Pushkin to Bulgakov.

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**Start date** 13 October 2017                      **End date** 15 October 2017

**Venue**            Madingley Hall  
                      Madingley  
                      Cambridge

**Tutor**            Vera Tsareva-Brauner                      **Course code** 1718NRX024

**Director of Programmes**                      Emma Jennings

**For further information on this course, please contact**                      Public Programme Coordinator, Clare Kerr  
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**To book**        See: [www.ice.cam.ac.uk](http://www.ice.cam.ac.uk) or telephone 01223 746262

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### Tutor biography

Vera Tsareva-Brauner is a Coordinator of Cambridge University Russian Language Programmes (CULP) where she teaches a variety of Russian language courses from Ab Initio to Advanced and Russian Through Film and Culture to Cambridge undergraduates, post-graduates and post-doctoral students.

Vera is also an Affiliated Lecturer at the Department of Slavonic Studies, Faculty of Modern and Medieval Languages where she teaches and examines a number of language papers. She is also an external examiner for Russian at Keele University, UCL, University of Westminster and Eton.

Vera's research focuses on literary and cultural heritage of post-1917 Russian emigration in France. She is a translator and editor for a number of publishing projects.

Vera graduated from St Petersburg University with BA (Hons) and MA, and later did her post-graduate degree at Manchester University.

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## Course programme

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### Friday

Please plan to arrive between 16:30 and 18:30. You can meet other course members in the bar which opens at 18:15. Tea and coffee making facilities are available in the study bedrooms.

19:00	Dinner
20:30 – 22:00	Introductory session, including Quiz.
22:00	Terrace bar open for informal discussion

### Saturday

07:30	Breakfast
09:00 – 10:30	Ghosts and Demons in Russian Literature. Pushkin's <i>Queen of Spades</i> : the story and Tchaikovsky's opera.
10:30	Coffee
11:00 – 12:30	Nikolai Gogol: the father of a Russian ghost story. Film: screen version of Gogol's <i>'Christmas Eve'</i>
13:00	Lunch
14:00 – 16:00	Free
16:00	Tea
16:30 – 18:00	Mikhail Bulgakov and his <i>'Master and Margarita'</i> .
18:00 – 18:30	Free
18:30	Dinner
20:00 – 21:30	Working with set texts (abstracts will be sent for self-study prior to the course).
21:30	Terrace bar open for informal discussion

### Sunday

07:30	Breakfast
09:00 – 10:30	Episodes from <i>'Master and Margarita'</i> (film) – audio-visual practice.
10:30	Coffee
11:00 – 12:30	Grammar workshop.
12:45	Lunch

**The course will disperse after lunch**

**Aims:**

1. To increase the students' linguistic confidence by giving them an opportunity to discover an intriguing literary tradition not commonly associated with Russian literature. Students will take part in discussions, will be given a number of presentations and watch some short films, and extracts from Russian opera based on these stories. We will work with set texts which will be sent to students in advance.
2. To encourage students to take part in group discussions and group work at the level they feel comfortable with;
3. To enhance their understanding of Russian literary traditions;
4. To improve students' confidence in comprehension of spoken Russian through audio-visual material;
5. To clarify and practise some grammar points;

**Content:**

During the course of the weekend, which will, depending on participants' proficiency, be conducted mostly in Russian, students will be expected to read and understand Russian, to listen to and comprehend original audio-visual material, to take part in the discussions and to participate, individually or in small groups, in the language workshop part of the sessions, where they will be presented with tasks and engage in language activities at different levels of difficulty.

For the reading session, the students will be asked to study a text (with glossary) in advance. The session will involve language analysis, translation of some difficult passages and a general discussion of the content.

The students will be encouraged to take part in some interactive language activities that are aimed at increasing their confidence in Russian of various registers.

**Presentation of the course:**

Activities will include presentations by the tutor, video recordings, some extracts from classical Russian opera (*'Queen of Spades'* by Tchaikovsky, *'Christmas Eve'* by Rimsky-Korsakov), as well as extracts from film adaptations (Bulgakov's *'Master and Margarita'*) and other literary pieces discussed during the course.

**Outcomes:**

**As a result of the course, within the constraints of the time available, students should be able to:**

1. Improve confidence and general comprehension of Russian language of various registers.
2. Learn more about Russian literature and its traditions.
3. Get a better understanding of Russian cultural diversity.
4. Communicate in Russian more confidently in a number of registers.

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## Reading and resources list

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Listed below are a number of texts that might be of interest for future reference, but do not need to be bought (or consulted) for the course.

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Author	Title
Chandler, R. (ed).	The Russian Short Story from Pushkin to Buida (London: Penguin, 2005)
Cornwell, N. (ed.)	The Gothic-Fantastic in 19 century Russian Literature (Amsterdam: Rodopi, 1999)
Maguire, M.	<i>Stalin's Hgosts: Gothic Themes in early Soviet Literature</i> (Oxford and London: Peter Lang. 2012)
Moser, C	<i>The Russian Short Story: A Critical History</i> (Boston)

### IN RUSSIAN (RECOMMENDED)

Пушкин, А.С. Пиковая дама. <http://rvb.ru/pushkin/01text/06prose/01prose/0866.htm>

Аудиокнига: <https://audioknigi.club/pushkin-aleksandr-pikovaya-dama-chitaet-kvasha>

«Пиковая дама» (английский перевод): <http://originalbook.ru/the-queen-of-spades-a-pushkin-english-pikovaya-dama-a-s-pushkin>

**Note** Students of the Institute of Continuing Education are entitled to 20% discount on books published by Cambridge University Press (CUP) which are purchased at the Press bookshop, 1 Trinity Street, Cambridge (Mon-Sat 9am – 5:30pm, Sun 11am – 5pm). A letter or email confirming acceptance on to a current Institute course should be taken as evidence of enrolment.

*Information correct as of:* 07 August 2017